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14 Robert Capers ’96 addresses the Class of 2021 at its Commencement ceremony in May.
What an amazing achievement. $33 million dollars in three years. It is a historic and transformative moment for Albany Law School.

When we launched We Rise Together: The Campaign for Albany Law School, no one knew how important those words—and the sentiment—would be.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed all of us. People were scared, isolated, and fearing the unknown. While many of those feelings remain, there is hope and joy, and we are cherishing the moments we are together—even if they require us to wear a mask, stay a few feet apart, or tap elbows instead of shake hands.

We are here. And we are thriving.

There is a renewed sense of optimism in our halls. Our students are tackling issues that matter—immigration, police-community relations, mental health and even keeping bumblebees buzzing. They are learning skills to be fantastic lawyers. The generosity of the 3,000 supporters to the We Rise Together Campaign will make sure this good work continues for years to come.

The Wellness Initiative is addressing mental health and wellness through conversations and programming thanks to support from Andrea Colby ’80 and Jim Kelly ’83. The Campaign allowed us to launch critical programs that helped us through the most difficult days of the pandemic. When our students and recent graduates preparing for the bar exam faced financial strain, you stepped up. Our alumni and friends pitched in to the Helen Wilkinson Student Emergency Fund. Thanks to these gifts, our students didn't have to choose between paying for rent, groceries, or tuition.

Our recent graduates are making an impact on campus and in our community too. On these pages, you'll meet Alex-Marie Baez ’20, the law school’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion fellow. You'll also meet students making an impact in The Justice Center at Albany Law School, the Government Law Center, and through extracurricular activities and coursework that moves beyond the classroom. Your fellow alumni are getting recognized for the extraordinary talent and commitment they bring to their jobs and their passions.

We knew this Campaign was going to be ambitious. But the complication of a pandemic made it that much more challenging.

But our community—our resilient, thoughtful, and generous alumni, friends, and supporters—made our survival and success possible.

Time and again, I find myself inspired and overwhelmed by the loyalty, care, and generosity shown—in big ways and small—by our Albany Law community.

Now and tomorrow, through the Campaign’s three pillars—Independence, Innovation, and Impact—we will continue to Rise Together.

Thank you.

ALICIA OUELLETTE ’94
President and Dean
IN AUGUST, ALBANY LAW SCHOOL, the University at Albany, and Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) launched a Legal Studies Pathway Program, which will guarantee admitted students the opportunity to earn a degree from each institution, culminating in a Juris Doctor from Albany Law School.

The program builds on previous agreements between HVCC and UAlbany, as well as the enhanced affiliation agreement UAlbany and Albany Law signed in 2015.

The agreement draws on the academic strengths of each institution, allowing HVCC students to earn an associate’s degree, transfer to UAlbany to earn a baccalaureate degree, and then enroll at Albany Law.

“We are excited to build on our successful collaboration with UAlbany and to begin a new partnership with Hudson Valley Community College,” said President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94. “This program directly supports our mission by expanding access to a career in law to those who may not have viewed law school as an option.”

Albanylaw.edu Gets a Makeover

THROUGH A TWO-YEAR effort, led by Senior Web Designer and Developer Marcos Abad, the law school’s online presence has received a major upgrade. The new website is faster, easier to navigate, and more user friendly. There are several new features including the ability to search/filter courses, news, and other publications.

Looking at Legal Education’s Future

DR. MICHELLE BODDEN-WHITE ’22 was appointed as a member-at-large on the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar in May 2021.

“I’m honored to join the Council so I can use my voice to influence policies that impact law students and law schools,” she said. “With the incredible support I’ve received from everyone, I feel confident about taking on this position while continuing to advance in my legal education.”

As a Council member, she will join state and federal judges, law school deans, and law firm partners in the important work the Council does as the national accrediting body for American legal education. Overall, the section strives to improve legal education, and cooperation among legal educators, practitioners, and judges through workshops, conferences and publications.

Before law school, Bodden-White worked in education and authored children’s books focused on character development from an African base.

Albany Law School, UAlbany, Hudson Valley Launch Legal Studies Pathway Program
AMERICAN BUMBLEBEES ARE GETTING SOME HELP thanks, in part, to a team of Albany Law School students and Professor Keith Hirokawa.

The law students are operating under the moniker, “Bombus Pollinator Association of Law Students” or “BPALS,” for short. They teamed up with the Center for Biological Diversity to file a petition with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on February 1 to add the American bumblebee to the endangered species list through the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

On September 29, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announced the launch of a one-year assessment to determine if the bee should be added to the endangered species list.

“This was a fantastic experience. Law school can feel so abstract, and removed from the work we will be doing as lawyers. Having the opportunity to engage in real world work is an enormous gift, and a wonderful chance to gain unique experience into the different roles an attorney can play,” said Claire Burke ’21, former president of the Law School’s Environmental Law Society and part of BPALS.

“The American bumblebee is a cornerstone of ecosystems and crop production throughout the United States. But, habitat loss, pesticides, disease, climate change, and competition from honey bees have contributed to an 89% decline in relative abundance—a staggering statistic that got these eco-conscious law students buzzing.

“When people think of ‘the law’ they probably picture courtrooms or skyscrapers, but we also need to consider the outdoors and nature. Bumblebees can’t speak for themselves. It is up to us to stand up for a creature that is a critical part of our ecosystem and economy,” said Burke.
Despite pandemic difficulties, Albany Law grads succeed on bar exams and getting jobs

The Anthony V. Cardona ’70 Moot Court Program adapted to pandemic protocols over the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. Competitors and judges—some in the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom and some via Zoom—argued, defended, and celebrated at a social distance.

Holding Court

The Anthony V. Cardona ’70 Moot Court Program adapted to pandemic protocols over the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. Competitors and judges—some in the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom and some via Zoom—argued, defended, and celebrated at a social distance.

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL students performed tremendously on the New York State Bar Exam—administered virtually in October 2020 and February 2021—as well as securing employment.

The passage rate of Albany Law School first-time bar exam takers in October 2020 climbed to 87%, a nine-point increase from 2019 and three points above the average pass rate for the 15 law schools in New York State.

In February, a larger-than-average slate of 36 first-time takers from Albany Law achieved a passing rate of 86%, well above the 76% pass rate for first-time takers from all the ABA-accredited law schools.

Additionally, the Class of 2020 made strides gaining employment despite entering a workforce navigating uncharted territory due to the pandemic.

In all, 87% of Albany Law School’s Class of 2020 J.D. graduates are employed professionally, according to data compiled by the law school for the American Bar Association.
Tom Vilsack ’75 selected by President Joe Biden to serve as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for a second time.

Tom Vilsack, who spent eight years as head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) during the Obama administration, has most recently been the president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC). He also previously served two terms as the governor of Iowa.

“Vilsack is committed to ensuring the USDA promotes true equity and inclusion in every mission it has,” President Biden said in a statement. “Confirmed by the unanimous consent of the Senate in 2009, Secretary Vilsack oversaw record-breaking investments in rural communities, secured vital improvements to the nation’s school meal system, and led a successful campaign to increase food safety standards.”

As an active member of the Albany Law School community, Vilsack spoke with students, faculty, and staff in April 2020 via Zoom.

“The big challenge [for graduates] is how we can streamline … the speed at which good decisions can be made and implemented,” he told the students.

The Albany Government Law Review and the Albany Law Journal of Science and Technology now have fully online accessibility powered by Scholastica, an online academic journal publishing system. Articles can be viewed, downloaded, and shared via the platform. To see the latest articles visit albanylawjournal.org and albanygovernmentlawreview.org.

Albany Law earns A+ for Practical Training from preLaw Magazine, Ranked No. 17 in Nation

Albany Law School earned an “A+” rating and is ranked 17th in America on preLaw Magazine’s “Best Schools for Practical Training” list, released in Spring 2021.

Albany Law is one of just two schools in New York and 17 in the country to get the A+ rating. Albany Law School outranks schools such as Yale Law School, the University of Chicago, and Georgetown Law.

preLaw based the ranking on key practical training offerings such as clinics, externships, simulations courses, pro bono hours, and moot court programs.

“Schools have managed to do incredible work, even during a pandemic when face-to-face clinical work and externship opportunities were disrupted,” preLaw managing editor Mike Stetz noted in the magazine story about the ratings. “Law students do the amazing, thanks to practical training. And they’ve done it this past year under the most pressing of circumstances.”
The Importance of Pro Bono Work

THE CLASS OF 2021 faced a fair share of challenges. The majority of their law school experience was conducted under pandemic restrictions and many experiential opportunities were converted to a virtual setting.

But that didn’t stop them from giving back to the community—in a big way.

In total, the class of 2021 completed at least 45,863 hours of pro bono and public service work while at Albany Law School. The Justice Center at Albany Law School administers the pro bono program and operates the law school’s in-house clinics, which provide free legal services to eligible Capital Region residents and offers students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience with clients in need.

“This number tells the story of people in our community getting the help they need from our students, at the law school. They’ve helped in so many ways— anywhere from real estate closings, helping refugees navigate immigration policies, getting small businesses up and running, and providing veterans guidance through legal issues,” Professor Ted De Barbieri, director of the Community Economic Development Clinic and the Pro Bono Program within The Justice Center. “This experience not only provides tangible aid to our community, but also gives our students an opportunity to sharpen their client-facing skills, versatility, compassion, and see the direct impact a legal education makes.”

High Honor for Trustee James Sandman

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL Trustee James Sandman was elected to the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), an independent research center that develops nonpartisan research in several fields including the arts, democracy and justice, education, science, global affairs, and energy.

AAAS was founded in 1780 during the American Revolution by John Adams, John Hancock, James Bowdoin, Andrew Oliver, and other Founding Fathers of the United States. AAAS represents innovative thinkers in every field, including more than 250 Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners.

Sandman is Distinguished Lecturer and Senior Consultant to the Future of the Profession Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law. He is also President Emeritus of the Legal Services Corporation, where he served as President from 2011 to 2020. The corporation is the largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans.

Since 2016, he has served as a trustee of Albany Law School in honor of his parents, Edgar ’46 & Margaret Sandman. He is also a supporter of his parent’s namesake Fellowship in Aging and Health Law & Policy.
The entering classes in the Fall of 2020 and 2021 started law school under once-in-a-lifetime circumstances.

OF THE 211 NEW STUDENTS who started at Albany Law School in the fall of 2020, 189 are pursuing a Juris Doctor.

For the entering Class of 2020, five alumni judges administered the oath of professionalism at Orientation: Hon. Daniel J. Stewart ’88, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Northern District of New York; Hon. Leslie E. Stein ’81, Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals; Hon. Elizabeth Garry ’90, Presiding Justice, New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department; Hon. Christina L. Ryba ’01, Justice, New York State Supreme Court, Third Judicial District; and Hon. Paul V. Morgan ’90, Judge, Rensselaer County Surrogate’s Court.

Members of the entering 2020 class represent 18 states and have citizenship in more than five countries including Canada, China, India, South Korea, and the United States. They include a number of military veterans across all branches and were born in more than 10 different countries.

The class that started in 2021 was even larger at 218 with 196 pursuing a Juris Doctor. The class was chosen from more than 1,400 applications—an 18% increase from the prior year.

The class that started this fall has 28 Students with legacy connections to the law school including alumni, staff, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings, spouses, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The Honorable Mae D’Agostino, United States District Judge, Northern District of New York, swore in the entering Class of 2021.
NINA A. KOHN, a visiting professor of law at Yale Law School and the David M. Levy Professor of Law at Syracuse University College of Law, delivered “Aging and Civil Rights” as Albany Law School’s annual Nancy M. Sills ’76 Memorial Lecture.

Kohn spoke on case law regarding age discrimination in hiring practices and health care, exploitation of older adults (financial, physical, etc.), and what can be done to combat the issues.

“Older adults experience distinct disadvantages when it comes to their civil rights. These disadvantages are shaped by the law, by legal rules, and how we enforce them—or choose not to.”

Panelists included: Assistant Professor Ava Ayers; Tom Ginsburg, Leo Spitz Professor of International Law, Ludwig and Hilde Wolf Research Scholar, and Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago; Professor Jessica Knouse ’04, University of Toledo College of Law; and Evan Wolfson, Founder, Freedom to Marry, an organization that is widely considered the architect behind the campaign for marriage equality in the United States. The symposium was moderated by Judge Rowan D. Wilson, Associate Judge, New York State Court of Appeals.

ALBANY LAW virtually welcomed Kimberly Mutcherson, co-dean and professor of law at Rutgers Law School for the 6th Annual Katheryn D. Katz ’70 Memorial Lecture on October 19, 2020.

Dean Mutcherson presented “Pursuing Reproductive Justice during a Global Pandemic” and brought an incredibly engaging presentation to the virtual audience.

She spoke in depth about the broad issues of reproductive justice and the ways it is different from general reproductive rights. Issues like voter suppression, clean water, access to food, and access to education fall under the realm of reproductive justice as they make an impact on the ability to parent and raise children, she said. The COVID-19 pandemic has only amplified the disparities, she noted.

Dean Mutcherson’s scholarly work is at the intersection of family law, health law, and bioethics. She writes on issues related to reproductive justice, with a focus on assisted reproduction, abortion, and maternal-fetal decision-making.

Video of the lecture is available at vimeo.com/AlbanyLaw.
26th annual Kate Stoneman Day

THE 26TH ANNUAL KATE STONEMAN DAY brought the Albany Law School community together to honor women breaking barriers and making space for those who follow.

Nancy Hogshead-Makar, an Olympic champion, civil rights lawyer, and CEO of Champion Women, a nonprofit providing legal advocacy for girls and women in sports, was awarded the prestigious Miriam M. Netter ’72 Stoneman Award, in the spring of 2021.

Hon. Christine M. Clark ’96, Associate Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department and Donna E. Young, founding dean of Ryerson University’s Faculty of Law in Toronto, Canada and a former long-time Albany Law School faculty member were honored with Kate Stoneman Awards.

“I will take this award with me into the world to enable me to do more for women and girls in sports and in the legal field,” Hogshead-Makar said.

Hogshead-Makar detailed her swimming career, her legal experience, and turning Champion Women from passion project into a career.

“Do the one thing that you cannot help yourself from doing. If you haven’t found that work yet, that’s ok. Sometimes you have to create the meaning behind the work first,” Hogshead-Makar said. “I had to create meaning for swimming 800 laps today, for me, I was fulfilling God’s purpose for my life. That fueled me for going on to be successful.”

Though the online event meant people couldn’t be physically together, Clark noted a positive piece. Her family, childhood friends, and other loved ones were able to tune in easily and see her accept the award.

“This institution gave me a first-rate legal education, connections, and a community that I cherish. I look at this community of talented women and I think how far we have come from when Kate Stoneman was a student,” Clark said.

Young was introduced by her former student Catrina Young ’20, who spoke on behalf of the nearly 60 students who nominated Young for the award.

“It is a privilege to have been a part of a faculty that sends amazing leaders out into the world. To change the world,” Young said. “Albany Law holds an important place in history and I am delighted to have been a part of that history.”

“I will take this award with me into the world to enable me to do more for women and girls in sports and in the legal field.”

Nancy Hogshead-Makar
Olympic Champion
Civil Rights Lawyer
CEO of Champion Women

Hon. Christine M. Clark ’96
Donna E. Young
Symposium for the ages

The Albany Law Journal of Science and Technology held a virtual Symposium, In the Crosswalk: The Intersection of COVID, Race, Technology, and the Law in the spring.

The discussion covered the role of structural racism in creating disproportionate health outcomes from COVID-19 for Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), how the law has shaped the disparate health impact of COVID-19 on the Indigenous population in the United States, the challenges of providing legal services to communities of color via technology and online courts, and the broader impact of COVID-19 on the future of the legal profession.

“I was able to meet these amazing professors doing amazing things. Being able to host it virtually made it possible to connect with people who may not have been able to come to Albany,” said Symone Wango ’21, Symposium Editor. “It was a great way to represent the school and the journal.”

Speakers included Keynote Speaker María Meléndez ’92, Chief Diversity Officer at Sidley Austin LLP; Matthew L.M. Fletcher, Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center Michigan State University College of Law; Seema Mohapatra, Associate Professor of Law and Dean’s Fellow Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law; and David Crossman ’17, staff attorney, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York.

WLI Trailblazer event

A DYNAMIC PANEL of Albany Law School alumnae shared stories of their career triumphs, challenges, and experiences as young legal professionals during the virtual discussion Alumnae Trailblazers: Forging a Path for Women in Law.

The event—hosted by the Women’s Leadership Initiative—brought together Hon. Joanne M. Winslow ’86, Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins ’88, and María Meléndez ’92 who shared their stories in a panel discussion moderated by President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94.

The panelists were asked a series of questions—on fairness, courage, successes and failures, balance, and more—that focused on law but could be applied to several fields.

The three panelists also shared memories of their time in law school and offered advice to their younger selves. Paying it forward to the next generation of trailblazers was a theme throughout—and is a guiding theme of Albany Law School’s Women’s Leadership Initiative.
A Long-Awaited Celebration

May 21 was a unique day for Albany Law School. For the first time in recent history, two different classes were honored with Commencement ceremonies on the same day at Saratoga Performing Arts Center. The Class of 2020 was saluted in the afternoon following the Class of 2021.

Keynote speaker James J. Sandman quipped that most graduates don’t remember who spoke at their graduation. He cautiously presumed that might be the case for the Class of 2020, but hoped they at least recalled his message.

“My hope for you is that, some years from now, you might remember that at your Albany Law School commencement, some guy whose name you’ve long since forgotten told you that good people finish first—and that you’ll be able to say, and he was right,” he said.

Sandman, President Emeritus of the Legal Services Corporation, was honored with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Albany Law. Since 2016, he has served as a trustee of Albany Law School in honor of his father, Edgar Sandman ’46.

In total, 162 Class of 2020 graduates were recognized, including J.D. (142), LL.M. (12), and M.S.L.S. (8) degrees.

“You worked so hard to earn the right to walk across this stage and be recognized for your achievements and to share that special moment with your classmates, family and friends. And you lost that, along with so much else,” said President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94.

“We promised that when the time was right, we would have a commencement for you and here we are. It’s a year later than it should have been, but I’m so happy to be able to finally share this moment with you. And this moment celebrates all that you did and achieved as an Albany Law student.”

COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

Professor Christine Sgarlata Chung received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship; Associate Dean Antony Haynes received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Service; Professor James Redwood received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching in August 2020 during a virtual ceremony.

Class president Kieran Murphy ’20 presented the Friend of the Class Award to Distinguished Professor of Law Patricia Reyhan.

“My hope for you is that, some years from now, you might remember that at your Albany Law School commencement, some guy whose name you’ve long since forgotten told you that good people finish first...”

JAMES J. SANDMAN
“We promised that when the time was right, we would have a commencement for you and here we are. It’s a year later than it should have been, but I’m so happy to be able to finally share this moment with you.”

PRESIDENT AND DEAN
ALICIA OUELLETTE ’94
The Class of 2021 spent the majority of their law school experience adapting to pandemic protocols, navigating online courses, and showing tremendous resiliency.

A familiar face was there to address them as they celebrated their accomplishments. Keynote speaker Robert Capers ’96—currently the Chief United States Probation Officer for the Eastern District of New York and an Albany Law School Trustee—spoke to the Class of 2021 at its Orientation.

“There is, quite literally, no challenge that you can’t overcome because you overcame this. Each and every one of you, you are all victorious.”

ROBERT CAPERS ’96

In total, 190 Class of 2021 graduates received J.D. (163), LL.M. (10), and M.S.L.S. (17) degrees.

“There is no doubt we were changed, and that we experienced losses. But I saw a greater sense of community, love, and support than I have ever seen at this School. You adapted, you created, and you grew closer even while you were physically apart. I watched as you found creative new ways to connect and bond. I marveled at how you reached out to one another to give comfort and care. I was astonished at how resilient you were through every new challenge that you faced,” President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94 said, “I can’t help but believe that you have been uniquely tempered by your experiences and that your class—the Class of 2021—is more prepared than any class has ever been to take on the world that awaits you, to be of service to your clients and society, to affect justice, and to put your Albany Law School education to work making this world a better place.”

COMMENCEMENT AWARDS

Professor Michael Hutter received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship; Professor Mary Lynch received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Service; Distinguished Professor Patricia Reyhan received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching in a virtual ceremony on May 20.

Alizabeth Volkman ’21, President of the Class of 2021, presented the Friend of the Class Award to Assistant Professor of Law Louis Jim.
“...I saw a greater sense of community, love, and support than I have ever seen at this School.”

PRESIDENT AND DEAN ALICIA OUELLETTE ’94
We Rise Together

Rising Higher Than Ever

This year, Albany Law School completed its most successful fundraising campaign, which supported three important pillars—Innovation, Impact, and Independence.

Thanks to the indescribable generosity, caring, commitment, and grace of the Albany Law School community during a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic, the oldest independent law school in the nation received the most support it has ever seen in a single campaign in its 170-year history as the We Rise Together: The Campaign for Albany Law School raised nearly $33 million.

The Campaign, which closed on June 30, was Albany Law School's most ambitious fundraising effort ever, exceeded its original $30 million goal, and is building a strong foundation to move the institution into the future.

This stellar outpouring supported the Campaign's three guiding pillars: Impact, to bolster The Justice Center at Albany Law School and the Government Law Center—two vital pieces of the law school that provide critical legal services to the local community, Independence, to build a robust scholarship endowment, and Innovation, to create innovative programming and improve technology and academic facilities.

Beyond the $15 million anonymous gift, the law school raised almost $18 million over the course of the Campaign with nearly 3,000 individual donors contributing. The law school's endowment stands at $81 million.
CAMPAIGN
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A $15 million anonymous gift to endow The Justice Center

A $1.8 million anonymous gift to support student scholarship

A $1 million gift to establish a fund for innovation and entrepreneurship

Significant growth in giving to the annual fund which is now $1.8 million annually

Funding for 10 new scholarships and endowed funds

Gifts to create a new Barrister Student Scholarship Program

A $250,000 endowment to establish a Women’s Leadership Initiative

Growth in support for the Helen Wilkinson Student Emergency Fund which has been used for COVID-19-related student relief

Funding to create a new student wellness program

“We did it. It’s more than reaching that Campaign goal. We are reconnecting with a lot of alumni that haven’t been engaged for years. We’re really building the momentum for the future,” said Jack Withiam ’74, Vice Chair of the Development Committee for We Rise Together.

Withiam helped support the Campaign himself, and through the Lynda and Jack Withiam ’74 Scholarship Fund where students are supported annually with only one stipulation—they have a financial need.

“The law school provided me with resources when I was a student. I was in a different era—tuition was not what it is today—and to be able to connect people who have a strong desire to get into the field and make it a reality is important,” he said.

James E. Hacker ’84, Chair of the Board of Trustees during the Campaign launch, and his wife Susan H. Hacker chose to start a scholarship in honor of his dear, late friend John E. Higgins ’89, as part of the Campaign.

“It was one of those friendships you don’t forget. John was passionate about helping young people like himself—he was the son of a single mother raising three kids—he was a great attorney with a great heart,” Hacker said.

The John E. Higgins ’89 Memorial Scholarship Fund is designated to support a Black or Hispanic student at the law school. Higgins and Hacker were longtime friends, though they did not attend law school at the same time, the institution, the legal profession, and the intertwined values of both was just one of many things they shared.

“When I was a student, I felt like the law school supported me. It was the people that supported me. When it came time to graduate, the faculty and staff—people like Professor David Siegel, Professor William Watkins, and Jennie Carpinello—helped me find a job. If you’re able to give back, it’s a way of saying thank you to honor those people who helped me,” Hacker said.

Dan S. Grossman ’78, Chair of the Development Committee and Secretary of the Board of Trustees during the Campaign launch, supports a scholarship that is awarded to a student who has graduated from New York City Public Schools and a State University of New York (SUNY) school.

As a NYC Public School, University at Albany, and Albany Law School alumnus, Grossman sees the power of alumni generosity and looks forward to what’s ahead.

“We are well positioned to move forward knowing our alumni are behind us,” he said. “As we move forward we are going to have to adapt to new technology and how the law is taught. We are already on the way. We are well suited to be nimble and respond to the changing times.”
THE JUSTICE CENTER

GROWING FROM THE CENTER

The Justice Center is expanding in interest, influence, and impact.
“WE IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE THE COMMUNITY IS HURTING AND WHERE OUR STUDENTS’ LEGAL SKILLS CAN EASE THE BURDEN.”

BY SHANNON BALLARD GORMAN

FOR NEARLY FIVE DECADES, THE JUSTICE CENTER at Albany Law School has been a collaborative hub for law students to learn crucial skills while making a direct impact on those in the Capital Region community in need of free legal assistance and access to justice.

While the COVID-19 pandemic put many operations on hold, the need for that legal help didn’t stop; neither did The Justice Center.

Law students, clinic faculty, and staff continued to impact the Capital Region by focusing on critical and unmet needs including 45,863 hours of public service and pro bono work from the Class of 2021 during its tenure at Albany Law.

“We identify areas where the community is hurting and where our students’ legal skills can ease the burden,” said Professor Sarah Rogerson, director of The Justice Center, which houses five legal clinics and oversees the law school’s pro bono program.

As the needs of the community have grown, so has The Justice Center including new staff, student program interest, and influence in the community.

“In the past few years, we’ve been able to respond more quickly to discovered needs in the community and add staff positions to help meet those needs thanks to generous financial, legal, academic, and emotional support from our allies, partners, friends, colleagues, and benefactors in the Capitol Region and beyond,” Rogerson said.

Through Albany Law School’s We Rise Together campaign, and especially a transformative $15 million anonymous gift that kicked off the campaign, The Justice Center is supported by an endowment, a significant financial step to support clinical education into the future. The support has allowed each clinic to continue its superlative service to the community and provide invaluable experience for students.

“I see The Justice Center as an ecosystem, so when you infuse support and ideas and entrepreneurship into any part of the clinic, it benefits all,” said Professor Mary Lynch who is the director of the Domestic Violence Prosecution Hybrid Clinic. “Having new blood—new staff attorneys and young people who bring all kinds of tech savvy ideas—and adding new programs has stimulated a lot of energy throughout the clinic.”

“We are in an exciting period of smart growth in the clinical programs,” Rogerson said. “We’re asking ourselves, ‘How do we fill the spaces in the community where the light of civil legal services is not shining?’”

Recently, student interest in healthcare law, housing issues, and criminal justice have grown. Clinic faculty all teach multicultural lawyering, each clinic has examined how it can continue to make sure it is modeling full justice with its programming.

This two-way flow of education and training is facilitated by the close connections the clinics have forged with many community-based organizations—which Rogerson said have become deeper and more coordinated in recent years, thanks, in part, to the financial support of The Justice Center by the community.

“When you contribute to Albany Law’s clinic program, that investment has a ripple effect throughout the community,” Rogerson said.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

Formed in 2016, the Community Economic Development Clinic (CEDC) is the newest clinic within The Justice Center and follows a mantra of, “a rising tide lifts all boats.” The CEDC focuses on individuals starting or investing in local businesses, worker-owned cooperatives, and affordable housing. The clinic has earned a respected reputation for its community-based lawyering.

“We don’t assume we have all the answers,” said CEDC director Professor Ted De Barbieri. “We listen first, then add our skills and abilities, student training and capacity to help solve seemingly
difficult problems—most of which stem from inequality manifested in housing opportunities, job markets, and barriers to starting businesses.”

With increasing student demand, expanding community needs exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and financial support most notably from the We Rise Together campaign, the clinic expanded from De Barbieri and staff attorney David Craft to also include senior staff attorney Todd Arena, in 2019 and Assistant Professor of Law/Co-Director Fermin Mendez who joined in summer 2021. The CEDC brought on 16 students—a new high—in the 2021 fall semester.

“We’ve seen tremendous demand from students to be involved in this work,” said De Barbieri, who receives about 50 student applications annually. “This will have a positive impact on our ability to serve clients.”

In the past year, the CEDC fielded 101 requests for legal services with more than two-thirds being clients looking to start new businesses.

“During these difficult times we’ve seen a significant need for services from those who can’t otherwise afford them,” he said. In 2020, the CEDC started the Community Priorities Project to better understand the economic development priorities of communities starting with Albany’s underserved South End. The plan is to take on cases around those priorities. “We want to reflect actual needs, as articulated by residents of communities—particularly urban neighborhoods that are largely overlooked by programs which, while otherwise well-intentioned, frequently miss the mark in addressing social and economic inequality,” said De Barbieri, whose scholarship focuses on such programs.

Beyond the locally-focused research, the CEDC is studying the federal Community Reinvestment Act that aimed to expand and develop lending in areas starved for capital, but “has been largely ineffective,” according to De Barbieri. There is also ongoing research about the federal Opportunity Zone program, designed to direct capital to economically disadvantaged communities, but it is also failing to do so according to De Barbieri. He published the research in the *Yale Law and Policy Review* in 2020.

“We point out deficiencies in existing laws, analyze existing plans using ethnographic models, and come up with proposals and solutions,” he said. “It’s an exciting opportunity for students to learn valuable skills.”

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**STUDENT IMPACT:**

Jordan Fruchter ’20 designed the H.A.R.M. calculator (Habitability, Abatement of Rent, Mathematical) to help hold bad landlords accountable for non-repair issues. The tool computes reasonable damages and rent abatement for tenants. The program was rolled out in Albany and amplified through the CEDC’s partnership with United Tenants of Albany.

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**FERMIN MENDEZ** joined The Justice Center as an Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the Community Economic Development Clinic in Summer 2021. Prior to joining Albany Law, he co-taught the Entrepreneurship Clinic at University of Michigan Law School as a clinical fellow.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROSECUTION HYBRID CLINIC

In the Domestic Violence Prosecution Hybrid Clinic (DVPH), students get an intensive experience in aiding survivors.

“They learn about trauma, the ins and outs of Special Victims Unit (SVU) prosecution, the fact that the criminal justice system may not be the biggest problem in a survivor’s life, and that in some cases, it can be dangerous to go forward to prosecution,” said Director Mary Lynch. “They have to learn to listen to the survivor, partner with them, and be ready to litigate the case when the survivor is ready to leave. It’s the type of skill building that can only be done through the kind of innovative clinic that we have.”

The DVPH is a “hybrid” clinic because it does not take cases directly like the other in-house clinics; rather, students work on cases with the SVUs and domestic violence courts in Albany, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady counties.

“Students learn, firsthand, what it is like to be part of a coordinated community response to intimate partner violence, providing safety to survivors and accountability to abusers,” Lynch said.

Since each student works directly with a community partner, such as an assistant district attorney, through court proceedings, the clinic supports seven to eight students each semester.

STUDENT IMPACT:

Kristen Davis ’22 successfully argued during a virtual hearing for restrictions on a sexual offender with a Schenectady County Judge noting that she was “the best lawyer he had seen all week.”

Dominique Vaccaro ’22 worked closely and compassionately with a sexual assault victim, and watching preparations for a secret grand jury was an experience she said “she will never forget.”

“Our footprint in the community has expanded,” Lynch said. “We’re known more now. People reach out to see if they can partner with us and to create synergies, which is great.”

One growing relationship is with the Albany County Sheriff’s Academy where Lynch provided training on domestic violence. She has also taught client-centered lawyering for The Legal Project—a unique legal services firm in Albany with over 250 pro bono attorneys that help the working poor with civil legal needs.

The DVPH also works with community organizations such as Equinox, Unity House, and In Our Own Voices to help ensure peaceful, fair, and safe responses, survivor support, and easier access to justice.

“There is a lot more collaborative work to be done, and this is a great way forward,” Lynch said.
HEALTH LAW CLINIC

Strong relationships with community partners are the lifeblood of the Health Law Clinic (HLC) as many of its cases are referrals from doctors, case managers, and social workers.

“They know about us and have seen the positive impact that we can have on patients’ lives,” said HLC director Professor Joseph Connors.

The HLC’s primary mission, funded by a New York State Department of Health grant, is to provide legal services to individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS, and to counsel individuals with HIV/AIDS about opportunities to return to the workplace while retaining their benefits. The clinic also provides services to individuals and families affected by cancer and others with chronic progressive illnesses.

The clinic has conducted outreach and training for social workers, case managers, medical residents and doctors so each can spot when a patient’s problem might have a legal solution and each may be able to “prescribe” the clinic’s services so to speak.

“Our holistic approach is to address not only the client’s legal needs, but also other areas that affect health, like economic uncertainty, housing insecurity, and family instability,” Connors explained.

When it comes to types of cases the clinic often works in three major areas:

First, clients with financial concerns which are sometimes addressed by challenging denials of government benefits or exploring options to return to work.

Second, housing issues such as when a client with HIV, also a survivor of domestic violence, was threatened with eviction from public housing due to her abuser’s actions. The HLC successfully challenged that decision, and the woman was able to stay in her home and maintain her Section 8 assistance.

Finally, parents with chronic illness who are often questioned regarding parenting abilities and the custody of children which adds to already high stress levels.

“We challenge the thought that they’re somehow neglectful and help get the right supports in place for them,” Connors said.

HLC students take on this wide range of cases each year to understand client autonomy and societal and systemic issues.

“We keep the benefit to our students in mind when we take on clients and strive for a balanced caseload so they’re not overwhelmed and can get a good learning experience,” Connors said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also provided unique challenges for the clinic beyond its traditional work. HLC students and staff conducted virtual visits, phone and video conferences, and in emergency situations, took appropriate health and safety precautions to meet with clients safely.

“Some issues we dealt with were the same: individuals were denied home health services or services were reduced, which could be fatal for many of our clients, especially in the time of COVID,” Connors said. “We had to advocate for them not to lose those services. Now, we are leveraging the lessons learned from the virtual world we’ve been living in to help us continue to connect with the people who need us the most.”

STUDENT IMPACT:
Victoria Gambrel ’22, Elizabeth Harmon ’22 and Eileen Tchao ’21, paralegal Samantha Leather, and Clinic Director Professor Joe Connors helped Leanne Bossert—a woman with two brain tumors who was denied a specific type of radiation therapy by her insurance company—under tight deadline pressure with extensive medical and legal research and assembling a compelling rebuttal to the denial.

THANKS TO A GENEROUS GIFT from the Barry Gold Family, staff attorney Joseph Lansing ’19 is currently serving as the clinic’s Health Law Fellow. “He is instrumental in maintaining our services to clients over the summer and with cases that are not ready for student involvement.”
Impact

STUDENT IMPACT:
The clinic successfully advocated for a survivor of intimate partner violence and her child before a family court judge. The team obtained a full “stay-away” order of protection against the batterer, the child’s father, and helped assure the survivor would have sole legal custody of the child.

FAMILY VIOLENCE LITIGATION CLINIC

The Family Violence Litigation Clinic (FVLC) has been finding new ways to serve victims of domestic violence and train the next generation of prosecutors and advocates.

For many years, FVLC director Professor Jaya Connors taught the clinic course, was the attorney of record for the clinic’s caseload, represented its clients in Family Court, and supervised the practicing students. To help manage cases and maximize student experiences, Connors recently partnered with Unity House Law Project in Troy. In fall 2021, Professor Hayat Bearat joined the law school as a visiting professor and Director of the FVLC.

“For adult clients, students assist the Unity House’s in-house attorney while learning client interviewing skills, legal drafting skills, the legal theories involved in the case, the principles, terminology, and modes of reasoning—that’s essential to family court practice,” Connors said.

Child clients come to the FVLC directly, where Connors acted as attorney with law students assisting. Connors models client interviewing skills, safe survivor communication, and case work, as students represent children in court.

“It’s a new area of law for students, and a lot to learn in a short time,” Connors said. “They need to learn how to interview a child based on the child’s chronological and developmental age, determine the child’s position (and whether or not the child is even able to form a position) and be that child’s voice and advocate before the court.”

“Working with survivors of domestic violence requires client-focused interview skills wearing a trauma-informed lens,” she said. “Students must learn to cope with vicarious or secondary trauma from working closely with people who have been abused by intimate partners or family members.”

Family courts not only grant orders of protection to survivors, but can also provide for custody, visitation or parenting time for the non-custodial parent, and issue child support orders.

“These situations are so complicated. A more comprehensive response than just a legal solution is often needed, including finding and making referrals to help the client secure housing, child care, a job, or counseling,” Connors said.

The pandemic only added more complications.

While many FVLC clients have just left abusers and go to shelters, when the pandemic hit, initially, shelters actually saw a dip in population as fear of COVID and stay-at-home orders kept many at home.

Eventually though, violence at home actually began to rise above pre-pandemic levels and shelters saw a sharp increase in populations. Some shelters had to break with normal operations and put people in hotels. In the legal system, orders of protection and petitions had to be filed online and by e-mail. Clinic students were forced to represent clients dealing with very intimate situations through distant cell phone calls and online meetings.

PROFESSOR HAYAT BEARAT joined the law school in summer 2021 and her role is dedicated to teaching the Family Violence Litigation clinic course—another example of a Campaign gift to The Justice Center at work.
“Everyone adapted quickly. They had to, there was no choice,” Connors said. “Students understand that they are dealing with people’s lives, their safety, and that’s a heavy burden to bear. At the end of the semester, some decide they can’t do this type of work; it’s too overwhelming for them. But others find helping survivors empowering and want to go into the field. Their strength and resilience continue to amaze me.”

**IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC**

The Immigration Law Clinic (ILC) is a nimble clinic that actually shifts its focus every few years to respond to new client needs.

Originally created in 2013 to serve immigrant survivors of domestic violence and other crimes with funding from the New York State Legislature, the ILC quickly discovered that there was a deeper need to help families lawfully enter the United States and to represent unaccompanied minors who had suffered abuse, abandonment, or neglect at the southern U.S. border and as they made their way to New York.

“There were hardly any nonprofit legal services for the immigrant community at the time,” said Director Sarah Rogerson about the early days of the clinic. The clinic adapted again in 2016 when immigrant legal services were needed after immigration enforcement and detentions were prioritized by the federal government. One of the areas in deepest need then was assisting people who had followed the rules to come to and enter America, but were still facing deportation.

Staff attorney Julina Guo—who has since moved on to the New York State Office for Children and Family Services—was instrumental in handling an influx of cases in 2018 including many in the Albany County Correctional Facility. The ILC partnered with the Albany County Sheriff, “to make sure that people received legal services whose cases wouldn’t otherwise have seen the light of day,” Rogerson said. This evolved into the Detention Outreach Project, which triaged detainees’ needs and connects them with help.

“Because of how the deportation machine was energized in the past five years, it’s going to take a while to slow it down, so we’re still putting out fires,” Rogerson said. Moving forward the ILC will continue to adapt and focus students on cases that can alter the legal landscape and create more systemic change, while also representing individuals. Lauren DesRosiers joined the ILC as a staff attorney in the summer.

“Our students share their experiences across clinics and are involved in reporting about the broader issues we address (in terms of groups of people similarly situation to our clients) and seeking the best solutions from a societal perspective,” Rogerson said. “Our students come to law school wanting to make the world a better place, and we show them how.”

**STUDENT IMPACT:**

In collaboration with David Fernandez ’92, students Doris Stacey Gama ’21, Matthew Geiling ’22, Michael Rowley ’22, and Jacob Mantey ’22, assisted asylum seekers living in Matamoros, Mexico with asylum applications as part of Project Corazon, which is an offshoot of Lawyers for Good Government.

Supporting The Justice Center

A gift to The Justice Center at Albany Law School has ripple effects. It allows students to find and experience an area of the law in which they want to work and encourages their dedication to filling unmet needs.
The Government Law Center (GLC) remains a place for state and local governments to access resources to better serve their communities, but it is also continuing its tradition of training the next generation of leaders in public service. GLC students dove into relevant research topics—police reform, union disputes, and voter registration systems—this past year.
AFTER EXECUTIVE ORDER 203 WENT INTO EFFECT in June 2020, the GLC began researching how local governments around New York were adopting policing reform plans—and creating police reform committees—to maintain public safety while building mutual trust and respect between police and the communities they serve. Every locality had to adopt a plan for reform by April 1, 2021 to be eligible for future state funding. This past summer Ruchi Patel ’22 continued the research, attended municipal meetings, reported her findings, and pointed out that of towns of varying sizes and demographics actually face similar legal issues. She knew that new creating regulations would require extensive compromise between elected officials, police officers and unions, and the public at large, but getting the experience of watching it happen in real time was powerful.

“It’s a reinforcement of something I’ve always believed: the law is about people, fundamentally. It’s the clue that webs together all of your knowledge,” Patel said. “You get to witness that compromise process. You learn a lot more about how law and policies are made and what gets cut out.”

“It’s getting involved civically and just listening,” Patel said. “This is all about empathy and communication at the end of the day.”

“It’s like going to a really fancy restaurant and instead of waiting for your dinner, you go into the kitchen,” she said. “But you start to appreciate [the process of governing] more.”

She also realized how important local municipalities are in law-making.

“A lot of law is made locally,” she said. “When you work on a current issue, you get into a lot of the politics. Politics is an important part of law. When I say politics, I mean the politics involved in the process, ‘There’s this law we want to pass, how difficult is it actually in practice—how is it going to work?’”

Patel was able to “get into the weeds” with the police reform committees, as members went through proposed laws word by word.

“Language is really, really important,” she said. Seeing the process left her with even more respect for the law.

“The law is collectively written, the law is collectively enforced,” she said.

One of the things she learned: to listen.
“It’s getting involved civically and just listening,” Patel said. “This is all about empathy and communication at the end of the day.”

Beyond the meetings, Patel and Matthew DeLaus ’22 teamed up to draft a letter on behalf of the Albany Community Police Review Board (CPRB) in April. The letter urged the New York State Legislature to take various actions to improve civilian oversight of police throughout New York State. Patel and DeLaus gathered policy ideas for the draft and the Albany CPRB planned to share the letter with its equivalent organizations throughout the state before submitting it to the Legislature.

“I love the enthusiasm and critical thinking that each student brings to each assignment. You can tell this work means a lot to them,” said Melody Harkness, the Albany CPRB Program Manager, when the draft was delivered.

The Albany CPRB is an independent board established to improve the relationship between Albany residents and the police department. Harkness works within the GLC through a unique partnership between the board, the City of Albany and the Law School. The GLC provides substantial support services to assist the Board in its duties and responsibilities. Harkness and previous GLC Director Professor Ava Ayers oversaw the students’ work.

“We need more committed advocates for impactful policy changes. When I meet with our students I see passionate attorneys influencing positive change in government. I see some students who will be shattering glass ceilings, which is necessary for the changes we need to see in local and state governance, especially as it pertains to police reform,” Harkness said.

Along with the work on the letter, DeLaus, Olivia Fleming ’22, and Calum d’Oelsnitz ’22 collected each of the various reform plans adopted by municipalities and posted them to the GLC’s website. There are 500 jurisdictions with police departments in New York State.

“This has been an invaluable experience. Reviewing and analyzing various municipality plans has been eye-opening,” said Fleming. “I feel like I am making an impact already.”

“Seeing an end goal where the work you produce and research may directly help reforming policing is an experience I did not expect to have in law school, and I could not be more grateful to the Center and to Professor Ayers for the opportunity to be a part of this project,” said Fleming.

DeLaus also published an explainer document for the GLC, “Alternatives to Police as First Responders: Crisis Response Programs” in November 2020. The explainer is the part of a series from the GLC that concisely map out the law that applies to important questions of public policy. The GLC has also created explainers on political redistricting in New York state, immigration, and aging policy.

“[It was] valuable for me to have the opportunity to publish a policy brief document,” he said. “I helped a bunch of communities in the police reform process. Doing research, bringing it back to different groups, that was very valuable because it was more in a support role—a role someone with a J.D. could play in those situations.”

DeLaus enrolled in law school because of his interest in police reform. His experience this summer with the GLC made him certain that’s the field he wants to pursue after graduation.

“Before law school the main thing that caused me to want pursue a J.D. was my involvement with the police accountability board, in my hometown,” he said. “For me, it was really full circle.”

While those students were focused on general or state-wide policing issues, Ryan Hunlock ’21 did research for the GLC on Local Law J in Albany specifically. The law was unanimously approved by the city’s Common Council in March. While there are still legal hurdles and referendum votes pending on the law, if fully enacted it would give the Albany CPRB an official budget, subpoena power, the ability to obtain police body camera and dashcam footage, the authority to discipline an officer, and the ability to hire investigators for independent investigations about police misconduct.

Hunlock kept track of various legislative reform proposals that were being circulated to see what issues remain unaddressed.

“The importance of this kind of real-world legal experience cannot be overstated,” Hunlock said in April. “The GLC faculty are growth-oriented and the supervision is true mentorship. As someone who is about to graduate, and is preparing to pivot to actual legal practice, my short time with the GLC has certainly been fulfilling.”
It’s been quite valuable to press my legal skills to the service of local governments as they contend with police reform, both as a matter of public service and as an opportunity to use my legal-analytical skill set.”

Gienabou Diallo ’23 was also part of the student team that started to analyze the reform plans as part of her summer internship. The work solidified that she is heading in the right direction in law school. After studying and researching how and why the Albany police union is suing the city of Albany, she said she realized she has what it takes to be a lawyer and is confident she’s being prepared well.

“Through this experience I see everything builds up, it’s cumulative,” Diallo said of integrating her first semester course work with the hands-on GLC research.

“The summer gave me a practical experience. The information I learned in Civil Procedure, I saw in real life. To see my knowledge would be useful—it made me feel I’m in the right place.”

As part of her work she turned into a detective, of sorts, to hunt down old documents and research the language in them to see if it helped the city’s legal arguments.

“I was able to see how we apply theory to law,” she said. “Just to have that opportunity was amazing.” Throughout the summer she and classmate Andrew Doody ’23 also worked on voter registration issues regarding online registration.

“For starters, just learning how to decode a statutory scheme in a different state—there aren’t many first-year students who are going to be able to look at a statutory scheme and be able to decode it, to find what you need quickly,” Doody said about his work looking into policy changes in Washington State specifically.

While the work was tedious, his mentor, Professor Ayers, said that because so many laws have become statutes, it’s just as important to learn to read them as it is to learn how to interpret cases.

“Let’s say you’re doing a sentencing statute, just understanding that is important,” Doody said.

“The election research connected cyber security and law and then litigation. I was never bored. I hope my life works out that way,” Diallo said about working on both the police reform and voter registration projects.

“Just having that range of options, I see how broad law is, I see I can have passions for things I never thought I would.”

### Student Assistance Fund

**Stepping Up in Honor of Helen Wilkinson**

**THE HELEN WILKINSON MEMORIAL STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND** existed long before the COVID-19 pandemic was on anyone’s radar. It was there simply in honor of Wilkinson—the law school’s longtime registrar—who was known to reach into her own pocket to help students make ends meet.

The Class of 1978 started the fund as an homage to her and to create a place to help students if they have an unexpected need for sudden help with living expenses, family emergencies, abrupt travel needs for unexpected circumstances, and more. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, those exact type of non-academic—but serious—emergencies happened. And alumni pitched in, big time.

More than 270 donors made gifts to the fund throughout the pandemic, with more than $150,000 distributed among dozens of students.

“If you wanted something or needed something, you asked Helen,” J.K. Hage III ’78 said. “She was a tremendously sincere and generous person.”
Two alumni take helm at GLC

THE GOVERNMENT LAW CENTER at Albany Law School has two familiar faces in leadership posts. The Honorable Leslie E. Stein ’81, who retired as an Associate Judge on the New York Court of Appeals in June, joined the law school as the new Director of the Government Law Center (GLC) at Albany Law School. She started in September on a part-time basis and will move full-time in January.

Patrick Woods ’12 started as Deputy Director of the GLC in October. Woods previously worked as an Assistant Solicitor General in the Albany Office of the Appeals and Opinions Bureau of the New York State Attorney General.

“I am deeply honored to have been given the opportunity to serve Albany Law School and the public as the next Director of the Government Law Center,” said Stein. “As a graduate of Albany Law School, a long-time resident of the Capital District, a member of the New York State bar, and of the judiciary, I am keenly aware of the outstanding work that the Government Law Center has achieved in the community and beyond.”

“I am absolutely thrilled to be able to come home to Albany Law School,” Woods said. “I look forward to working with Judge Stein to build on the already stellar work of the Government Law Center.”

“Patrick was a brilliant student, has an accomplished law career, and is going to be an incredible asset to the Government Law Center,” said Albany Law School President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94. “We could not be more fortunate than to have two individuals as dynamic and talented as Judge Stein and Patrick leading the GLC.”

After graduating from Albany Law, Stein began her legal career as the law clerk to the Schenectady County Family Court Judges. She practiced matrimonial and family law with the Albany law firm of McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, P.C. where she made partner. In 1997, she began her judicial career as an Albany City Court Judge and Acting Albany County Family Court Judge. She was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, Third Judicial District for a term commencing in January 2002. She served as the Administrative Judge of the Rensselaer County Integrated Domestic Violence Part from January 2006 until February 2008, when she was appointed a Justice of the New York State Appellate Division, Third Department. In October 2014, Judge Stein was nominated to serve as an Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals and her nomination was confirmed by the New York State Senate on February 9, 2015.

While a student at Albany Law School, Woods was Editor-in-Chief of the Albany Law Review, a Teaching Fellow for Federal Civil Procedure, an Executive Board Member of the moot court program, a student member of the Academic Standards Committee, and interned with the Albany County District Attorney’s Office, New York State Supreme Court, and the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. Before law school, Woods worked as a paralegal for a law firm specializing in customs and international trade law and taught for The Princeton Review.

Legal Assistance in Rural Communities

The Government Law Center’s Rural Law Initiative (RLI)—funded by grants from the United States Department of Agriculture and the Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties—brought legal assistance to small and start-up businesses in rural Upstate New York through three engaging and informative Community Educational Sessions this past year.

Last December, the center hosted, “Insurance Needs of Business Operators,” with Richard G. Liskov, Senior Counsel at Arent Fox LLP and an Albany Law School Adjunct Professor. In January, the center hosted, “Prescriptions for Small Business Financial Distress: Bankruptcy and Alternatives,” with: US Bankruptcy Judge Hon. Nancy Lord; Frank Brennan ’98, Partner at Nolan Heller Kauffman LLP; and Richard Weisz ’78, Senior Counsel, Hodgson Russ, LLP.

Finally, in March, the center hosted, “Labor Issues Affecting Small Businesses,” with Paul J. Buehler III ’16 an Associate at Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC.

The sessions came after a first-of-its-kind study in 2019 where the RLI revealed the unique challenges of rural practice, including due-process issues related to non-attorney judges, inefficiencies in town justice courts, a lack of access to broadband, and a prevalence of indigent clients. Each session video and more resources are available at: albanylaw.edu/government-law-center/the-rural-law-initiative.
DONORS, INDEPENDENCE, AND THE FUTURE

Building, securing, and growing a robust scholarship endowment for our continued autonomy.
Why was it important for Albany Law School to launch We Rise Together: The Campaign for Albany Law School when it did? What were the compelling needs that the Campaign was meant to address?

In the years preceding the We Rise Together campaign, the law school faced some significant challenges. We had explored a number of options for charting a path forward, and ultimately adopted a strategic plan that focused on building curricular and extracurricular professional pathways for our students, while remaining an independent standalone law school that plays a key role in our community. We committed to growing our offerings in areas in which we had historic strengths (government, advocacy, and public interest) and expanding our offerings in areas in which the market for lawyers and leaders was growing (business, tax, health, innovation, and cybersecurity).

In so doing, the law school committed to significant investments to achieve our strategic goals and build a strong financial base to ensure we could achieve our mission of training lawyers and leaders for the future, including students who need financial help to attain an Albany Law education. The Campaign was a critical tool for meeting that commitment.

Much of the Campaign took place during the pandemic. Were you surprised at how donors responded? How did the pandemic change how the Campaign unfolded?

Our supporters stepped up in meaningful ways during the pandemic. Hundreds answered our call for support to the Helen Wilkinson Student Emergency Fund. Others stepped up with leadership gifts that established new scholarships, created new programs, and grew our endowment. This level of generosity did not surprise me—the law school’s supporters are some of the most loyal and generous people I’ve ever met—but it did inspire me. As a community of people who care about Albany Law School, its students, and its role as a community citizen, we more than exceeded my hope for the Campaign, despite a pandemic that created uncertainty for all of us.

“Independence” was one of three themes of the Campaign along with “Innovation” and “Impact.” Why is important that Albany Law School stay independent and how does the success of the We Rise Together campaign help to ensure that independence?

Independence is a hallmark of Albany Law’s identity. Since our founding, we have leveraged our independence to grow, change, and adapt as a school without oversight or interference of a large university structure. As an independent school, we are able to pivot to create programs and classes in anticipation of market shifts, or to adopt and try new teaching methods and create opportunities for students. All it takes to make things happen at Albany Law School is a good idea, and a discussion and approval by our faculty and the deans. We control our own destiny.

At the same time, remaining independent means we don’t have a large university or state funding to stand us up during challenging times, such as when interest in law school wanes and we see periodic dips in enrollment. We rely primarily on tuition to pay our bills. The interest generated by our endowment is our other main source of funds. We absolutely must grow our endowment so that we have a strong financial base and we can rely less on tuition to remain financially viable as an independent institution.

The We Rise Together Campaign was successful in growing our endowment, strengthening our position as an independent law school. We are forever grateful to all our Campaign donors who gifted endowed scholarships or made other endowment gifts. These gifts will sustain Albany Law School now and in the future.
One of the cornerstones of the Campaign was a $15M gift from an anonymous donor to endow The Justice Center. What will be the impact of that gift on the Center and the communities it serves?

The anonymous gift was transformative for The Justice Center and for Albany Law School. It allowed us to immediately create and grow the Community Economic Development Clinic, which allows our students to work together with two amazing faculty directors and two staff attorneys to assist private entrepreneurs and not-for-profit organizations form, thrive, and grow, making an enormous impact in our communities. The gift also supports The Justice Center in other ways, allowing the law school to commit to its future and the future of its students in perpetuity.

Besides the endowment and the gift to The Justice Center, where do you think the Campaign will have the biggest impact for the Law School?

The Campaign has energized our campus, created new programs, and helped hundreds of students. It is hard to overstate what it means to everyone on the Albany Law campus that so many people chose to invest in Albany Law’s future. It is a statement of confidence that translates into action as we move forward as a community invested in growing a law school that makes us all proud. Knowing that our community is behind us allows us to dream big, and make bold strategic decisions for the future of the Law School, its students, and its community.

More concretely, the Campaign funded new a new wellness initiative, new scholarships, an emergency fund, and a women’s leadership initiative. These new programs and scholarships are immediately having an impact in the lives of our students. Our Colby Wellness Fellows are rolling out programs and initiatives that focus on supporting one another beyond the classroom with mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing at the forefront. The new scholarships and emergency fund have made the difference in whether some of our best students can join us to pursue or continue with their dream of becoming legal professionals. The impact on the
that investment matter. Thank you for trusting us to make our great Law School.

direct impact on our students, our Law makes a difference in the lives of those who believe that Albany because of you, and with the help of our alumni, career professionals, and students for growth opportunities, mentorship, and professional development. Again, these programs are life changing and career enhancing, and they would not have been possible without the generosity of our leadership donors.

What is your message to the nearly 3,000 alumni and friends who gave to the Campaign? And for those that are thinking of supporting the Law School in the future?

The most important message is one of thanks. We could not have achieved what we have achieved, and we would not be the law school we are without every one of our supporters and friends. Your contributions and investments secure a bright future for Albany Law School, its students, our legacy, and our community. Without you, we could not grow and change to adapt to a changing legal landscape. We could not attract the best and brightest students from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and parts of the country. We could not build a law school for the future. But because of you, and with the help of those who believe that Albany Law matters, that we are a place that makes a difference in the lives of our students and difference in our world, we will continue to thrive and grow. We will make you proud. Your investment in Albany Law makes a direct impact on our students, our program, and our great Law School. Thank you for trusting us to make that investment matter.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

John E. Higgins ’89 Memorial Scholarship
Through a leadership gift from Susan H. Hacker and James E. Hacker ’84, the John E. Higgins ’89 Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to memorialize John E. Higgins, Class of 1989. John was a captain of the student rugby team, a friend and mentor to many Albany Law students and Black Law Student Association members, a loving father, and a successful lawyer whose impact reached many beyond the Albany Law School community.

Patrice and Dan S. Grossman Scholarship
The Patrice and Dan S. Grossman ’78 Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. and Mrs. Grossman in 2018. The scholarship fund shall be awarded to students who attended public schools (K-12) in the New York City School system and who either went to City University in New York or attended a State University of New York college or university for their undergraduate degree.

Lynda & Jack Withiam, Jr. Scholarship
The Lynda & Jack Withiam, Jr. Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Withiam ’74 in 2018. The scholarship fund shall be awarded to a first, second, or third year student in good academic standing.

J. Kevin McCarthy ’90 Scholarship
The J. Kevin McCarthy ’90 Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. McCarthy in 2018. The scholarship fund shall be awarded to a first, second, or third year student in good academic standing.

Lynda & Jack Withiam, Jr. Scholarship
The Lynda & Jack Withiam, Jr. Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Withiam ’74 in 2018. The scholarship fund shall be awarded to a first, second, or third year student in good academic standing.

David Justus Memorial Scholarship
Through a leadership gift from Matthew F. Herman ’94, the David Justus Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to memorialize David Justus, Class of 1994, who passed away on March 26, 2020. The scholarship fund shall be awarded to a first, second, or third year student in good academic standing with preference given to: (i) Cornell University undergraduate degree, (ii) original residence in New York City and (iii) a strong interest in technology and digital media.

E. Stewart Jones, Jr. Scholarship
This scholarship was established by James E. Hacker ’84. The scholarship fund shall be awarded to a first, second, or third year student in good academic standing.

The David D. Siegel Law Review
Endowed Scholarship This scholarship was established by Rosemarie Siegel in 2020. The scholarship fund is created in memory of David D. Siegel, longtime member of the faculty, advisor, and author. The scholarship shall be awarded to members of the executive committee of the Albany Law Review.

BARRISTER SCHOLARSHIPS

Joseph Reynolds ’76 and Molly Reynolds Barrister Scholarship. An annual expendable scholarship to be awarded to a student for their three years of law school, starting in their 1L year.

Stephen J. Rehfuss ’85 established the Rehfuss/Walsh Family Barrister Scholarship. An annual expendable scholarship to be awarded to a student for their three years of law school, starting in their 1L year.

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Adrian and Jane Mezc ’78, along with Robert B. Stein ’78 established the Scott Osadchey ’78 Barrister Scholarship. An annual expendable scholarship to be awarded with first preference to a diverse student in financial need, preferably from a rural background, for their three years of law school, starting in their 1L year.

Laurie S. Marsh ’90 established the Harold Marsh Barrister Scholarship. An annual expendable scholarship to be awarded to a student for their three years of law school, starting in their 1L year.
Honoring a Beloved Friend

DAVID JUSTUS ‘94 WAS A FIERCELY LOYAL FRIEND, a passionate lawyer ahead of his time, and had a quick wit that made friends, family, and strangers smile.

In March 2021, Matthew F. Herman ’94 pledged $250,000 to establish an endowed scholarship in David’s memory, with the hope of one day establishing a full scholarship to support students for years to come. Justus passed away in March 2020 after a two-year battle with glioblastoma.

“There are two things I will always remember about David. One, he was extremely devoted to the study of law. The other was that he was an extraordinarily giving person. He was a good friend, someone who cared more about other people than himself,” Herman said.

“His colleagues, his wife, and others he met later in life all shared the same sentiment. He really had your back and was important to so many people.”

The money will be added to Albany Law School’s endowment, creating lasting legacies that will benefit students in perpetuity.

“Through this scholarship, even more people will learn about David and the impact he made on the law school community. If you look at his record of involvement, the way he was with people, and his passion for the study of law—it’s a great thing to share with other people,” Herman said. “If it inspires someone else, then we’ve achieved something great.”

Online Degree Programs Offer Flexibility for Any Stage In Student’s Career

DAVID WILLIAMS IS A THIRD GENERATION FIRST RESPONDER taking the second step in his career while Albany Law School is preparing to launch its sixth online graduate program.

After moving up the ranks of the Westerville (Ohio) Fire Department to Chief Fire Marshal over 30 years, Williams is readying himself to move on. Part of that journey includes a pair of LL.M. degrees from Albany Law School’s Online Graduate Programs—one in Cybersecurity and Data Privacy and another in Financial Compliance and Risk Management—that he will graduate with next summer.

“The one thing that I have been absolutely impressed with—this isn’t the first time I’ve done online education—I have spoken to every professor I’ve had personally which has never happened at any place I’ve taken classes before. I was speaking to my professor on a Sunday afternoon because I realized I did not know what I was talking about as I was doing some work and I could hear his kids in the background. I could hear his family doing their family things as he can hear my family doing my family things, and there was no rush about it. It was just wonderful, and that means a lot to me,” he said.

It’s been a challenge balancing the two programs, an intense job, and family life, but the flexibility of Albany Law’s programs—ranked among the most flexible in the nation—have made it worth it.

“I think if I had a dream it would be to work with corporate attorneys in mergers and acquisitions, doing the background work, doing the legwork, the investigatory work to bring that to fruition. That would be the ultimate. I think that would be awesome,” he said.

Williams has just one of many success stories coming out of Albany Law’s online programs as the school continues its innovative push into becoming a fully-fledged graduate school of law. Another on the horizon is the launch of the new online Government Affairs and Advocacy program in spring 2022.

This program will prepare students for a core understanding of the law of government affairs, advocacy, and lobbying that students can use to begin or advance their careers in lobbying, local, state or federal government. Advanced Certificates, Master’s or LL.M degrees are available through this exciting new offering.
THE WELLNESS INITIATIVE

SHIFTING THE STIGMA

Initiative focuses on resources for students to be their best selves in law school and later, in practice.
DEPRESSION, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND ANXIETY ARE ALL INCREDIBLY COMMON IN THE LEGAL FIELD.

IT’S TIME TO CHANGE THAT.

A 2019 AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION study cited 46% of lawyers experience symptoms of depression and 68% of lawyers experience symptoms of anxiety at some point in their career, with higher rates of both occurring early on for younger attorneys.

The statistic wasn’t a surprise to Albany Law School Trustee Andrea Colby ’80. By then she had already started to lift the Law School’s wellness programming through a Campaign gift to form The Wellness Initiative—a collective source for programming, support, and resources related to all things health and wellness.

Those numbers reinforced exactly how crucial focusing on the mental, physical, emotional, and financial well being of the next generation of legal professionals is. “I thought, we should do something during law school to help people understand how important it is to get help. There’s a huge stigma in the legal profession around mental health that discourages people who are suffering to get help,” Colby said.

So far, the Initiative has brought educational programming related to mental, physical, social, financial, and academic health to the community virtually and in person.

Throughout the toughest days of the pandemic, the inaugural Colby Fellows Olivia Cox ’21 and Carly Dziekan ’20 and Associate Dean of Student Affairs Rosemary Queenan planned virtual workout classes, general information sessions with mental health counselors Dr. Peter Cornish and Kelly Keohan, movie nights, and general support during an exceedingly difficult time.

The Wellness Initiative continues to support fellows and grow programming going forward. Students are already taking notice. Current Colby Fellow Sarah Dixon-Morgan ’22 found solace in the Wellness Initiative’s offerings during her 1L year. “It helps a lot of people see that it’s important to talk about mental health in our field. It’s new in New York and there aren’t a lot of other law schools in the country that are doing [anything like this] yet,” she said. “It’s an honor to have this fellowship. Through personal experience and figuring out what works for me in law school, I hope that it can help 1Ls and 2Ls adjust to law school. That would mean the world to me.”

They also regularly provide resources on the Rise in Wellness blog based on current events, law school-specific milestones—such as final exam and bar exam prep—and local resources outside the law school.

An additional gift from James Kelly ’83 bolsters the efforts. “When I was in law school there was a culture of toughing it out and a lot of students suffered as a result. So being able to support The Wellness Initiative really resonated for me,” Kelly said. “It’s such a hard time of life anyway—you’re worried about your future law career and other parts of your life might be up in the air as well. And today with the faster pace of technology—I have a lot of empathy for students today. There should not be any barriers to asking for help of any kind if you’re struggling.”

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View the blog and support the Wellness Initiative at wellness.albanylaw.edu
INNOVATION

Recent Grad Returns to Listen, Educate

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS NOW have a reliable, relateable, and needed sounding board for their concerns about diversity, equity, and inclusion on campus.

This past March Alex-Marie Baez ’20 became the law school’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Post-Graduate Fellow.

Her role includes supporting students and finding ways to advance the law school’s mission and commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environment.

“This role is incredibly fulfilling and I’m just getting started. As a recent Albany Law School graduate, I knew there was a need for a more student-centered DEI role. I am so grateful to be filling that spot because it has given me the opportunity to connect with students of a variety of backgrounds and I’ve learned so much from them,” she said. “I’ve also had the opportunity to reconnect with staff and faculty, but now with the twist of us working together. I know this role holds value to the student community and I value the students’ support and trust in me. It has been heart-warming just how welcoming and open to my recommendations the student body has been.”

Some of Baez’s first steps in her new role came during Orientation this past summer, where she presented “Cultural Competence and Why It’s Important” and “Being the First Lawyer in Your Family”—two topics with personal and professional importance to her.

As the first in her family to attend law school, she hopes she can put resources in place that would have helped her during her law school journey. Often,

Continued on page 45

Jermaine Cruz, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL WELCOMED JERMAINE CRUZ as its next Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion on November 5.

“I am extremely pleased to be joining Albany Law School,” Cruz said. “The law school community has shown itself to be one which understands the need to build a strong institutional foundation around diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as one that is ready to hear the tough things and do the hard work.”

Most recently, Cruz has served as the Director of Admissions at University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California. Before that he was Assistant Director of Admissions of The Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law, in Washington, DC, where he directed the law school’s admissions-related diversity initiatives. He is a 2005 graduate of the Columbus School of Law.

Before working in higher education, he was in private practice at Hannon Law Group, LLP, in Washington, D.C., where he focused primarily on complex commercial litigation and employment law.

While an evening law student, he worked at Georgetown University Law Center, where he managed the administration and recruitment efforts of the school’s clinical legal education program. He also served as a law clerk.

Continued on page 45
Fostering Entrepreneurial Minds

Dan Nolan ’78 believes in the next generation of Albany Law School students. “The students today are worldly, experienced, and they all have interesting backgrounds. They will go out into the world and do things we couldn’t even contemplate years ago,” he said. “That is the mark of a great institution.”

Nolan and his wife Sally’s $1 million Campaign gift established the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund. The fund will continue investments toward the School’s strategic plan that calls for a series of innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to legal education.

Using a J.D. in a non-traditional sense is an education move brimming with possibilities, Nolan said. “You can’t learn what you learn in law school on the job. In law school, you’re always looking for the right answer,” he said. “You’re trying to apply a set of facts to come up with the best answer. At the end of the day, law school teaches you how to think and think differently.”

He spent a major part of his career with Ayco Company, L.P., a wholly owned subsidiary of Goldman Sachs. He founded and led the firm’s Special Investment Group, creating venture capital, private equity and hedge fund opportunities for the firm’s clients. He is now CEO and Co-President of Graypoint, LLC and serves as a member of the company’s Investment Strategy Committee.

While the entrepreneurial field involved risk, failure, and constant innovation, going in with a strong knowledge of the law is a sure bet. “Use the rules of the law and solve problems—that’s what I learned here,” he said. “Have plan B and plan C ready. They are the most popular plans in entrepreneurial work when plan A doesn’t work. Make sure you have mentors who have started and failed and later succeeded.”

Empowering Women in Law

THE WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (WLI) is an innovative effort and collaboration by Albany Law School’s Career and Professional Development Center and Office of Alumni Engagement.

Established through a $175,000 gift from trustee and chair of the WLI advisory committee Kimberly C. (K.C.) Petillo-Décossard ’05 and her husband, Sakis Décossard, the WLI was bolstered by an additional $125,000 gift from trustee Timothy O’Hara ’96 and his wife, Colleen O’Hara. Harris Beach PLLC and John T. McManus ’97, managing partner of the Harris Beach offices in Albany and Saratoga Springs, and a member of the WLI advisory committee, also supported the program with a $25,000 gift in December 2020.

Through tailored programming, networking, and professional development opportunities, the WLI is dedicated to normalizing female success and advancement of Albany Law School students, alumnae, and community members.

Even though much of the initial programming was virtual, it was robust and brought together multiple groups of women leaders. In its first months, the WLI hosted more than 250 participants for a Summer Series that included guest speakers sharing their real-world experiences in the legal profession, from building a solo firm to representing business clients. That momentum continued this past summer with additional programs, including:

• Entrepreneurial Attorney’s Representing Entrepreneurs, presented by: Glinnesa Gailliard ’07, Sarah Gold ’05, and Raysheea T. Turner
• The Power of Embracing Constructive Feedback, presented by: Elizabeth Hofmeister ’90
• Leading and Managing with an Equity Lens, present by: Kerri-Ann J. Wright ’07

The first group of Women’s Leadership Initiative Fellows were announced on September 30, 2021. This fellowship is dedicated to advancing leadership through leadership education, one-on-one mentorship, and an experiential capstone.

Jordyn Conway ’25
Susanne Corrigan ’24
Ellen Gabelmann ’24
Arrissa Hill M.S.L.S.

Elisona Kadriu ’24
Charissa Kim ’24
Anne Marie Miller ’25
Isabella Napodano ’24

Faith Nee ’24
Allegra Padula ’24

First-year WLI Fellows are given extracurricular opportunities to gain knowledge about careers, gain insight into their individual values and aspirations through self-assessment, and begin to build their professional networks. Upper class Fellows take specific courses, complete trainings that will prepare them for leadership positions, participate in a mentorship program, and complete an experiential capstone project.
There’s no time like today

Welcome from National Alumni Association President Hon. Peter G. Crummey ’81

I JUST RETURNED TO MY OFFICE from our Campus having participated in the Class of 2024 Orientation Networking Luncheon. This incoming class of more than 200 students is bright, eager, personable, and attentive. I thanked them for choosing Albany Law School. I was pleased to see our time-honored mentoring programs in play at many levels. Alumni were present to meet and interact with our newly minted 1Ls while 2Ls and 3Ls were serving as section leaders helping guide our new students.

Mentoring is integral to the success of our School and no school does it better than Albany Law School. Even during last year’s virtual education format, 61 of our 1Ls participated in our Alumni Initiative in Mentoring (AIM) Program.

Our National Alumni Association remains vital to the success of our AIM Program and to the value of education at Albany Law School.

Now in my 40th reunion year, I suppose I’ve reached Senior Partner status in our Albany Law School family. Looking back over the past 40 years, I can point to numerous moments where I was provided opportunity and guidance by Albany Law School alumni. This is the legacy of Albany Law School. I encourage all of us to continue to help alumni and current students to advance in their professional lives.

As an Alumni Association, let us help those who follow us. Let them climb on our shoulders so they can achieve their goals. It will be a benefit to you, to them, and to our School. This can be done with a little help from friends.

Sincerely,

HON. PETER G. CRUMMEY ’81
President, NAA
petercrummeylaw@gmail.com
CLASS OF 1958

William R. Holzapfel has been presented with The Fred G. Stickel Memorial Award by the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys.

CLASS OF 1960

Kent B. Joselyn, an attorney in private practice, has been recognized by Marquis Who’s Who Top Lawyers for dedication, achievements, and leadership in public safety.

CLASS OF 1967

John F. Welch was recognized by The Florida Bar as a 50-year member of the Bar. Mr. Welch was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1970.

CLASS OF 1969

Hon. Richard T. Aulisi will join Belluck & Fox, LLP as trial counsel to lead the expansion of the firm’s Upstate New York personal injury practice.

CLASS OF 1970

M. Sherry Gold and the Gold Family, Founding Donor of the Barry A. Gold ’70 Health Law Clinical Program Endowment Fund, received the Humanitarian Achievement Award at Albany Law School’s 2020 Grand Honors Awards.

CLASS OF 1972

Dale M. Thullier received the Distinguished Alumni Award at Albany Law School’s 2020 Grand Honors Awards.

CLASS OF 1973

Michael A. Gold has been appointed to the Hadley Board of Directors, a distance and online learning non-profit for blind adults that assisted his adult daughter.

Thomas A. Pohl is retiring from the NYS Office of General Services.

CLASS OF 1975

Hon. Eugene P. Devine has joined The Towne Law Firm, P.C. as an attorney.

Hon. Thomas J. Vilsack has been selected by President Biden as Secretary of Agriculture.

CLASS OF 1976

Hon. Randolph F. Treece received the Trustees Gold Medal at Albany Law School’s 2020 Grand Honors Awards.

CLASS OF 1977

Mark F. Cacozza retired after serving for 36 years as Principal Law Clerk for the New York State Supreme Court in Saratoga County.

CLASS OF 1978

Paul Derohannesian, II was named one of The 2021 Upstate Power 100.

Dan S. Grossman has retired from Bloomberg after 39 years of representing the Company, both as outside counsel for 30 years and inside counsel for 9 years.

Daniel P. Nolan has been named to the Albany Business Review’s Power 50.

Col. Frank P. Trotta stepped down as Justice of the Peace of Greenwich, CT and retired to South Carolina. He remains President of the Lehman Institute.

CLASS OF 1979

George Franciscovich was recently sworn in to another 4 year term as Justice of the Peace for the Town of Westport, CT, where he has been a Justice of the Peace since 1996.

CLASS OF 1980

Assembly member Kevin A. Cahill was named one of The 2021 Upstate Power 100.

Stuart C. Henderson has been inducted into the 2020 Insurance Business Magazine Hall of Fame.

CLASS OF 1981

40th Reunion


CLASS OF 1982

Gary R. Eisenman has joined Brown & Weinraub PLLC as counsel and senior advisor in its real estate and development practice.

CLASS OF 1983

Connie Cahill has been elected managing partner of Barclay Damon, LLP becoming the first woman to lead the organization in its 165-plus-year history.

CLASS OF 1984

Betty Lugo is the recipient of the 2020 Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award from the Women in Law Section of the New York State Bar Association.

CLASS OF 1985

Judith Blank has joined the public finance practice at Pullman & Comley, the top-ranked law firm for public finance in Connecticut, according to Bond Buyer.

Philip J. Danaher has been appointed to the Hudson Valley Community College Board of Trustees by the Rensselaer County Legislature.

Lt. Col. Frank G. Hoare was confirmed by the Board of Directors of the New York State Thruway Authority as the General Counsel of the Authority.

Carmen Reyes Neale has been appointed to KidsPlay Children’s Museum Board of Directors in Connecticut.
John C. Partigan has been recognized by Chambers and Partners’ 2020 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business for Corporate/M&A & Private Equity in the District of Columbia.

Kimberly C. Petillo-Décossard has been named to The American Lawyer’s 2021 inaugural list of Northeast Trailblazers.

Alan J. Shmaruk and his son, Ben are avid outdoorsmen and hikers. Ben hiked the Pacific Crest Trail starting at the Mexican border and ending at the Canadian border in an effort to raise funds for pancreatic cancer early detection. This inspiration is a result of Alan’s ongoing battle with pancreatic cancer. To read more and to donate, visit their website at www.pct4pc.com.

CLASS OF 1986
35th Reunion

David A. Dellehunt was re-elected as Village Justice of Kinderhook to a four-year term.

CLASS OF 1988

Lisa M. (Boylan) McQuade was featured in the Morris/Essex Health & Life Magazine for June/July 2021 issue as one of the top attorneys at Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC.

David P. Miranda has been named a winner of the Fastcase 50 Award honoring innovators, visionaries, and leaders in law. Fastcase, a legal publisher, recognizes the most fascinating trailblazers and architects of the future of law and legal technology. The award recognizes pioneering people who have made important contributions to the legal profession, for practitioners and the public.

Patricia E. Salkin was promoted to Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs for the Touro College and University System. She will retain her title as Provost for the Graduate and Professional Divisions at Touro College.

Hon. Jennifer A. Whitman was unanimously appointed to Town Justice by the Irondequoit Town Board and will be the first woman to serve in the role.

CLASS OF 1989

Heather C. (Wollowitz) Briccetti has been named as one of the Albany Business Review’s Power 50.

Robert W. Malmshheimer was presented with the 2020 Matt McArdle Excellence in Bioenergy Award during the recent Empire State Forest Products Association board meeting.

CLASS OF 1990

Hon. Anne-Marie Jolly joined the New York State Unified Court System in 2010 as a Family Court Judge and was recently reappointed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Kevin J. Kline has been appointed special adviser for compliance and risk management by Guess & Co. Corporation.

CLASS OF 1991

Hon. Jonathan H. Shim was present at the 2020 Most Effective Lawyer Award in the insurance category.

Angela A. Borreggine has been featured in a Women in Law segment on an edition of Vanguard, a legal magazine that focuses on attorneys in a business environment. The article is an in-depth interview covering her career and most recently her role as Chief Legal Officer and Head of US Inclusion & Diversity at Allianz Global Investors.

Hon. William A. Carter has announced his retirement from the Albany County Court.

CLASS OF 1992

Paul G. Barden has formed the Law Office of Paul G. Barden, PLLC in Rochester, NY.

CLASS OF 1993

Hon. Jonathan H. Shim has been reappointed as a judge in Civil Court in New York City by Mayor de Blasio.

CLASS OF 1994

Rory E. Jurman has been honored by the Daily Business Review with its 2020 Most Effective Lawyer Award in the insurance category.

CLASS OF 1995

Megyn M. Kelly signed with SiriusXM to launch “The Megyn Kelly Show,” a new live, weekday radio show.

Roger W. Kinsey retired from the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs.

Hon. Marcia L. Lemay was sworn in and took office as Ogdensburg’s City Court Judge.

Prof. Laverne L. McQuiller-Williams has been named associate provost for Faculty Affairs at Rochester Institute of Technology’s College of Liberal Arts.

Doreene M. Price was a panelist at the virtual Maria Mitchell Women in Science Symposium in 2020.

John S. Tassone joins Lido Advisors, LLC as Vice President and Wealth Advisor in its Boca Raton, Florida office.

CLASS OF 1996
25th Reunion

John M. Bagyi has been named one of The 2021 Upstate Power 100.

CLASS OF 1997

Tracey I. Levy has been named to Feeding Westchester’s Board of Directors. Feeding Westchester is Westchester County’s largest nonprofit hunger-relief organization.

Ronald J. Pabis has joined Jenner and Block, LLP as a partner in Washington, D.C.

Mayor Katherine M. Sheehan was named one of The 2021 Upstate Power 100.

CLASS OF 1998

David A. Dellehunt was re-elected as Village Justice of Kinderhook to a four-year term.

CLASS OF 1999

Tom Ricci has been named to The American Lawyer’s inaugural list of Northeast Trailblazers.

CLASS OF 2000

Megyn M. Kelly is a best-selling author and syndicated radio talk show host. She is the recipient of the 2013 Carol管理体系 Award.

CLASS OF 2001

Megyn M. Kelly is a best-selling author and syndicated radio talk show host. She is the recipient of the 2013 Carol管理体系 Award.

CLASS OF 2002

Rory E. Jurman has been honored by the Daily Business Review with its 2020 Most Effective Lawyer Award in the insurance category.

CLASS OF 2003

John E. B. King has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of HC2 Holdings, Inc.

CLASS OF 2004

David E. McCraw has been selected to be the first woman to serve in the role.

CLASS OF 2005

Robert W. Malmsheimer has been honored by the Daily Business Review with its 2020 Most Effective Lawyer Award in the insurance category.

CLASS OF 2006

Kelly M. (Evans) Curro received the New York State Bar Association’s 2021 President’s Pro Bono Service Award.

Andrew M. Klein was recently reappointed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to the New York State Unified Court System.

CLASS OF 2007

Hon. William A. Carter has announced his retirement from the Albany County Court.

CLASS OF 2008

Rory E. Jurman has been honored by the Daily Business Review with its 2020 Most Effective Lawyer Award in the insurance category.

CLASS OF 2009

Tracey I. Levy has been named to Feeding Westchester’s Board of Directors. Feeding Westchester is Westchester County’s largest nonprofit hunger-relief organization.

Ronald J. Pabis has joined Jenner and Block, LLP as a partner in Washington, D.C.

Mayor Katherine M. Sheehan was named one of The 2021 Upstate Power 100.
Matthew L. Hosford has joined the law firm Lippes Mathias as a partner in the Albany Office.

Nandini Nair-Thomas was selected by the New Jersey Law Journal as Top Women in Law 2020.

John T. Sly has been named the 2020 Fred H. Sievert Award recipient by DRI, the leading organization of civil defense attorneys and in-house counsel. A trial attorney and partner at Waranch & Brown, Mr. Sly has been recognized for his service on the Executive Board of the Maryland Defense Counsel, and as its President during 2018-2019.

CLASS OF 1997

Hon. Linénit Beltré Rosado received a 2020 Alumni Association Excellence Award from the University at Albany.

Larry P. Cote was honored by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) as its 2020 Champion for Drug-Free Kids.

Monique A. (Dearth) Honaman has joined International Market Centers is the leading organization of civil defense attorneys and in-house counsel. A trial attorney and partner at Waranch & Brown, Mr. Sly has been recognized for his service on the Executive Board of the Maryland Defense Counsel, and as its President during 2018-2019.

CLASS OF 1998

Stephen J. Acquario was named one of The 2021 Upstate Power 100.

Debra C. Brookes was promoted to Deputy Virtual Currency Chief with the Research and Innovation Division of the Deputy Virtual Currency Chief with the Debra C. Brookes was promoted to one of The 2021 Upstate Power 100.

Stephen J. Acquario was named Excellence Awards Gala.

CLASS OF 1999

Kimberly A. (Johnson) Harri-man has been appointed to the Board of Directors for Plug Power, Inc.

CLASS OF 2000

Catherine M. Hedgeman announced that the Hedgeman Law Firm will expand to Washington, D.C. with a new Pennsylvania Avenue Office. The firm is a renowned woman-owned comprehensive law firm.

CLASS OF 2001

Dafni S. Kiritsis has joined Syracuse Law as Director of Externships and Career Services.

CLASS OF 2002

Brian D. Hendrickson was appointed by the Salem Board of Educa-tion as superintendent of schools.

CLASS OF 2003

Li Tang has been named a partner at Jincheng Tongda & Neal. Additionally, she has been named to the Board of Directors of EnChroma, Inc., a company focused on solutions for color blindness.

CLASS OF 2004

Eliza Filipowski has joined Sobo & Sobo LLP.

G. Nagesh Rao (LLM) has been named Chief Information Officer of the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security.

CLASS OF 2005

Hon. Ricja D. Rice-Ghyll was sworn in on August 2, 2021 as Albany’s newest city court judge.

CLASS OF 2006

Alejandra R. (Rosario) Gil was elected Vice-President of the Hudson Valley Hispanic Bar Association.

CLASS OF 2007

Jennifer L. (Cifarelli) Storm has been named Chief Officer of Victim Legal Assistance Programs.

CLASS OF 2008

Brooke A. Tanner has joined Hinshaw & Culbertson’s global Insurance Services Practice Group as a partner in New York.

CLASS OF 2009

Lauren L. Hunt has opened her own law practice, Lauren L. Hunt Esq., PLLC.

Anthony M. Morelli has been appointed to the Town Board of Clifton Park, NY.

CLASS OF 2010

Senator Jeremy A. Cooney was elected to the New York State Senate and will serve as the committee chair of the newly-created Cities Committee. Senator Cooney has also been named to City & State’s 2021 Albany 40 Under 40 Rising Stars.

Peter J. Gregory has been named to the Rochester Business Journal 2020 Class of Forty Under 40.

Joi G. Kush will enter the position of president of the Colorado Bar Association for the 2021-2022 term year.

Sarah A. Pellerin has been appointed to serve on the advisory board for the National Kidney Foundation serving Upstate and Western New York.

Matthew M. Rozee was appointed as the Associate Village Justice for the Incorporated Village of Massapequa Park, N.Y.

Scott R. Swayze was appointed Assistant Chief of the New York State University Police at the State University of New York at Oswego.

CLASS OF 2011

Caroline E. (Nelson) Blackburn was named to the Board of Directors of EnChroma, Inc., a company focused on solutions for color blindness.

CLASS OF 2012

Peter J. Gregory has been named to the Rochester Business Journal 2020 Class of Forty Under 40.

Joi G. Kush will enter the position of president of the Colorado Bar Association for the 2021-2022 term year.

Sarah A. Pellerin has been appointed to serve on the advisory board for the National Kidney Foundation serving Upstate and Western New York.

Matthew M. Rozee was appointed as the Associate Village Justice for the Incorporated Village of Massapequa Park, N.Y.

Scott R. Swayze was appointed Assistant Chief of the New York State University Police at the State University of New York at Oswego.
Amanda De Vito-Trinsey has been named one of Albany Business Review’s 40 Under 40 for 2021. In addition, she was honored by the Capital Region news station WNYT, as one of “Today’s Women” for her work in the energy law field.

CLASS OF 2012

Justin M. Grassi has been named a Partner at Jones Steves.

CLASS OF 2013

Mary L. (Barnes) D’Agostino has joined Hancock Estabrook, LLP as an associate to focus on commercial litigation, federal and state appellate advocacy, and other civil disputes.

Emily (Drazan) Chapman received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award at Albany Law School’s 2020 Grand Honors Awards.

Tammy L. Garcia-Klipfel was one of several winners of the Western New York Daily Record Excellence in Law, Up and Coming Attorney Award for 2020.

Naresh K. Kannan has been elected as partner with Barclay Damon, LLP.

Mikhail A. Shah has been named a partner at Messner Reeves LLP.

Kimberly A. Van Wormer was appointed by the Montgomery County Legislature as the county’s first assigned counsel administrator.

Brendan J. Venter has been named one of Albany Business Review’s 40 Under 40 for 2021. In addition, he has joined Hirsh & Tubiolo, PC to focus on medical malpractice defense.

CLASS OF 2014

Abigail W. Rehfuss has been named the 2021 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Coach of the Year.

Matthew M. Zapala joins Nolan Heller Kauffman, LLP as an associate.

CLASS OF 2015


Jacqueline N. Goralczyk was featured by the Capital Region news station WNYT, as a part of the “Today’s Women” segment for her successful professional careers, including cybersecurity and data privacy focus in the real estate sector.

Alexis E. Kim-Blanco has joined Barclay Damon’s Health Care Controversies, White Collar & Government Investigations, and Commercial Litigation Practice Areas.

Michael R. Lieberman has joined Fox Rothschild LLP in their New York City office as a Litigation Associate.

Gregory T. Myers was recently promoted to Senior Associate at Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP. Greg’s promotion was in recognition of his consistent, high quality performance and the contributions to Lippes Mathias’s continued growth and success.

CLASS OF 2016

Daniel C. Bollana joined the Albany Law School Career and Professional Development Center as Associate Director.

Deanna M. Cucharale joined the law firm of Getnick Livingston Atkinson & Priore as an associate attorney.

Jared J. Pellerin has accepted the position of Assistant City Attorney for the City of Burlington, VT.

Patrick K. Wildes was selected for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region Match of the Year for 2020.

CLASS OF 2017

Mara D. Afzali was recognized by The Albany Business Review as one of the 2021 Women on the Rise, which recognizes women leading the way for the next generation with their outstanding contributions to the business community in the Capital Region.

Katie L. Birchough has been named to City & State’s 2021 Albany 40 Under 40 Rising Stars. In addition, she has joined Hancock Estabrook LLP as an associate.

CLASS OF 2018

Kimberly M. Felton has founded Innovation Litigation, a consulting and outsourcing firm for immigration attorneys.

Maxwell C. Radley has joined the law firm of Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria.

Edward P. Swyer (Honorary) has been named to the Albany Business Review’s Power 50.

CLASS OF 2019

Samuel D. Chubb has joined Barclay Damon’s Commercial Litigation Practice Area and Health Care Controversies Team as an associate.

Daniel P. Lennon has joined the Schenectady County District Attorney’s Office.

Kevin J. Murphy has joined William Mattar, P.C. as a staff attorney.

CLASS OF 2020

Douglas R. Berinstein has taken over command of the staff at the NYS Joint Force Headquarters in Latham.
Celebrations

David A. Rozen ’10 got engaged to Mark J. Williams on November 19, 2020.

Marcos A. Grael has joined Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP as an associate.

Leah M. Nelson has joined the Schenectady County District Attorney’s Office.

Krista K. Porter has joined The Towne Law Firm, P.C. as an attorney.

Autumn J. Young has been hired as an associate in the health care practice group at Harter Secrest & Emery LLP.

Victoria M. Craft has joined Bartlett, Pontiff, Stewart & Rhodes P.C. as an associate attorney.

Andrew L. McNamara ’19 and his wife welcomed their first child on November 6, 2020.

Marcos A. Grael has joined Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP as an associate.

Leah M. Nelson has joined the Schenectady County District Attorney’s Office.

Krista K. Porter has joined The Towne Law Firm, P.C. as an attorney.

Autumn J. Young has been hired as an associate in the health care practice group at Harter Secrest & Emery LLP.

CLASS OF 2021

Kevin B. Perry has joined Greenberg Traurig Equal Justice Works Law Fellows program for 2021, helping low-income owners of small businesses with legal needs.

Continued from Cruz page 38

with Bread for the City, where he worked on domestic relations cases, and as a student-attorney in Columbus’ Families and the Law Clinic.

Prior to his work in law, Cruz worked in communications as an alumnus of the National Journalism Center in Washington, D.C. He has worked with Black Entertainment Television, the New York State Senate, and at Bread for the World, Inc., where he focused on international anti-hunger campaigns with a strong focus on Africa and Latin America.

In addition to his law degree, Cruz holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Ithaca College and a Master of Arts in African & African-American Studies from the State University of New York at Albany.

Continued from Baez page 38

legacy students are able lean on family members to learn about the expectations and rigor of law school. For first-generation students, Baez pointed out in the presentation, it is much tougher.

She has also helped introduce Name Coach, a program that allows people to record the pronunciation of their name in their own voice so the audio file can be shared easily with fellow students, faculty, staff, and potential employers. Many use the file in their email signatures to help promote acceptance and respect.

“It’s a way to show we have a commitment to making everyone feel comfortable,” Baez said.

Overall, leading the Orientation discussions was a full circle moment for Baez. She chose Albany Law because of its community feeling and strong alumni base.

Continued from Bloom page 55

members elected to the American Law Institute,” said Professor Alex Seita.

Professor Patricia Reyhan said Bloom is a “truly fine collaborator and mentor” particularly when faculty made decisions. She recalled when she put forth a motion and it passed by one vote. Bloom voted the opposite way.

“As we left, Ira approached me, put out his hand and said something like, “that was close but we leave as colleagues and friends and that is more important to me than winning.” I will miss being his colleague, but I’m glad he will still be my friend,” she said.

“I will never forget his generosity and willingness to mentor me as I began teaching Property. He is a pillar for what has made Albany Law a strong academic institution and inspiration to those who love to teach,” said Professor Jenean Taranto. “His impact and legacy are indeed profound. He will be missed.”

What’s next for Bloom? Family, sunshine, enjoying a new-found passion for golf and getting back into hobbies like drawing and playing the accordion.

“Right now, I think I will continue to split my time between Albany and Palm Springs, California,” he said. “I am looking forward to life in California for an even longer period of time and doing a lot of traveling. My wife and I are extremely close and enjoy visiting friends and family. We have a newborn granddaughter in Washington, D.C., and we are hopeful to spend a lot of time with her and our two teenage granddaughters in California.”

Bloom’s official last day is June 30, 2022.
Day at the Races
Saratoga Race Course
Saratoga Springs, NY
July 23, 2021
26th Annual Golf Outing
Schuyler Meadows Club
Loudonville, NY
June 21, 2021
Introduction to the Career and Professional Development Center and Networking Lunch
Albany, N.Y.
August 19, 2021

More at flickr.com/AlbanyLaw
Grand Honors Awards

Albany Law School honored a group of standout graduates and friends on September 23, 2021 at the annual Grand Honors Awards, presented by the National Alumni Association. With in-person reunion festivities postponed due to COVID-19, the ceremony was held primarily online with a small, in-person audience. The evening was emceed by President of the National Alumni Association, the Hon. Peter Crummey ’81.

HONOREES INCLUDE:

Trustees Gold Medal
J.K. Hage III ’78
Managing Member, Hage & Hage LLC

Distinguished Alumni Award
Hon. Ryan T. Donovan ’01
Partner, Harris, Conway & Donovan, PLLC

Donald D. DeAngelis ’60
Excellence in Alumni Service Award
Patrick K. Jordan ’02
General Counsel, Port of Albany

Outstanding Young Alumni Award
Renée L. Behrens ’12
Assistant Counsel, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles

Humanitarian Achievement Award
Lillian M. Moy
Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc.

left to right: Patrick K. Jordan ’02, Hon. Ryan T. Donovan ’01, Lillian M. Moy, President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94, Renée L. Behrens ’12, J.K. Hage III ’78, Board of Trustees Chair Debra B. Treyz ’77, Emcee and President of the National Alumni Association Hon. Peter Crummey ’81.

Lillian Moy and Dean Alicia Ouellette

Trustees Gold medal winner J.K. Hage III (fourth from left) is pictured with his family (from left to right) Gabriel J. Hage ’16, Hanna H. Hage ’20, his wife Hedy Hage, and Heather M. Hage ’06.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award Recipient Patrick K. Jordan is pictured with his family (from left to right) his wife, Sarah M. Jordan, son, Patrick J. Jordan ’27, and daughter, Clara K. Jordan ’24.
Trustees, faculty, staff, and students gathered for an outdoor luncheon on Friday, September 24, to honor the successful close of the We Rise Together campaign. The event featured remarks from Board of Trustees Chair Debra B. Treyz ’77, the Board of Trustees Campaign Chairs, President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94, and Vice President of Institutional Advancement Jeffrey Schanz.

Board Chair Debra B. Treyz ’77

Former Board Chair James Hacker ’84

Campaign Chair Jack Withiam ’74

Campaign Chair Dan Nolan ’78

Campaign Chair Dan Grossman ’78

President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94

Left: Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Chief of Staff Jeff Schanz
Selected Faculty Scholarship

Academic Articles, Books, and Book Chapters

Professor Ava Ayers

Professor Ray Brescia

Professor Joe Buffington
“How to Prove with Linguistics that the Plain Language of Title VII Literally Permits Perceived-As Challenges ... in Three Easy Steps” was recently accepted for publication in the Albany Law Review as an addendum to a student note by William Hand recommending changes to existing employment discrimination policy and procedure.

Professor Christine Sgarlata Chung

Professor Patrick Conners
Published the January 2021 Supplement (237 pages) to Siegel & Conners, New York Practice (Thomson Reuters 6th Ed. 2018) in December 2020. The July 2021 Supplement (266 pages) was also published.
Published the 2020 McKinney’s Supplementary Practice Commentaries to CPLR Article 23, Subpoenas, CPLR Oaths and Affirmations; CPLR Article 30, Remedies and Pleadings, and CPLR Article 31, Disclosure have been published in hard copy and are available on Westlaw.

Professor Ted De Barbieri
Published “Mitigating Housing Instability During a Pandemic,” (with Michelle D. Layser, Andrew J. Greenlee, Tracy A. Kaye, Blaine G. Saito) 99 Oregon L. Rev. (forthcoming 2021).

Professor Ciji Dodds

Professor Anthony Paul Farley

Professor Dr. Alexandra Harrington
Published Climate Law and Governance Innovations for Resilient Oceans (CISDL & UNFCCC, 2020) with Mr. Freedom-Kai Philips.

Professor Michael Hutter
Published “New York’s Excited Utterance Exception; Ave At que Vale?” 84 Albany L. Rev. (2021).
Published “A Poupouri of Appellate Decisions” in LEAVEWORTHY, Summer 2021 (NYSBA Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction).
Published NEW YORK APPELLATE PRACTICE (2d ed), Court of Appeals (NYSBA Summer 2021).
**Faculty Achievements**

**Professor Ava Ayers**

Served as a panelist on “Trans Lawyers’ Stories: A Roundtable Discussion on Discrimination in the Legal Profession,” (Law.com webinar, reported at “They Certainly Don’t See Trans People as People: Trans Lawyers Discuss Their Fight for Acceptance in the Legal Industry for Law.com, Law.com, Mar. 11, 2021).”


**Professor Vincent Bonventre**
Delivered a lecture on *Supreme Shift: Ginsburg to Barrett and What It Means for the Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning (Jan. 12, 2021).*

Delivered a podcast for the New York State Bar Association, Miranda Warnings on “How Amy Coney Barrett is Going Change The Supreme Court with Albany Law Professor Vincent Bonventre” on March 1, 2021.

Published a New York State Bar Association Journal article on “Supreme Shift: What the 6-3 Conservative Majority Means Going Forward” in its Jan/Feb 2021 Issue.


**Professor Melissa Breger**
Her publication “Corporal Punishment, Social Norms and Norm Cascades: Examining Cross-National Laws and Trends in Homes Across the Globe,” was accepted for inclusion at the 2021 Law and Society Annual Meeting, which will be held in virtually May 27-30, 2021.


Professor Breger presented on three separate panels at the upcoming Law and Society Conference in May 2021.


“Re-Imagining the Future of our Global Children: Exploring Norms And Family Laws Across The Globe.”

**Professor Ray Brescia**
Cited by the New York Court of Appeals, in Judge Rivera’s dissenting opinion in the case “In re Part 60 Put-Back Litigation” involving Residential Mortgage-Backed Securities (RMBS).

**Professor Joe Buffington**
Presented a workshop on teaching property law in a joint session sponsored by the Sections on Academic Support and Real Estate Transactions at the American Association of Law Schools’ annual conference in January.

**Professor Christine Sgarlata Chung**
“Rising Tides and Rearranging Deckchairs: How Climate Change is Reshaping Infrastructure Finance and Threatening to Sink Municipal Budgets” was included in the curriculum for Professor Madison Condon’s course, Climate Risk & Financial Institutions, at the Boston University School of Law.


**Professor Jaya Connors**
Named to the Third Judicial District’s Careers in the Courts Committee which seeks to encourage young people, especially young people from historically disadvantaged communities, to apply for jobs/positions within the Court System.

Serves as a member of the Town of Guilderland Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Committee and helped to prepare recommendations tailored to the specific
needs of the community that have and continue to be disproportionately impacted by structural racism.

 Participated in CLE at Albany Law School entitled Immigration Issues in Family Court (with the Legal Project and other presenters).

 Participated in CLE at Albany Law School Entitled “Trauma-Informed Lawyering” (with The Legal Project).

 Served as a panelist for an APALSA Event titled “Amplifying Asian Voices: A Roundtable Discussion Panel.”

 Professor Patrick Connors


 Presented “New York Court of Appeals Roundup, 2020-2021 Term” to the New York City Bar.


 Professor Ted De Barbieri

 Granted tenure at Albany Law School.

 Delivered testimony for the U.S. Commission on Human Rights, New York Advisory Committee’s hearing on racial discrimination in eviction policies and enforcement in New York.

 Appointed Secretary of the Section on Community Economic Development, and is a member of Executive Committee for the Section on Real Estate Transactions.

 Professor Anthony Paul Farley

 Presented on White Flight as Cancel Culture, an essay in honor of Prof. Benjamin Davis, for International, Comparative, Foreign, and Domestic: A Virtual Gathering of Friends [Festschrift in honor of Prof. Benjamin Davis of the University of Toledo].

 Presented on White Flight as Cancel Culture, an essay in honor of Prof. Benjamin Davis, for International, Comparative, Foreign, and Domestic: A Virtual Gathering of Friends [Festschrift in honor of Prof. Benjamin Davis of the University of Toledo].

 Professor Dr. Alexandra Harrington

 Presented “Intersections between Global Governance Regimes and Climate Change Law at the Current Challenges and Opportunities for Green Public Procurement: Global policy, US experiences and the new European Green Deal” Webinar hosted by the George Washington University and the University of Silesia Faculty of Law.

 Presented a Master Class in Climate Law, Governance and the Treaty Design at the online Climate Leadership Momentum and Ambition Climate Networking Conference hosted by the Green Economics Institute.

 Presented “Implementing the Paris Agreement by Incentivizing Investment in Climate Adaptation and Resilience at the Incentivizing Investment in Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience in Ukraine: Legal & Institutional Contributions to Implementing the Paris Agreement online event hosted by the EBRD.

 Presented “International laws and regulation of water security in the context of climate change at the Civil Servants School 2020: Climate Change” training session for Central Asian civil servants, hosted by the German-Kazak University.

 Presented “Water security and climate change law” in Europe at the Civil Servants School 2020: Climate Change training session for Central Asian civil servants, hosted by the German-Kazak University.

 Presented “Building-up ocean’s resilience: legal innovations and institutional responses,” at the UNFCCC/CISDL/IPU Climate Legislation Webinar Series.

 Presented “Blue Growth and the SDGs in the Eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea” at the Thessaloniki Sustainability Summit on “Sustainable Cities and Ports.”

 Professor Michael Hutter

 Appointed to the NY State Commission on Judicial Nomination by Senator Robert G. Ort, which Commission screens and determines the nominees for the Court of Appeals; reappointed to the Town of Bethlehem Ethics Board by the Bethlehem Town Board, and then elected Chair by the Ethics Board; and appointed as Chair of the NYSBA Trial Lawyers Section Trial Evidence Committee by Betty Lugo.

 Professor Keith Hirokawa

 Presented “The Essential Environmental Law Curriculum for the Next Generation” as part of the A Roundtable Series for Environmental Law Faculty on the Future of Legal Education virtually at Vermont Law School.

 Professor Hirokawa’s 2012 article, “Making Sense of a ‘Misunderstanding of the Planning Process,’” 44 Urb. Law 1739 (2012), was cited by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in an interesting case on land use control (and climate justice) titled In the Supreme Court of Pakistan (Appellate Jurisdiction) D.G. Khan Cement Co. vs. Govt. of Punjab.

 Quoted in “Greens seek protection for American bumblebee,” E&E News, (Feb 1, 2021), and discussed how he led a group of Albany Law students partnered with the Center for Biological Diversity to petition the Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect the American Bumblebee under the Endangered Species Act.

 Professor Louis Jim

 Served as a panelist for Public Service Professors, Government Law Society, Albany Law School (co-panelists were Professors Evelyn Tenenbaum and Christine Sgarlata Chung) in April.


 Presented on “Maximize Learning with Classroom Clickers in the Hybrid Classroom,” Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop (Virtual), University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law in December 2020.

 Professor Mary Lynch


 Her co-authored Villanova Law Review article (with Andrea Curio), “Institutional Service, Student Care Work, and Misogyny: Naming the Problem and Mitigating the Harm,” was listed on SSRN’s Top Ten download list for: EduRN: Race, Class, Gender, & Disability in Education (Topic), Gender in the Global Research Landscape ejournal, WGSRN: Other Feminist Theory & Philosophy (Topic) and WGSRN: Underrepresentation of Women & Minorities (Topic).
Professor Nancy Maurer

Received the AALS Clinical Section William Pincus Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Legal Education on January 5.


Served as a group discussion facilitator for the Clinical Legal Education Association New Clinicians Workshop in May.

Presented an expanded version of “How Global Clinical Education Collaboration Can Benefit Our Students” as part of a panel at the Worldwide Online Conference, Turning Challenges into Opportunities: Justice Education in Times of Crises.

President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94

Presented on “The New York State COVID-19 Vaccine Program: Priorities and Implementation” as part of panel for the NYC Bar Association on February 9.

Professor Sarah Rogerson


Interviewed by Channel 13 News to discuss President Biden’s Executive Orders relating to Immigration.

Participated in a Zoom book talk hosted by Albany Law School, regarding her book chapter in CRISIS LAWYERING published this year by New York University Press in March. She participated in a similar book talk in April.

Presented at University at Albany’s Gender and Sexuality Month programming on “Reproductive Justice in Immigration Detention Centers: Bridging the Gap Between Immigration, Reproductive Justice, and Policing” on March 9.

Lectured in the Albany County Sheriff’s Academy at the Clarksville Station regarding “Civil Liability and Risk Management in Policing” with a special focus on the service of orders of protection in domestic violence cases and potential changes in qualified immunity in New York State in May.

Appeared regularly on WAMC Public Radio’s morning news show “The Roundtable” to discuss current events for the listening audience with a particular focus on immigration from December through May.

Her law review article “Is America Fulfilling its Promise? Safeguarding Legal Protections for Immigrants,” was recently listed on SSRN’s Top Ten download list for: AARN: Migration (Topic) as well as for: PSN: Politics of Immigration (Topic).

Professor Christian Sundquist


Moderated the Unregulated Evidence panel on January 8 from Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting (Section on Evidence).

Oversaw the Clyde Ferguson and Derrick Bell, Jr. Award presentations for the Section on Minority Groups on at the Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting January 9.

Professor Evelyn Tenenbaum

Presented a Public Health Policy Practicum at Albany Medical College in two virtual sessions.

Presented “Malpractice” virtually to the second-year medical students at Albany Medical Center on March 18.


Deans Rosemary Queenan and Mary Walsh Fitzpatrick

Named one of the “Best Legal Education Articles of 2020” by the TaxProf Blog for their article, “Professional Identity Formation, Leadership, and Exploration of Self.”

Presented “Story of Self: Professional Identity Formation & Well-Being” on January 6, 2021 Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting (Section on Student Services Joint Program)

Professor David Walker

Presented with Sue Zago from UNH Law and Jan Fleckenstein from Syracuse Law at the NELLCO Symposium in March. The topic was “Back to Normal: Law Libraries after the pandemic.”
BY LAUREN MINEAU

Professor Bloom to Retire After More Than Four Decades

Professor Ira Bloom started teaching at Albany Law School in the Fall of 1978. Some 43 years later, he’s reflecting on his time teaching thousands of students, serving as the go-to person for trusts and estates and estate planning knowledge, and being the well-respected Justice David Josiah Brewer Distinguished Professor of Law.

“It’s been very satisfying to have given students some foundation,” he said. “The thing I like about teaching is that it’s cooperative, not competitive. I enjoy sharing my knowledge and educating students.”

While he has had teaching stints at Loyola University College of Law and Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans, McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, Calif., and The Ohio State University College of Law, Albany Law has always been his home base.

“There’s lots of different opportunities. There are tradeoffs, you don’t make as much money teaching as you could in private practice, but I always found Albany to be a very pleasant place to teach. For me, it’s been a good lifestyle,” he said.

The practice of law, interest in earning a law degree, and the institution itself have undergone immense change, according to Bloom.

“Fortunately, there is now a real increased interest in law school. I think that a lot of young people are realizing they can do a lot of things with law. And hopefully that will continue to be the case,” Bloom said.

Bloom’s commitment to teaching is reflected in his national course books: FUNDAMENTALS OF TRUSTS AND ESTATES, TRUSTS, AND GIFTS. Indeed, as his final writing project, Bloom is preparing the 6th edition of his T&E book. And, for almost 40 years he was the principal author of DRAFTING NEW YORK WILLS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS, a two-volume work designed for practitioners. Bloom also wrote numerous law review articles.

During his career, Bloom has been very active at the state and national levels. He was very involved with the Trusts and Estates Law Section of NYSBA for over 30 years, including as Chair of the Section and as Co-Reporter for the proposed New York Trust Code. He is a life member of the American Law Institute and was actively involved in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel for many years as an elected Academic Fellow.

Locally, Bloom has greatly enjoyed helping countless legal aid clients in need of wills and advance directives.

While excited for him, his colleagues see his retirement as a loss of both knowledge and camaraderie.

“Ira Bloom is a beloved and respected teacher who has inspired generations of lawyers. I remember being a student in his class, laughing at his costumes, and occasional use of the National Enquirer well,” said President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94.

“It was a much-welcomed relief from the challenge of his calls and exams. As a faculty colleague, he has been tremendously supportive and productive. His scholarly work, including a proposed new trust code, will have an impact for years to come. While we will miss him tremendously, I join the rest of the law school community in wishing him much joy and happiness in this next chapter.”

“It’s a great loss to this law school. Ira is one of the few members of the faculty that has a statewide and national reputation in his field,” said Professor Michael Hutter, who started at the law school in 1976. “He is the expert in New York Trust and Estate law. If you’re working in estate planning, you know Ira’s name. He’s a terrific teacher. Students love him. We’re kind of contemporaries and we’re the old guys. He is a great colleague and friend.”

“He’s a terrific colleague with a unique sense of humor—particularly in his outfits for Mardi Gras—and he’s a fantastic scholar. He’s irreplaceable,” said Professor David Pratt.

“He is the true embodiment of what it means to be a scholar and a gentleman. One of my most enduring memories of Ira came after the first graduation that I attended here in Spring 1990. As I was leaving the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, he asked how I was, and took pains to tell me how glad he was that I was on the faculty and how important it was to him to know that I felt welcome,” said Professor James Redwood. “Over the years I have come to rely on Ira’s wisdom, intelligence, and wit. I will miss him greatly. I wish him the best in what I hope will be a long, prosperous, and happy retirement. Albany Law School will not be the same without him.”

“I met Ira decades ago when I came to Albany Law School. I thought he was a smart, straight-shooting, and serious guy. As time has passed, my opinion hasn’t changed. We will miss Ira, still smart, still serious and one of the few of faculty

Continued on page 45
With cultural artifacts under constant threat from economic pressure, Professor Keith H. Hirokawa is urging a paradigmatic shift in the way in which the law deals with the inherent tension between the natural world, community values, and pecuniary objectives.

“Loss of culture is something that is hard to put a value on, which is why it doesn’t get the protection that we might expect out of the law,” Hirokawa said. “It has to start from the perspective not of the person who wants to build but the person who wants the resources to stay in place.”

In a recent article co-authored with Linnea E. Riegel ’18, the environmental law professor urges approaching cultural resource protection from an “ecosystem services” perspective, one that considers the varied benefits of the natural environment and healthy ecosystems—such as aquatic, forest and agroecosystems—and their relationship to human and community well-being. Ecosystem services provide a basis to compare the benefits of economic development against the benefits of the ecosystem if it was left in place.

“We need to rethink how we value and how we go about protecting our cultural artifacts, our cultural values,” Hirokawa said. “We need to think about the different ways in which culture is linked to place, to where we are, to where these cultural values developed. We have laws and protections, but a lot of them missed the reasons those values are important as well as the history behind them.”

“The model they advocate focuses on the needs of beneficiaries of cultural ecosystem services, rather than the market benefits that few enjoy from economic development.

Hirokawa and Riegel contend that rocks, mountains, islands, forests, groves, water and other natural artifacts can have real and significant cultural value, even if it is difficult or impossible to reduce that value to a dollars-and-cents calculation. The approach they advocate would emphasize the link between ecosystems and specific cultural practices through a “place-based valuation” rather than a “price-based valuation.” They note that ecosystem services have generally been ignored in the marketplace and neglected in the legal, political and scientific research. Climate change, they caution, geometrically increases the risk.

“Disappearing glaciers, forests, and waterfalls will have severe cultural impacts on economic, recreational and aesthetic resources,” they wrote. “Climate change looms ahead, largely unabated by the governmental decision-making process, threatening not just ecosystem dependencies, but cultural existence itself.”

Hirokawa joined the faculty in 2009 and has authored dozens of articles. His scholarship brings ecology, ethics and economics into the lens of environmental law. Riegel was a student and research assistant and is now an attorney with Albany County Family Court. Their brainstorming sessions on ecosystem services resulted in the paper they co-authored and published in August 2020.

The professor, who is now working on a follow-up article on geosystem management, said private interests too often trump communal values.

“We need to find a better way to systematically understand why places are important and why sometimes private property rights have to give a little, so we do not disrupt our history,” he said.
Developing Legal Leaders Through Coursework, Scholarship

Deans Rosemary Queenan, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Mary Walsh Fitzpatrick, Assistant Dean of the Career and Professional Development Center are Exhibit A in a course they teach and in their research on leadership and professional identity. They jointly created and teach Lawyers as Leaders, co-authored an insightful recent article on professional identity formation and—no surprise—submitted joint, coordinated responses to questions about their scholarship. Their professional relationship illustrates the collaboration they teach.

“Our experience as leaders has highlighted the need and benefit of teaching law students about professional identity formation through the lens of leadership because of their overlapping and complementary competencies,” the deans said.

In Lawyers as Leaders, developed with feedback from the legal community, Walsh Fitzpatrick and Queenan start with the premise that leadership skills and professional identity competencies, such as self-awareness and self-evaluation, can be cultivated and developed. But they go a step further and maintain that the best leaders are those who understand their individual values, how they align with the values of the profession, and how that alignment enables them to contribute meaningfully to the legal profession and sustain a satisfying legal career.

Professional identity formation has emerged as a pedagogical goal for legal education since the publication of the Carnegie Report on Legal Education, which suggests that students should be introduced to the purposes, attitudes and responsibilities of the profession. It encourages law schools to create an environment where future lawyers have an opportunity to develop their professional identity.

Queenan and Walsh Fitzpatrick contend that the “value-neutral approach to legal ethics” sometimes calls on attorneys to disregard or sacrifice their individual values.

To address this need, Queenan and Walsh Fitzpatrick developed Lawyers as Leaders, a two-credit course, which emphasizes three themes: self-evaluation, collaboration and individual values. It explores emotional intelligence, encouraging students to “pause, reflect, and explain their thinking, focusing not on finding the ‘right’ answer, but on the assumption and beliefs they are bringing to the problem.”

Queenan and Walsh Fitzpatrick recently published “Professional Identity Formation, Leadership and Exploration of Self” in the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review. The article describes their course and stresses the need to provide students with opportunities to reflect metacognitively upon their individual values and examine how those values align with the practice of law.

In their article, Queenan and Walsh Fitzpatrick contend that the “value-neutral approach to legal ethics” sometimes calls on attorneys to disregard or sacrifice their individual values. They distinguish “professional identity” from professionalism and focus on competencies that encourage students to keenly understand their values and life experiences in the context of the clients they serve and the greater legal community.

The deans examine the two predominant theories of leadership—the trait theory that posits leaders are born not made, and the behavioral theory, which suggests leadership is a developed quality. They come down squarely in the camp that believes leadership can be taught and nurtured, partially because their own leadership skills developed through life experiences and conscious effort.

“They say law schools can support the student journey toward professional identity by encouraging the type of introspection that recognizes the link between individual and professional values. Walsh Fitzpatrick and Queenan suggest that decoupling personal and professional values can negatively impact career satisfaction.

“While the legal academy has started to incorporate leadership courses within the law school curriculum, few have addressed the benefit of connecting leadership to professional identity formation,” they note in their article. “The process of identifying one’s individual values in the context of learned leadership characteristics and how they connect to the values of the profession will allow students to develop their professional identity and appreciate how they can serve the profession and larger community.”

The deans also emphasize—as well as their own example—the correlation between collaboration and leadership.

“It is important to remind students that while there is often a lot of emphasis on individual achievement and academic success in law school, in the professional world there are many circumstances that call for strong collaboration and teamwork in order to achieve success,” they said.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

BY JOHN CAHER
Stuart P. Doling '63 | Father - Stuart P. Doling, Esq. '39, Brother - Richard E. Doling '69, Uncle - Harold R. Altus '34 | Doling Family Scholarship

Richard E. Doling '69 | Father - Stuart P. Doling, Esq. '39, Brother - Stuart P. Doling '63, Uncle - Harold R. Altus '34 | Doling Family Scholarship

Richard E. Doling, forever known as “Dick” to his family and friends, 76, passed away on May 14, 2021. He started at Albany Law School in 1966 and graduated near the very top of his class in 1969. From there he followed in his father Stuart's footsteps and began a successful career as an attorney and member of the New York State and Florida bars. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for DC and the Northern District of N.Y. He later worked for the New York State Department of Corrections and in private practice in Albany and Troy, where he provided excellent legal advice to his numerous and grateful clients.

William A. Toomey, Jr '55

William A. Toomey, Jr '55

William A. “Bill” Toomey, Jr. ’55 passed away on November 19, 2020. He was a proud alumnus of each institution he graduated from. He served as district director of the State School of Industrial and Labor Relations of Cornell University for many years before opening a private law practice, which he maintained through the present. He also owned Mabin Realty and was a past president of the National Council for Small Business Management. He was also an arbitrator with the National Arbitration Association. Many of his children are also graduates, William A. Toomey III '93, John J. Toomey '99, Paul G. Toomey '89. His brother Kenneth J. Toomey '66 passed in 2019.
As we’ve seen throughout the pandemic, the Albany Law School community is strong, supportive, and resilient.

As we move forward, let’s look back at the ways our faculty, alumni, staff, and students have come together in the past.

Albany Law School has a long history with sports. Although rugby is the sport with the highest participation, the law school has hosted many others. Basketball started in 1906 and baseball began in 1908. The Law School basketball team in the 1920s was the Law Men and they beat teams from Manhattan College, Fordham Law, and Tufts.

The law school had a tennis court, located approximately where the library is now. A photograph album from John R. Heilman ’36 shows a picture of him and fellow student George Mercer ’36 posing in front of the court after a game. Without Prof. William “The Wat” Watkins, who started at the law school in 1963, we may not have our spirited rugby program. In 1966, he founded the men’s rugby team and in the 1970s, he started the women’s rugby team. Prof. Watkins passed away in 1986 and The Issue (the student newspaper) honored him by dedicating the September 11, 1986 edition in his memory. Today we honor him with the William M. Watkins Memorial Rugby Tournament each spring.

Beyond Athletics

Students interested in writing other than academic scholarship could choose between the literary or the journalistic. Oasis was the first literary publication of poetry and short stories to include works of students and faculty back in the 1980s. Another literary magazine took over in the 1990s called the Albany Law Literary Review that included poetry and short stories from faculty, students, and alumni. Bruce S. Stuart ’95 and Regina G. Morano ’95 were two of the founders.

The first student newspaper was the Barrister’s Register in the 1950s. When that ended in 1957 there was not another student newspaper until Common Knowledge in the 1960s and 1970s. Common Knowledge later became The Issue in 1982. The student newspapers combined stories on legal issues of the day and the goings-on at 80 New Scotland Avenue. In the 2000s there was a widely read section of the paper called “The Rage Page” which gave students a place to vent about campus nuisances like noise in the library or the quality of food in the cafeteria.

Giving back is another part of the spirit of the law school. In the 1960s and 70s, the Student Bar Association (SBA) held an annual holiday party for local children. Phi Alpha Delta’s Trick or Treat Street started in 2010. Over the years, this event has grown and involved other law school clubs and students to help with activities and games. During the holiday season the Latin American Law Student’s Association (LALSA), Muslim Law Student’s Association (MLSA), and the Asian Pacific American Law Student’s Association (APALSA) sponsor the Adopt-a-Family program.

The Prisoner’s Rights Program and the Black Law Student’s Association (BLSA) also host a toy drive. In 2012, after Hurricane Sandy the Student Bar Association organized a TGIF event to raise funds for the Red Cross.

Since 2015, the Law School has held a Multicultural Cabaret celebrating diverse cultures with food, music, and entertainment.

Another long-held tradition is the Well Party given the night before Commencement for graduates and their families.

Perhaps the most memorable party was celebrated 2001 when the Law School honored its 150th Sesquicentennial.