

I AM
NEW YORK
LAW SCHOOL



WE ARE NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOL



NEW YORK
LAW SCHOOL

185 West Broadway
New York, NY 10013-2921



I am proud to share the inaugural issue of our new digital alumni magazine—*NYLS News*. The digital magazine complements our existing print magazine, which will be published later this year. It also allows us to stay in touch with you more frequently through the digital channels many of you routinely use.

Because our goal is to tell your stories, the first digital issue is themed “I Am New York Law School.” Within it, you’ll see the faces and hear the voices of students, alumni, faculty, and others who make NYLS singularly special.

Inspiration for the theme comes from a speech by Christa H. ’79 and John J. Reddy ’79 at the annual Gala this past November. After accepting our Award for Powerful Partnership and Leadership, the Reddys gave remarks in which they repeated the refrain, “I am New York Law School”—building on our existing motto, “We are New York’s law school.” By linking their personal identities to the School’s identity, the Reddys eloquently captured that we are a community of dreamers and strivers, whose individual backgrounds and ideologies collectively make this place a hub of excellence and innovation.

Keep in touch with us at magazine@nyls.edu. We want to tell your story too.

Anthony W. Crowell
Dean and President
Professor of Law

STAY IN TOUCH!

- NYLS’s next alumni magazine will include “Class Notes” updates for the 2016–17 School year. Please send your updates to magazine@nyls.edu.
- Visit www.nyls.edu for the School’s latest events and continuing legal education offerings.

\$50,000

Smallest merit scholarship a Two-Year J.D. Honors Program student will receive

>500

Number of children seeking asylum and other protection who were aided by the Immigration Law and Litigation Clinic, housed in The Joe Plumeri Center for Social Justice and Economic Opportunity, during 2015–16

2

NYLS professors named 2016 “Rising Star” lawyers by the *New York Law Journal* (Professors Stacy-Ann Elvy and Ari Ezra Waldman)

141

Total CityLaw breakfasts featuring high-profile public officials

17,000

Size of NYLS’s global alumni network

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

37

Percentage who identify as students of color in the 2016 entering class

17,000

Hours students worked during the first year of The Joe Plumeri Center for Social Justice and Economic Opportunity, which opened in November 2015 and houses the School’s clinics and experiential learning programs

ALUMNI WHO SERVED

Mayor of New York City

4

Members of Congress

37

Borough Presidents

11

Ambassadors or Consuls

12

58

Percentage of women in the 2016 entering class

7

U.S. Supreme Court briefs filed by the Impact Center for Public Interest Law’s Racial Justice Project

90

Number of “Am Law 100” firms that employ NYLS alumni

1

NYLS professor included in the *New York Law Journal* 2016 “Top Women in Law” list (Professor Deborah N. Archer)

65

Number of matters handled by the Criminal Defense Clinic, housed in The Joe Plumeri Center for Social Justice and Economic Opportunity, during 2015–16

170

Students who studied in the London summer program since its 2010 inception

21

Scholarly articles and book chapters accepted for publication by faculty in the Innovation Center for Law and Technology during 2015–16

DISPATCHES FROM 185 WEST BROADWAY

Field & Campus

2016 Gala Celebrates Christa H. '79 and John J. Reddy '79

Photo Credit: Jin S. Lee



The 2016 Gala, held November 15 at Three Sixty° in TriBeCa, was themed "Powerful Partnerships." The night honored **Christa H. '79** and **John J. Reddy '79** for their remarkable partnership with one another (they met 40 years ago as members of NYLS's Student Bar Association) and with the School, its students, and its alumni. Speakers included Dean **Anthony W. Crowell**, Board of Trustees Chairman **Arthur N. Abbey '59**, and **Dwayne Latimore 3L Evening**, a recipient of the Christa H. '79 and John J. Reddy '79 Scholarship. Latimore praised the cycle of NYLS community members who invest in one another. **Joseph Chung '16**, who also spoke, echoed the value of opportunity and recounted a transformative phone call in which the School's Admissions Director offered him a scholarship. A former high school drop-out, Chung would go on to become NYLS's 2016 commencement speaker and a successful attorney. Last, the Reddys spoke movingly of the School's legacy of opening doors for people of all backgrounds and histories. Recounting their personal journeys to law school, they emphasized, "I am New York Law School," a variation of the School's motto, "We are New York's law school." Nearly 400 people attended, and the event raised approximately \$750,000 for student scholarships, faculty work, and academic programs. **Visit www.nyls.edu/howtogive to learn how your gift can benefit students.**

The Plumeri Center Makes an Impact in Its First Year



The first year of **The Joe Plumeri Center for Social Justice and Economic Opportunity**, which houses the School's 20-plus legal clinics, its experiential learning programs, and even a rotating art exhibit, can be expressed

in a number—17,000. That's the total hours of service NYLS students contributed during the 2015–16 year. The Center's nearly 200 clients that year included veterans, low-income people charged with or convicted of crimes (when the evidence suggests innocence), children seeking asylum, non-profits seeking to incorporate, people cheated by negligent brokers, and victims of cyberharassment. One highlight among many: The Appellate Division, Fourth Department upheld the reversal of a woman's murder conviction after a toddler tragically died at her home day care center. The School's Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic showed flaws in the scientific evidence that had led to the conviction. **Read more about the Center's work at www.nyls.edu/ocelnewsletter.**

Four Accomplished Alumni Join the Board of Trustees



Meryl Fiedler Lieberman '81



Errol B. Taylor '87



Victor Rampertab '94

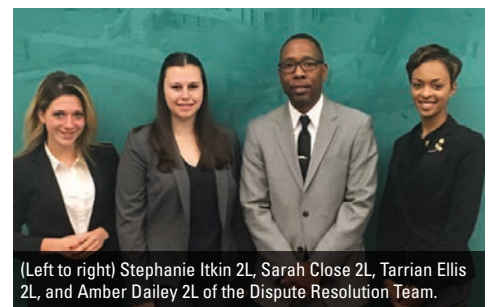


Zygi Wilf '74

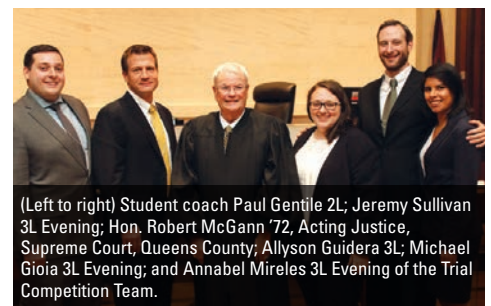
The School has proudly welcomed four new trustees. **Meryl Fiedler Lieberman '81** is a founding and co-managing partner of Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsberry LLP, who helped grow the firm from four lawyers at its inception in 1996 to nearly 100 lawyers today, and has been repeatedly recognized by *New York Super Lawyers*. **Victor Rampertab '94** is a private investor who has worked in the financial services industry for nearly 20 years and has held leadership positions at Hudson Castle Group, where he was instrumental in arranging over \$38 billion of funding for clients, and Lehman Brothers. **Errol B. Taylor '87** is a renowned pharmaceutical litigator and partner in the New York office of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, where he leads the firm's biopharma patent litigation practice. **Zygmunt "Zygi" Wilf '74** is an attorney at the Wilf Law Firm, President of Garden Homes Real Estate Developers, and the principal owner of the Minnesota Vikings Football Club. All four new Board members are already active in the NYLS community. Lieberman has participated in the School's summer internship program for the last six years and has mentored and hired numerous NYLS graduates. Rampertab and his wife **Yvette Chang-Rampertab '95**,

established the Rampertab Fund for First Generation Professionals at New York Law School. Taylor serves as Co-Chair of the Advisory Board for the School's Innovation Center for Law and Technology. Wilf serves on the Advisory Board for the School's Center for Real Estate Studies. **For more on our Trustees' backgrounds, visit www.nyls.edu.**

Student Competition Teams: Fall Highlights



(Left to right) Stephanie Itkin 2L, Sarah Close 2L, Tarrian Ellis 2L, and Amber Dailey 2L of the Dispute Resolution Team.



(Left to right) Student coach Paul Gentile 2L; Jeremy Sullivan 3L Evening; Hon. Robert McGann '72, Acting Justice, Supreme Court, Queens County; Allyson Guidara 3L; Michael Gioia 3L Evening; and Annabel Mireles 3L Evening of the Trial Competition Team.

The School's three competition teams—the **Dispute Resolution Team**, the **Moot Court Association**, and the **Trial Competition Team**—proudly represented NYLS locally and nationally during fall 2016.

In October, the Dispute Resolution Team attended the International Academy of Dispute Resolution's **UMass Lowell Invitational Mediation Tournament**. Two NYLS groups advanced to the finals, where they placed first and second overall and scored individual recognitions, including top attorney-client pair and individual mediator awards. The same month, the Dispute Resolution Team and the Innovation Center for Law and Technology teamed up to launch a new **Intellectual Property Negotiation Competition**. Eight New York City-area schools competed, and the organizers plan to expand it in the future.

The Trial Competition Team made strong showings in the **Queens District Attorney's Third Annual Mock Trial Competition** and the **American Bar Association Labor and Employment Trial Competition**. The Moot Court Association participated in the **28th Annual Criminal Procedure Tournament** in San Diego, where a student was named the sixth best oral advocate, and in the **Chicago Bar Association Moot Court** competition, where NYLS advanced to the quarterfinals. In late March, nearly 40 schools traveled to NYLS for the largest Labor and Employment Moot Court Competition in the country—the **Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition**. **Visit www.nyls.edu/co-curricular to learn more about the School's competition teams.**

Designers, Techies, and Privacy Experts Attend Launch of Fashion Law Initiative



(Left to right) Designer Gabi Asfour, Attorney Joseph F. Murphy, Editor Julie Zerbo, and Director of the Fashion Law Initiative and Adjunct Professor Joseph M. Forgione.

The School's Innovation Center for Law and Technology launched its Fashion Law Initiative on October 21 with a day-long symposium whose title evoked the program's dual focus on the artistic and the technical: "Robot Couture: The Future of Fashion, Law, and Technology." The event drew fashion designers, scholars, and legal experts on topics such as the privacy and intellectual property issues raised by smart devices in fashion, anti-counterfeiting enforcement for fashion brands in the digital age, and the impact of 3-D printing on the future of fashion. Speakers included counsel for **Balmain, Christian Louboutin, Coach, Estée Lauder, Hermès, Rebecca Minkoff**, and others. Press, including *Women's Wear Daily*, braved the day's heavy rain to attend. Few law schools offer fashion law programming—and NYLS's program stands out for its emphasis on the technology that is changing how retailers sell their products, how designers create products from clothing to fitness trackers, and how fashion law attorneys serve their clients. Visit www.nyls.edu/fashionlaw for more information.

Real Estate Leaders Debate Future of City's Century-Old Zoning Law



(Left to right) Dean Anthony W. Crowell; Professor Gerald Korngold, Program Chair, Center for Real Estate Studies; Andrew Kimball; Commissioner Vicki Been; Ron Moelis; Ross F. Moskowitz '84; and Council Member David G. Greenfield.

On November 30, the School's Center for Real Estate Studies convened a lively panel of public and private sector leaders whose work directly shapes the city's built environment. The subject was the impact, and future, of the city's zoning law, which celebrated its centennial last July. **Ross F. Moskowitz '84**, a partner at Strook & Strook & Lavan LLP with extensive real estate development experience and an NYLS trustee, moderated the debate. Panelists included Council Member **David G. Greenfield**, Chair of the Council's Committee on Land Use, then-Commissioner **Vicki Been** of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, **Andrew H. Kimball**, Chief Executive Officer of Industry City, and **Ron L. Moelis, Esq.**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of L+M Development Partners Inc. Over 200 real estate and legal professionals listened intently as the panelists dissected the intricacies of rezoning approvals, affordable housing policy, and tax breaks. To view upcoming real estate events, visit www.nyls.edu/realestate.

From Zika to Homelessness, CityLaw Speakers Tackle the Toughest Issues



Dr. Mary T. Bassett at August's CityLaw breakfast

The School's Center for New York City Law displayed an uncanny ability last fall to attract speakers to the popular CityLaw Breakfast series whose work was simultaneously generating headlines. In August, New York City Health Department Commissioner **Mary T. Bassett** detailed the City's response to the unprecedented health threat of Zika, a mosquito-borne virus capable of causing birth defects. The following month, Department of Corrections Commissioner **Joseph Ponte** outlined reforms to reduce violence and recidivism among New York City's prison population. Shortly following his resignation, former NYPD Commissioner **William J. Bratton** traced the evolution of policing during the last 50 years and emphasized the importance of fostering relationships between communities and police officers. Public Advocate **Letitia James** emphasized her attention to using the law as a tool to fight for justice following the presidential election. The final 2016 speaker was Department of Social Services Commissioner **Steven Banks**, who expressed optimism for the reforms New York City has implemented while acknowledging the struggle to tamp homelessness amid factors like domestic violence, the national economy, and rising housing costs. For more information on the Center for New York City Law's CityLaw Breakfast Series (which is free and open to the public), visit www.nyls.edu/citylaw.

ALUMNI REUNION

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

to

Saturday, April 29, 2017

New York Law School
185 West Broadway



For more information, visit www.nyls.edu/reunion

ON THE RECORD

Excerpts
from
recent
faculty
writing

These selections represent a sample of the faculty's writing.
A broader compilation is available at www.nyls.edu/facultypublications.
Full faculty updates will be included in the print magazine, later this year.

Professor Ross Sandler
Professor David Schoenbrod



CONSENT DECREES

"Perpetual control of City jails by judges, independent monitors and private attorneys is only appropriate in a crisis. It should not be the default position lasting interminably."

"Prison Reform: The Monitor's First Report in the Nunez Case"
by Professors Ross Sandler and David Schoenbrod in *CityLaw*

Professor Ronald Filler



CUSTOMER ASSET PROTECTIONS

"Over the past 80 years, laws and regulations have evolved to provide greater protections to customers of U.S. brokerage firms. However, they are not always effective, particularly on volatile trading days."

"When All Else Fails—The Evolution of Customer Asset Protections After Brokerage Bankruptcy" by Professor Ronald Filler in *The Journal of Financial History*

Professor Stacy-Ann Elvy



THE INTERNET OF THINGS

"Internet of Things products, such as Amazon's DRS [Dash Replenishment Service] and Dash Button, increase the lack of proximity between consumers, contract terms, and the contract formation process (Contract Distancing). The device, rather than the consumer, places the order for the goods, or the consumer places the order by clicking the Dash Button. ... The consumer is not required to access the company's website or mobile application, review the company's terms and conditions, or click an 'I agree' button before each subsequent order is placed. This complicates the analysis of mutual assent, as contract terms are not displayed on Internet of Things devices. The ease with which goods can be purchased using these devices facilitates a contracting environment in which quick purchases without contract review are the norm."

"Contracting in the Age of the Internet of Things: Article 2 of the UCC and Beyond" by Professor Stacy-Ann Elvy in *Hofstra Law Review*

Professor Doni Gewirtzman



LOWER COURTS

"In our system, 'We the People' can exercise influence over our Constitution not simply through elections or activism or judicial appointments, but through the actions of lower court judges, whose courtrooms expose them to the lives and struggles of ordinary citizens on a far more frequent basis than the rarified world inhabited by nine graduates of elite law schools that operate out of corporate HQ in Washington, DC. When we erase lower court judges from the story of constitutional law, we run the risk of losing ourselves in the process."

"The Higher Power of Lower Courts" by Professor Doni Gewirtzman in *Public Books*

Professor Arthur Leonard



MARRIAGE EQUALITY

"Nobody can predict the future with absolute certainty, but it is highly unlikely that the marriage equality decision will be reversed. It is, however, an absolute certainty that Trump as president will not have the authority to reverse it on his own or even with the connivance of Congress ..."

"Why the Marriage Equality Ruling Is Likely Secure" by Professor Arthur Leonard in *Gay City News*

Professor Jacob Sherkow



PATENTS AND BIOTECH

"Surprising to many scientists, a patent is not a right to use one's own invention—you have that whether you file for a patent or not—but rather, the right to exclude others from using an invention without the patent holder's permission. This is a pretty powerful right—it's one of the many reasons patents can be so valuable—and so it comes with limits. Patents only last from when they are issued by the PTO until twenty years after the date they were originally filed. And in exchange to receive a patent, inventors must thoroughly disclose how their inventions work. Attorneys refer to patents as 'intellectual property' for a reason: like real property, patents can be licensed, sold, and even mortgaged."

"What the CRISPR Patent Dispute Is All About" by Professor Jacob Sherkow in *Scientific American*

Professor Deborah N. Archer



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN SCHOOLS

"Data from the United States Department of Education show that Black students are suspended from school at more than three times the rates of White students. Too often, when White students act out it is treated as youthful misbehavior, but when a Black student engages in identical behavior, it receives a criminal justice response. The result is a school culture where the adults in the building more and more view the students as criminals, and where the children, unfortunately, begin to believe it."

"Children Not Criminals: Bringing Restorative Justice to Our Schools" by Professor Deborah N. Archer in *The Huffington Post*

Professor Ruti Teitel



TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

"International courts and tribunals are well-situated to supply a rights-based discourse at least partly detached or autonomous from national political cultures and constitutionalisms—universal, secular, transnational—and with the authority of high human values."

"Transitional Justice and Judicial Activism—A Right to Accountability?" by Professor Ruti Teitel in *Cornell International Law Journal*

Professor Erika Wood*



VOTING RIGHTS

"In the United States today, more than 6 million American citizens are denied the right to vote because of past criminal convictions. One-quarter of those disenfranchised Americans live in one state: Florida. With 29 electoral votes, Florida can be a critical swing state in national elections. Yet more than 1.6 million Florida residents are barred from voting ... Nearly one-third of those who have lost the right to vote for life in Florida are Black, although African Americans make up just 16 percent of the state's population."

"Florida: An Outlier in Denying Voting Rights" by Professor Erika Wood in a report for The Brennan Center

*Professor Erika Wood taught at NYLS from 2011 until late 2016 and now serves on the Ford Foundation's Civic Engagement and Government team.

A MEMORIAL FOR PROFESSORS MICHAEL BOTEIN AND RUDOLPH J.R. PERITZ



Professor Michael Botein



Professor Rudolph J.R. Peritz

As legal scholars, they earned international renown. As teachers, they won the loyal affinity of their students and colleagues.

On December 5, the School community held a memorial honoring longtime professors **Michael Botein** and **Rudolph J.R. Peritz**.

Dean **Anthony W. Crowell** and Associate Dean **William P. LaPiana** gave introductory remarks. Professor **Nadine Strossen** shared memories of her close friend and colleague, Professor Botein. Professor **Richard Sherwin** reflected on his admiration for and kinship with Professor Peritz.

Professor Botein passed away in August 2016. He had retired at the end of the 2013–14 academic year after more than three decades at the School. In 1977, he established NYLS's Media Center, when the scholarly field was sparse. As media law flourished, Professor Botein wrote engagingly and prolifically about the expansion of the cable industry and the internet and what those developments meant for society and policymakers.

Professor Strossen, who befriended Professor Botein in the early 1980s, credited him with encouraging her to teach law and to join NYLS's faculty.

"I have always wanted to do what he did so superbly," she said at the memorial, "integrating the roles of scholar and teacher with that of advocate for public interest causes."

She cited his paradigmatic handbook *When Cable Comes to Town*, eagerly consumed by local government officials grappling with the arrival of cable, as well as the *Media Law & Policy* journal and weekly television show he launched at NYLS.

Retirement, she noted, did nothing to slow Professor Botein, who continued his brisk production of scholarly writing and had plans to teach abroad.

Echoing the words of her husband Eli Noam, a close collaborator with Professor Botein, she reflected, "Mike is an exemplar on how academics should be: fair minded, open minded, people minded, sometimes bloody minded, sometimes absent-minded—of course, as a professor, that's a job requirement—broadminded, and clear-minded."

Professor Peritz, a member of the NYLS community for nearly 30 years, passed away in August 2015. He was an antitrust law expert whose career was rooted in computers and technology. An avid traveler who taught internationally, he frequently played opera on the turntable he kept in his office.

At the memorial, Professor Sherwin recalled many ordinary afternoons in which strains of Verdi echoed down the quiet hall they shared.

"During all those years," he said, "there was never a time I didn't feel I could wander over for a chat—whether it was about politics, shared intellectual interests, or perhaps some personal concern. He was a vivid presence and an avid listener. You knew he cared."

Professor Sherwin also underscored Professor Peritz's commitment to fairness and justice, which he said was rooted in Peritz's personal history.

"His life was marked in a special way by the barbaric violence of the last century," Sherwin said. "He was born in Munich 10 months after the liberation of Dachau, where both his parents had been incarcerated."

Antitrust work lay at the intersection of his interest in technology and his "outrage in the face of abuses of power—the exploitation of the vulnerable," Professor Sherwin recounted.

Through scholarly writing, most notably *Competition Policy in America: 1888–1992*, Peritz explored fundamental questions about liberty, equality, and power.

"Rudy didn't just write and teach within his field," Professor Sherwin said, "he was an international thought leader who helped to shape his field."

NYLS's forthcoming print magazine will include full "In Memoriam" tributes for the 2016–17 School year. Please contact magazine@nyls.edu with updates.

I AM

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

PART 1

Questions and answers with recent alumni



VICTOR SUTHAMMANONT '05

Victor Suthammanont '05 graduated *summa cum laude* from NYLS, where he was an Articles Editor on the *New York Law School Law Review* and the winner of the Alfred L. Rose Award for Excellence. Following graduation, he worked as an associate at a Wall Street firm before clerking for the Hon. Maryanne Trump Barry of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. After his clerkship, he became an associate at Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, where his practice included investigative and enforcement matters and civil litigation. In 2014, he joined the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Enforcement. He has a B.F.A. in Drama from New York University.

NYLS: Has today been a typical day for you?

VS: Not really—I had a deposition, which is not an everyday thing. Each day here is different, which I like.

NYLS: What is the most rewarding or interesting thing about your job?

VS: The rewarding part is that I get to come to work every day to protect investors and help ensure the integrity of the markets. The interesting thing is that I work on complex cases and issues.

NYLS: Are you doing the kind of work you imagined you'd be doing on day one at NYLS?

VS: I'm not doing anything like what I thought I'd be doing on day one, except for the fact that I'm litigating. Before NYLS, I'd always been drawn to law generally, but I wasn't strongly interested in finance or business.

I was a theater major as an undergraduate, and I definitely didn't expect to be working in securities. Surprisingly, it turned out to be the right field for me. I like puzzles. I enjoy complex issues and figuring out ways to make them simple.

NYLS: What was your favorite course in school? Were you surprised by it?

VS: I loved so many of my courses. I think my absolute favorite was a toss-up between Constitutional Law and Civil Rights Law. I was fortunate to have Professor David Chang for Constitutional Law and Professor Edward Purcell for Civil Rights. They transformed the way I thought about cases and how to analyze and read text. I also loved Tax Law with Professor Ann Thomas, and not just because it was where I met my wife [Arminda Bepko '04]. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the material.



NYLS: What did you gain from externships, clinics, and/or internships?

VS: My first summer, I worked as a research assistant for Professor Nadine Strossen, which was a wonderful experience. My second summer, I worked at Fried Frank doing litigation and some corporate work, a solid foundation for what I do now. I also had a memorable work-study job with the School's Lawyering Skills Program [now the Office of Clinical and Experiential Learning]. Because I have an acting background, they asked me to play witnesses in trial advocacy classes, which I loved.

NYLS: Did you always want to go to law school in New York City? Was NYLS's location beneficial?

VS: From the time I decided to go to law school, I only looked in New York City. NYLS's lower Manhattan location was great. Sometimes, if I had gaps between classes or activities, I would walk down the street to the nearby courthouses and wander courtroom to courtroom, watching arraignments, trials, and appellate arguments. It was fascinating.

NYLS: What would you tell someone considering studying law at NYLS?

VS: I found the professors and the administration to be great resources: approachable and with a genuine interest in not only teaching students the law but also developing them as future lawyers. Professor Lenni Benson stands out as an example of that approach. NYLS was an incredibly rich and fulfilling experience for me.

NYLS: Is there any advice you'd give to a current 1L at NYLS?

VS: If you invest in your education and in the School community, it pays the immediate dividends of having a great learning experience. And down the road, the people you're in contact with will enrich your life. The last decade has been a better decade for me because of NYLS.

NYLS: What, in your mind, makes a great lawyer?

VS: Integrity. Whether you're a litigator, a transactional attorney, or any other kind of attorney, the core of the profession is to have integrity, particularly when others might be lacking it.

NYLS: What was your favorite thing about attending NYLS?

VS: Definitely the people. My classmates and professors are still some of my closest friends. Some I consider family.

NYLS: What was your favorite watering hole near campus?

VS: Reade Street Pub and Kitchen. When I was a student, they had \$5 pitchers and great burgers. I don't know what they charge now, but at the time, that was the right combination at the right price.

ALEX STARK '14

Alexander (Alex) Stark '14 graduated from NYLS *magna cum laude*. He was a John Marshall Harlan Scholar and Executive Online Editor of the *New York Law School Law Review*. He is an Associate in the Intellectual Property (IP) Group of the Corporate Department at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Prior to joining Paul, Weiss, he was a legal intern at Warner Music Group and Coty, Inc. He received his B.A. in Economics *summa cum laude* from Purchase College.

NYLS: Has today been a typical day for you?

AS: There is no such thing as a typical day in big law. I started my morning by responding to emails that came in overnight. We work on many foreign deals, and when I wake up, I often have emails from London or Korea. I had several calls before this interview, and I have more calls scheduled after. As an IP specialist, I may be working on upwards of 15 separate matters at the same time. As you might imagine, I have to continually figure out how to balance everything.

NYLS: What is the most rewarding or interesting thing about your job?

AS: At Paul, Weiss, I have the opportunity to work on several high-profile matters that often find their way onto the front page of the *Wall Street Journal*. After weeks or months of hard work, there is a sense of reward in seeing a headline and knowing that you helped to get that matter past the finish line. Also, we have a great pro bono practice at Paul, Weiss. We get to participate in whatever pro bono work we want to do. In the past year, I've focused on the IP aspects of pro bono matters because I think I add the most value there.

NYLS: Are you doing the kind of work you imagined you'd be doing on day one at NYLS?

AS: Before starting at NYLS, I knew I was very interested in intellectual property and how the law interacts with technology, fashion, and music. As I learned more about the field, my interest only grew.

NYLS: What was your favorite course in school? Were you surprised by it?

AS: Corporate Practice Skills with Professor Tamara Belinfanti was tremendously helpful in preparing me for the tasks of a junior associate. Intellectual Property with Professor Ari Waldman was fantastic. He was, and continues to be, a valuable advisor. Another class I loved was Modern Supreme Court, taught by former NYLS Dean James Simon. It was small, and the focus was the justices' ideologies and backgrounds, and not, for the most part, about individual cases. We took a trip to the U.S. Supreme Court, sat in on oral arguments, and met Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. That was a shining moment.

NYLS: Is there any advice you'd give to a current 1L at NYLS?

AS: I would have reached out to the Career Development Office sooner for feedback on my resume and help with mock interviews, *before* something came up that necessitated it. The other piece of advice I give every person who asks me is to network. You can start by finding a School group you relate to. For me personally, going to legal LGBT events was really helpful, and I have stayed in touch with people I met at those events. I am still surprised by how networking enabled me to get to where I am today. The New York legal community is smaller than it seems; everyone knows everyone. Going to events and talking to people can help you find a job. Also, 1Ls should reach out to NYLS alumni in their fields of interest. 1Ls at NYLS sometimes reach out to me, and I am always happy to give advice. When I was a 1L, I was reluctant to contact people. But 1Ls should remember that we lawyers love talking about ourselves! When you reach out, be respectful. Treat the person like you are their junior associate, which means to make sure that your email has personality and that it doesn't have any typos.

AS: The location was a prime reason I chose NYLS and a key part of why I am successful today. New York is the place to be if you want to be a corporate lawyer. It's the best experience, the best exposure, and some of the best clients are here.

NYLS: What, in your mind, makes a great lawyer?

AS: Organization. A lawyer who is not organized is generally not a good lawyer. You need to know what you're doing and what your priorities are, because you'll have a thousand things in your inbox and on your desk at a time. Speaking of, you also need organization in a physical sense. You don't want someone to walk into your cluttered office, and think, "Oh my gosh ..."

AS: The access to professors and their willingness to help you succeed if you put in the time.

AS: Tribeca Tavern. After almost every final, I would get together with friends there. And they have pool!



Photo Credit: Robin Hood Foundation

Gloria Chacon '13 is a Staff Attorney at The Bronx Defenders. She was previously an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow at The Door's Legal Services Center and has interned or worked at LawHelp.org, Kids in Need of Defense, Human Rights First, and the Legal Aid Society. She received her B.A. in Political Science and French from Rutgers University, where she graduated with honors. In 2016, she was named a Robin Hood Hero by the Robin Hood Foundation.

NYLS: What is the most rewarding or interesting thing about your current job?

GC: Working with the clients. It's why I love public interest law. I get a lot of client interaction through the affirmative immigration cases I handle. I also like litigation research and advising on issues related to *Padilla* [*Padilla v. Kentucky*, a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision]. *Padilla* says that criminal attorneys must advise clients who are not citizens of the immigration consequences and risks of how they plea in a criminal case.

NYLS: Are you doing the kind of work you imagined you'd be doing on day one at NYLS?

GC: What I'm doing now is not what I set out to do. When I started law school, I wanted to do international law. But then I met Professor Lenni Benson in Civil Procedure. She encouraged me to volunteer with the Safe Passage Project, and I ended up liking immigration law a lot.

NYLS: What was your favorite course in school? Were you surprised by it?

GC: I took Advanced Appellate Advocacy with Professor Susan Abraham during my 2L year. I went into it with high expectations. I knew I wanted to litigate. It was a small class with a lot of research and drafting. We wrote appellate briefs and watched video of ourselves presenting arguments. It has been so useful. I appear in family court and immigration court. Sometimes I have to go to the bench and speak with the judge in criminal court. That class helped polish my courtroom skills. Of course, I also loved Immigration Law, and it's the foundation of my whole career.

NYLS: What did you gain from externships, clinics, and/or internships?

GC: Working with the Safe Passage Project, I did screenings at immigration court. I got to interact with clients while I was still in school.

Also, I feel like I am the worst person when it comes to networking at events, but as an intern you're interacting with your supervisor, other attorneys, and even the director of the organization. That's another kind of networking, and I made so many connections during my internships at Kids in Need of Defense, Human Rights First, and the Legal Aid Society. The immigration community feels small to me now.

NYLS: Did you always want to go to law school in New York City? Was NYLS's location beneficial?

GC: It was a great location. I was two blocks from immigration court and close to family court and criminal court. A lot of the immigration service providers are in downtown Manhattan. Legal Aid was a 20-minute walk, which gave me the chance to fit in some exercise.

NYLS: What would you tell someone considering studying law at NYLS?

GC: They should definitely go to NYLS. I'm the first person in my family to pursue a higher degree. I found that during my time there, when I struggled, there were support systems in place. The faculty were very involved. I really felt like I was seen as a person, as strange as that might sound. But law school can be very tough.

I looked at schools all over the place. What actually made me choose NYLS was an event my mom and I went to for accepted students. We sat in on two law school classes, and I was so impressed with the faculty, who were knowledgeable and engaging. My mom, who's an engineer, was like, "I want to go to law school!"

NYLS: Is there any advice you'd give to a current 1L at NYLS?

GC: I would emphasize self-care and encourage the person to take advantage of the many mentoring programs and events the school offers. That was how I got some of my internships and met other attorneys. In terms of self-care, TriBeCa is so beautiful, and just going out for a walk was very de-stressing. If my friends and I had a chunk of time between an afternoon and an evening class, we'd sometimes go find a new place to eat. I also went to the gym and took guitar lessons, and those were great stress-relievers. So my advice is: Find something to do that's not school-related.

NYLS: What, in your mind, makes a great lawyer?

GC: Passion for your work, and the focus and drive to hone the skills you need to get it done.

NYLS: What was your favorite thing about attending NYLS?

GC: The buffalo chicken panini in the cafeteria—I would come back just for that! Seriously, though, my favorite thing was that I was able to get both practical education and clinical experience. I met Professor Benson and worked with Safe Passage, and that is now the foundation of my career. In fact, I was just a guest speaker at her class. I have built a professional relationship for life. I also felt very supported when it came to passing the bar. On the two most stressful days of our lives, we got to have faculty members and the Dean smiling and giving us lunch. It made such a huge difference because they clearly cared a lot. I also appreciated the bar prep classes during school. That's what you need to be a successful lawyer.

NYLS: What was your favorite watering hole near campus?

GC: There's a restaurant, Sazón. Get the piña colada, but ask for amaretto instead of rum. It's amazing!

PART 2

Snapshots of first-year students

SETH LEMASTER 1L



My interest in law school began with my exposure to the legislative process and various legal work while working in Arkansas state government. What started as a personal dream quickly became a dream I shared with my wife, Sarah. By attending law school together, we have been able to gain inspiration and motivation from each other. Thanks to many individuals at NYLS, my law school experience has been incredible from the very beginning. Lauren Majchrowski '13 and Jorge Rodriguez '12 in Admissions have always been willing to thoroughly answer my extensive questions. Oral Hope, the Registrar, was (and still is) always available to provide assistance. This past semester only built upon my wonderful experience at NYLS. In each of my classes, the professors were always willing to meet with students and invest their personal time in our legal journey. Currently I am interested in litigation, but I have yet to decide on a specific field of law. I am excited about taking Civil Procedure this semester. My first semester courses emphasized key issues in the judicial process that play a vital role in practicing law, and I want to gain a deeper understanding of the subject. Regardless of my career path, I wish to maintain an outward focus. I have seen the impact one person can have on others by keeping a positive attitude, giving words of encouragement, and maintaining a strong work ethic. No matter how I use my law degree, I hope my work is underlined with these qualities.

ANDRÉ MATIAS 1L



When I received my acceptance email from NYLS, I was living in Seville, Spain, training to compete in the 2016 Summer Olympics on Angola's rowing team. After a failed shot at qualifying for the London 2012 Games, I had decided to dedicate the next three years to trying to make it to Rio de Janeiro in 2016 before going to law school. The second time around, my training paid off, and I proudly competed in the 2016 Summer Games. Like Olympic training, law school is hard and can be humbling. I came in thinking that it would be fairly linear, in the sense that I would see results proportional to the time I spent studying or preparing for assignments. What I have found is that the challenges are ever different and increasing, but you never settle. NYLS is a fantastic school with incredibly motivated and caring faculty and students, and I constantly learn from them. I am highly interested in immigration law, and I am looking forward to employment and immigration law classes and working with the Safe Passage Project. I have always wanted to work in a legal field that would allow me to meet clients from all walks of life. It is absolutely fundamental to empathize with your clients and to be able to understand their experiences, their problems, and their needs.

SOFÍA SEQUEIRA 1L



I knew I was going to study at NYLS during Legal Scholars Day last February. My parents were visiting from Costa Rica, and I was excited to attend the event with them. After spending most of the morning whispering translated Spanish into my mother's ear, Jorge Rodriguez '12 from the Admissions Office approached us and volunteered to give us a private tour in Spanish. My parents and I felt welcomed and truly enjoyed our visit. My parents have always been extremely supportive of all my decisions, including my decision to move to the United States to access better education. I had been told that I would not find real friends or caring professors in law school, but at NYLS, I found amazing friends and professors who dedicate a lot of time making sure we understand and enjoy their class material. As an international student, I have a particular interest in exploring the complex and fascinating area of international law. I am looking forward to events organized by the Center for International Law, including the London Summer Program. I believe that one of the most important qualities a lawyer can have is creativity—a great lawyer has to listen and fully understand a client's situation in order to come up with the best, often most creative, strategies for his or her client.

KEVON WEEKES 1L EVENING



I came here with an interest in family law that only intensified after meeting with Professor Lisa Grumet and others in the Diane Abbey Law Institute for Children and Families. In eighth grade, my parents were involved in a custody dispute. I remember my mother's lawyer so clearly: I felt like she was *my* attorney. She was a strong, confident woman who sparked my interest in law. A lot of children don't have that person. That's who I want to be. I am from the Caribbean, and NYLS is my second home. I would tell someone who's considering coming here, without a doubt, do it. This place makes me feel limitless. In 10 years, I hope to be the epitome of what NYLS stands for—not only successful in my field, but giving my clients the feeling that the world is theirs, regardless of what they went through. I am a paralegal, and I knew that balancing work and school was going to be hard. It's like living two lives. Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., I'm at work. After 5:30 p.m., I'm a student. During that half hour in between I listen to music, I try not to think about anything. But even when I'm tired, I remember why I chose this and who I want to be. That keeps me going.

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