

# ST. JOHN'S LAW

The background is a detailed stained glass window. On the left, a large panel depicts St. Vincent de Paul, a man with a grey beard and hair, wearing a blue robe with a white collar, looking slightly to the right. To his right, a smaller panel shows a woman with long, wavy blonde hair, her hands clasped in prayer, looking towards the left. The rest of the window is filled with intricate geometric and floral patterns in shades of gold, green, and brown.

Alumni Magazine | Fall 2018

## LIVING THE MISSION

ALUMNI AND STUDENTS  
SERVE THE GREATER GOOD

St. Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Vincentians and a Dedicated Servant of the Poor





# Celebrating 10 Years of Exceptional Leadership

On July 1, 2009 Michael A. Simons became the Law School's ninth dean. In the decade since, he has guided *alma mater* through a changing legal landscape while preserving its proud tradition of educating a diverse, talented, and hardworking student body.

St. John's Law is thriving, and we are grateful for all Dean Simons has done—and will continue to do—to ensure that our students learn fundamentals of the law, build practical skills, and go on to uplift their profession, their communities, and the world as distinguished public servants and judges, preeminent law firm and business leaders, and pioneering entrepreneurs.

As he completes 10 years of stewardship at St. John's, Dean Simons is the longest-serving dean of any law school in New York. On behalf of the Law School Alumni Association that we have led during his deanship, we congratulate him on this milestone anniversary.

- Andrea M. Alonso '78C, '81L
- Nicholas M. Cannella '75
- Hon. P. Kevin Castel '72SVC, '75L, '04HON
- Alfred C. Cerullo III '83NDC, '86L
- Steven J. Gartner '84
- Richard F. Hans '93
- Alan B. Hodish '89
- Lourdes Martinez-Cipolla '92
- Thomas J. Principe '69C, '73L
- Hon. Mary Kay Vyskocil '83





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**ON THE COVER:** St. John's looks to St. Vincent de Paul (1581–1660), founder of the Congregation of the Mission, for its vision and inspiration. Early in his ministry as a priest in 17th-century France, Vincent discovered that one finds God and oneself in service to others. His conviction guides our students, faculty, staff, and alumni in using their education and experience to help build a better world.

# FROM THE DEAN



This issue's cover image of St. Vincent de Paul, from St. Thomas More Church on campus, wonderfully evokes St. John's mission, something I spoke to our new students about when they gathered for Convocation in August. Here's what I told them:

*Serving the public isn't only a core value of the legal profession, it's part of our founding mission. St. John's University was founded 150 years ago by the Vincentian Fathers, the order of priests that was established by St. Vincent de Paul in France in the 1600s. St. Vincent was a remarkable man. Comfortable in the halls of royal power,*

*and with his own powerful network, he was always animated by compassion for the poor and a zeal for service. He used his power to help others, and he essentially created the modern model of charity and public works that we know today.*

*That Vincentian mission continues to animate us as an institution, and we hope it animates you as a lawyer, because whether we're Catholic or Jewish, Muslim or Hindu, atheist or evangelical, liberal or conservative, black or white, gay or straight (and we're all of those things), we can be inspired by the way St. Vincent used his skills and his power to serve the greater good.*

What I like most about St. Vincent is that he was a man of action. His exhortation to his followers was: "Let us love God . . . but let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brows." In the pages that follow, you'll see St. Vincent's mission in action. Whether they're providing legal services to the indigent; advocating for New York's Muslim community; pursuing justice through law firm *pro bono* work; supporting Maryknoll Lay Missioners; aiding children in developing nations; or fighting workplace harassment, our alumni and students are living the mission.

Building a diverse and inclusive legal profession and Law School community is also central to our mission at St. John's. So we're very happy to introduce you to Kamille Dean, the Law School's first-ever Director of Diversity and Inclusion. She oversees our award-winning Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program for College Students, along with a wide variety of other initiatives designed to ensure that St. John's Law is a diverse and inclusive learning community.

As I enter my 10th year as dean, I remain continually inspired by the ways in which our students and alumni serve the greater good. I hope the stories in this magazine inspire you, too.

**Michael A. Simons**  
Dean and John V. Brennan  
Professor of Law and Ethics

P.S. I'm happy to report that our new class is one of our strongest and most diverse. Our 233 J.D. students attended 100 different colleges, pursued 50 different majors, and earned 20 advanced degrees. They come from 20 different states; more than 30 are first-generation Americans; two dozen were born outside of the United States; and 27 percent are students of color. Their median LSAT (159) and median GPA (3.61) are among our highest ever. Notably, for the first time in our history, we have a majority-female entering class. Our new students also include 18 transfers from seven law schools, and 52 LL.M. students from 14 different countries. They're wonderful additions to the St. John's Law family.

## St. John's Law Magazine FALL 2018

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K. Terrell  
Hutchins '19

# FOR THE SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

## St. John's Receives the Prestigious NYIPLA Diversity Scholarship

This summer, Dean Michael A. Simons presented K. Terrell Hutchins '19 with the New York Intellectual Property Law Association's (NYIPLA) Hon. Giles S. Rich Diversity Scholarship.

Each year, the NYIPLA selects one law school to receive this \$10,000 scholarship. The law school then awards it to a student on the IP faculty's recommendation and based on the following criteria:

- Expressed interest in pursuing a career in intellectual property law
- Status as a minority student who represents a group that has been traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession
- Academic eligibility adhering to the law school's standard internal merit-based scholarship requirements

This marks the seventh consecutive year that St. John's Law has received the award, and Hutchins is thrilled to be the 2018 recipient.

Growing up in South Philadelphia, law school wasn't on his radar. But science was, and he started out as a Forensic Biology major in college. A couple of years in, though, Hutchins realized that he wasn't on quite the right path. "I pursued science initially because I fell in love with the research, the analysis, and the skills used to unpack and understand complexities," he says. "I wanted a career that was intellectually stimulating and challenging and, through lots of research and conversations, I discovered that my science background was relevant to different areas of the law, including Intellectual Property. So I changed my major to get a feel for the study of policy and law and started thinking seriously about law school."

After earning his undergraduate degree, and becoming the first in his family to graduate from college, Hutchins enrolled at St. John's Law with a full-tuition Ronald H. Brown Scholarship. It was a natural choice. "I found a warm and welcoming community at St. John's Law," he shares,

"and I strongly identified with the purpose of the scholarship to advance social justice, equality, and diversity in the legal field by supporting students that have overcome social, economic, and educational disadvantage in pursuit of a legal education."

At St. John's, Hutchins has thrived taking courses in IP Law and contributing to the Law School community as senior editor of the *N.Y. Real Property Law Journal*; as vice president of the Intellectual Property Law Society; and as secretary of the Black Law Student Association. He currently serves as director of communications for the National Black Law Students Association and, last year, he was named Best Individual Advocate at the New York Law School IP Negotiation Competition.

Hutchins has also built an impressive body of work in the field. The summer after his 1L year, he worked on trademark, copyright, and brand protection law at the Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. He spent the Spring 2018 semester as a legal extern at the Sony Corporation of America, focusing on IP issues. Sony then invited him to stay on this past summer in its Business & Legal Affairs Department, where he worked with the information security division.

Hutchins welcomed the ongoing opportunity to learn IP Law hands on. "This summer, much of my focus was on effectively licensing Sony's IP in supply chain-related contracts to protect against potential theft or misuse," he explains. "I also conducted research and engaged with our technology and information security divisions on matters such as digital media and data."

As he looks forward to completing his legal education at St. John's, and to sitting for the Patent Bar Exam, Hutchins is grateful for the NYIPLA's support. "Earning the Hon. Giles S. Rich Diversity Scholarship is an honor, and I'm thankful to the NYIPLA and to the Law School's scholarship selection committee for their acknowledgment and generosity," he says. "With the recognition of this award, I hope to increase the overall representation of black and minority lawyers. And, more specifically, I hope to encourage other black and minority students who aspire to a career in IP Law."



## ON DIRECT

# Q&A

## Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship Anita S. Krishnakumar



Professor **Anita S. Krishnakumar** is in her third year as the Law School's Associate Dean for Faculty Scholarship. She is an accomplished legal scholar who has produced many articles and essays, including recent placements in the *Yale Law Journal*, the *Virginia Law Review*, and the *Duke Law Journal*. Here, she talks with Assistant Dean for Marketing and Communications **Trent Anderson** about her work.

### **TA: What are some of the ways in which you promote a robust intellectual community at St. John's Law?**

**AK:** I organize our faculty workshop series, which brings scholars from across the country to St. John's Law to discuss their current research and receive feedback on their works in progress from our faculty. Internally, I also organize regular "nascent ideas" gatherings through which our faculty members receive feedback from each other on their own early stages research projects. This year, I'm also pleased to be organizing a faculty scholarship retreat, during which we'll come together as a faculty to workshop several of our colleagues' papers, both in early stages and later stages of development. In addition to these more formalized venues for collaboration and feedback, I regularly read and provide informal comments on colleagues' work. With respect to our student intellectual community, I run a Legislation and Statutory Interpretation Colloquium in which students read and engage with

current works in progress by prominent scholars—and occasionally judges—in the statutory interpretation field. The paper authors then attend a class session, giving students the opportunity to interrogate them about their work. Each year, I also advise a handful of students who are writing Notes for the *St. John's Law Review*, and give a lecture to the journal's 2Ls on writing a successful Note.

### **TA: What is your current research and writing about?**

**AK:** I write about statutory interpretation in the U.S. Supreme Court, primarily the Roberts Court. I joined the St. John's Law faculty in 2006, just as the Roberts Court was starting out, and began compiling a dataset that codes all the interpretive canons and tools used by the Roberts Court in its statutory interpretation cases as one of my first research projects. Over the years, I've added to the dataset and have written many articles—some empirical, some doctrinal—that draw on the information in that dataset. I just published an article about textualist justices' approach to statutory precedents, titled "Textualism and Statutory Precedents," in the *Virginia Law Review*, and have an article forthcoming in the *Stanford Law Review* about the Roberts Court's changing approach to the canon of constitutional avoidance, as well as a co-authored book review titled "The Canon Wars," forthcoming in the *Texas Law Review*, that takes on the important question of what exactly constitutes a canon of construction. And I'm currently in the process of working on a new paper about the interpretive canons and tools that the Court turns to when it concludes that a statute's text is not clear.

### **TA: What are you teaching this year?**

**AK:** I teach Introduction to Law, Legislation and Statutory Interpretation, and Trusts and Estates.

### **TA: What makes St. John's Law special for you?**

**AK:** The students. We're blessed to teach students who are incredibly hard working, smart, inquisitive, and unentitled. It's a joy and a privilege to help guide them in their journey toward becoming lawyers, and to help open their eyes to the possibilities available to them with a law degree. I'm also grateful to have many wonderful colleagues who care about our students and who are genuinely good people. St. John's is a friendly place, something I'm not sure can be said of all law schools.

## INTELLECTUAL LIFE AT ST. JOHN'S LAW

Here is just a sampling of some of the many events and programs that enhanced the intellectual life of the Law School in the last year:

### **NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL LAW REVIEW 30TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM**

Professor Peggy McGuinness organized and hosted this symposium celebrating the *New York International Law Review's* work and exploring current issues in international law. The keynote speaker was U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Legal Affairs Stephen Mathias, and Professor Christopher J. Borgen moderated a panel at the event. Professors Borgen and McGuinness co-direct the Law School's Center for International and Comparative Law and are founding contributors to the popular international law blog *Opinio Juris*.

### **THE TRADITION PROJECT**

Professors Mark L. Movsesian and Marc O. DeGirolami are spearheading a multi-year, research initiative that brings together scholars, judges, and commentators to discuss the continuing role of tradition in law and public life. In November 2017, St. John's hosted the second meeting of the Project, a conference on Tradition, Culture, and Citizenship, featuring keynote speaker Sir Roger Scruton. The first meeting of the Project, a conference on Tradition in Law and Politics, took place in October 2016. The third meeting, to be keyed by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito, will convene in Rome in December 2018.

### **ROUNDTABLE: THE RIGHT OF PUBLICITY IN NEW YORK**

The Law School's Intellectual Property Law Center, co-directed by Professors Jeremy Sheff and Eva E. Subotnik, co-sponsored this roundtable discussion with the Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Leading academics and other top professionals in the field addressed the hot-button issue of proposed, significant changes to the provisions of the Civil Rights Law governing New York's right of publicity.

### **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS (IALS) AMERICAS LEADERSHIP FORUM**

St. John's Law partnered with the IALS to host this annual forum that brings law school leaders from five continents together for two days of intensive workshops exploring how pedagogical innovations and advancing technology are changing global legal education.

### **SYMPOSIUM ON CHRISTIAN LEGAL THOUGHT**

The *Journal of Catholic Legal Studies* and the *St. John's Law Review* hosted this special event at the New York Athletic Club. Panelists reflected on and discussed *Christian Legal Thought: Materials and Cases*, a new casebook by Patrick Brennan and William S. Brewbaker III.

# LAW SCHOOL WELCOMES FOUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Four years ago, the St. John's Law faculty put into action a bold strategic plan anchored by twin goals of academic excellence and student achievement. The plan's success is evident in several key measures: graduate employment among the highest in the nation; a two-year bar passage rate that is the best in New York City; steadily increasing student credentials; sharply rising alumni engagement and support; and a 30 percent increase in applications over the past two years.

An important part of the strategic plan is adding new talent to the faculty. In Fall 2016, the Law School welcomed two superb new faculty members: Professors Kate Levine and Rachel Smith. This fall, four additional new faculty members started at St. John's Law.

**SHELDON A. EVANS** joins the full-time faculty as an Assistant Professor of Law, bringing with him noteworthy practice experience. He received his undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Southern California and his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, where he served on the *University of Chicago Legal Forum*.

After law school, Professor Evans served as a law clerk to Hon. Lavenski R. Smith in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and practiced law at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, where his work focused on legal malpractice, complex contract disputes, and labor and employment law. He also devoted a significant portion of his time to *pro bono* advocacy for clients seeking immigration relief.

Professor Evans' scholarship thus far has focused on criminal law and procedure, and has touched on constitutional interpretation, legal history, and public policy as well. He teaches Professional Responsibility and Immigration Law at St. John's Law this year. "I'm excited and honored to join the faculty at St. John's Law, which has a distinguished history of training generations of successful and insightful legal professionals," Professor Evans says.

**KATE KLONICK** comes to St. John's as an Assistant Professor of Law after completing a Ph.D. in Law at Yale Law School, where she also was a resident fellow at the Information Society Project. She graduated with honors from Brown University and earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was a Senior Editor on the *Georgetown Law Journal* and the Founding Editor of the *Georgetown Law Journal Online*.

After law school, Professor Klonick served as a law clerk to Hon. Richard C. Wesley in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Hon. Eric N.

Vitaliano in the Eastern District of New York. Before law school, she worked in journalism and wrote for many publications, including the *New York Times*, *Vox*, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *The Guardian*, *Talking Points Memo*, and *ABC News*. Her scholarship focuses on how networked technologies have transformed the way that social norms shape legal and non-legal regulation. Most recently, she has studied and written about how social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube have fundamentally altered the rules governing online speech. Her article on that topic, "The New Governors," was just published by the *Harvard Law Review*.



**L-R: Sheldon Evans, Kate Klonick, Anna Roberts, and Kayonia Whetstone.**

Professor Klonick teaches Property and a class on Information Technology this year. "It's incredibly exciting to join a law school that has faculty as talented as they are warm and who share a demonstrated commitment to not only teach, but truly support their incredibly talented and hard-working student body," she shares.

**ANNA ROBERTS** an Associate Professor at Seattle University School of Law, will be a visiting professor at St. John's Law this year and teaches Evidence, Torts, and a seminar on Contemporary Criminal Justice.

Professor Roberts holds a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Cambridge, where she graduated first in her class in Classics, earning a Starred First with Distinction. She received her J.D. *magna cum laude* from NYU School of Law, where she was a Dean's Scholar, a Florence Allen Scholar, and a Member of the Order of the Coif. Following law school, she clerked for Hon. Constance Baker Motley in the Southern District of New York, and then spent several years as a public defender with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem. She began her academic career at NYU School of Law's Lawyering Program.

Professor Roberts' scholarship focuses on assumptions and stereotypes that contribute to, and are fueled by, criminal records. Her articles

have been published or are forthcoming in leading journals including the *University of Chicago Law Review*, *Washington University Law Review*, *Boston University Law Review*, *Minnesota Law Review*, *Boston College Law Review*, *Alabama Law Review*, and the *U.C. Davis Law Review*. She also has a book chapter forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

Reflecting on her new role, Professor Roberts says, "I'm inspired by St. John's because it offers the best of what New York City offers—diversity, boldness, and limitless opportunity—and because it partners with students to develop the law and pursue justice."

**KAYONIA L. WHETSTONE** joins St. John's as an Assistant Professor of Legal Writing. She received her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University and her J.D. from Howard University School of Law. For the past 15 years, she practiced appellate law as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx and Queens, where she handled a range of criminal appeals, motions, and petitions involving complex legal issues in New York's state and federal courts.

Professor Whetstone is delighted to teach legal writing at St. John's. "Throughout my years as a practitioner, I've learned that good legal writing is an essential tool for every attorney," she observes. "So I'm tremendously excited to work closely with students and to help produce scholars who are exemplary advocates and confident in their abilities to serve global communities."

Her practical experience informs Professor Whetstone's perspective on teaching students from diverse backgrounds. "My instructional approach is considerate of learners of different backgrounds and abilities, and employs strategies that thoughtfully engage and assess a person's oral advocacy, writing, and research abilities," she says, adding, "I was impressed that St. John's Law encourages its faculty to serve as instructors and mentors for students in addressing the complexities of navigating coursework, internships, and personal life trials."

Noting the Law School's remarkable progress over the past four years, Dean Michael A. Simons shares his excitement about the future. "The changes we've made under our strategic plan have strengthened St. John's Law and positioned us to add to and replenish our exceptional faculty. The addition of our four new colleagues will help to ensure the continued intellectual vitality of the Law School for many years to come."

# FACULTY FOCUS

The latest achievements and activities of our outstanding faculty

## { BARRETT }

Professor **John Q. Barrett** lectured recently on topics relating to Justice Robert H. Jackson, the Nuremberg trials, and the Holocaust at the American College of Trial Lawyers' spring meeting; at a conference in Krakow, Poland co-sponsored by the International March of the Living, Rutgers Law School, and the New Jersey State Bar Association; at the Nassau County Bar Association (the Jewish Lawyers' Association inaugural Steven J. Eisman '79 Memorial Lecture); and at an American Bar Association Hispanic Commission program. Professor Barrett also delivered a keynote lecture at the Bicentennial of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and he participated in a Law Day program focusing on Western District of New York cases that resulted in major U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Professor Barrett, biographer of Justice Jackson, writes *The Jackson List* at thejacksonlist.com, which reaches many lawyers, judges, students, teachers, and others around the world.

## { BOYLE }

Brooklyn television station BRIC TV interviewed Professor **Robin A. Boyle**, who is a member of the *Journal of the International Cultic Studies Association* (ICSA) Advisory Board, about the federal prosecution involving the alleged cult NXIVM and about cults more generally. Professor Boyle presented at the ICSA's annual conference, where her talk focused on legal strategies for lawsuits against cults. Professor Boyle has been editing articles for publication as a member of the editorial board of *Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing*. She is also a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the International Cultic Studies Association*. In that capacity, she wrote "Cult Recovery: A Clinician's Guide to Working with Former Members and Family," a review of a collection of chapters written by mental health professionals that will be published in *ICSA Today*.

## { CUNNINGHAM }

Professor **Larry Cunningham** spoke at two recent conferences about assessment in legal education. He presented on Assessment and Accreditation at the International Association of Law Schools' Law School Leadership Conference, and he addressed The State of Assessment in Legal Education at the ExamSoft Assessment on Tour Conference. He has also been appointed to a one-year term as co-chair of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, which works on matters related to legal education, the bar exam, and admission.

## { GREENBERG }

Professor **Elayne E. Greenberg** conducted an advanced mediation training on Expanding a Lawyer's Philosophical Map to Overcome Impasse(s): The Role of Law in Commercial Mediation at the University of Florence Law School. Her most recent *Ethical Compass* column, "Acts Like a Lawyer, Talks Like a Lawyer . . . Non-Lawyer Advocates Representing Parties in Dispute Resolution," was published in the

*New York Dispute Resolution Lawyer*. And her article "... Because 'Yes' Actually Means 'No': A Personalized Prescriptive to Reactualize Informed Consent in Dispute Resolution" has been accepted for publication in the *Marquette Law Review*.

## { KRISHNAKUMAR }

At the Second Circuit Judicial Conference, Professor **Anita S. Krishnakumar** moderated a panel titled Courts and the Administrative State. She also discussed her article, "Textualism and Statutory Precedents," with University of Virginia Professor of Law Saikrishna Prakash at an event sponsored by the *Virginia Law Review* and provided commentary on other panelists' work at the Legislation Scholars Roundtable at Fordham Law School. Professor Krishnakumar's article, "Passive Avoidance," has been accepted for publication in the *Stanford Law Review* and her book review, "The Canon Wars," co-authored with Victoria Nourse of Georgetown Law School, has been accepted for publication in the *Texas Law Review*.

## { MCGUINNESS }

Along with other leading contributors in the field, Professor **Peggy McGuinness** spoke at a Georgetown Law symposium on Recent Developments in U.S. Treaty Law and Practice. She presented her work on treaties and federalism, published by Cambridge University Press in a volume titled *Supreme Law of the Land?*, and commented on state and local responses to the Trump administration's approach to treaties and other international obligations. Professor McGuinness's book chapter, "Non-Recognition and State Immunities: Toward a Functional Theory," will be published in the collected work, *Unrecognized Subjects in International Law*. In partnership with the International Section of the New York State Bar Association, she oversaw the 30th Anniversary Symposium of the *New York International Law Review*. Among other professional activities, she serves on the *New York International Law Review* Advisory Editorial Board; on the New York City Bar Association's International Affairs Council, its Committee on Human Rights, and its working group on U.S. Foreign Policy and Human Rights; and on the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association's International Section.

## { MOVSESIAN }

This past spring semester, Professor **Mark L. Movsesian** was a visiting fellow at Princeton University's James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. While at Princeton, he presented a paper on religious freedom at home and abroad at the Madison Program's annual conference, Taking the Measure of Where We Are, and commented on a paper at a workshop on religious accommodations, sponsored by Princeton's University Center for Human Values. Professor Movsesian's article, "Markets and Morals: The Limits of *Doux Commerce*," appeared in a symposium issue of the *William and Mary Business Law Review*.



## { ROBERTS }

Professor **Anna Roberts's** article, "Arrests as Guilt," was accepted for publication in the *Alabama Law Review*. Elizabeth Joh's review of the article appears in *Jotwell*. Professor Roberts wrote a review of Suja Thomas's book, *The Missing American Jury*, for the *Political Science Quarterly*. She was also invited to publish a response to Barbara Fedders's article, "Opioid Policing," which is forthcoming in the *Indiana Law Review*.

## { SALOMONE }

Two commentaries by Professor **Rosemary C. Salomone**, "The Dutch Court Defers Decision on English in Universities" and "South Africa: A Court Decision with Consequences for Languages in HE," appeared in the *University World News*. The *Hechinger Report* quoted her extensively in an article about the legality of girls-only trade classes under federal Title IX regulations that she had helped to draft for the U.S. Department of Education. Professor Salomone also led an opening discussion on International Organizations at Work: The Linguistic Dimension with a panel of U.N. representatives, and moderated a separate discussion on the International Criminal Court as part of a symposium on Multilingualism in International Organizations and in International Co-operation. At the National Coalition of Girls' Schools Global Forum on Girls' Education, she opened a pre-conference session for international representatives from tuition-free/state-sponsored all-girls' schools.

## { SOVERN }

Professor **Jeff Sovern's** co-authored article, "Validation and Verification Vignettes: More Results From an Empirical Study of Consumer Understanding of Debt Collection Validation Notices," will appear in the *Rutgers Law Review*. His op-ed, "The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, leaving the public high and dry," ran in the *New York Daily News*, and he published an essay titled "Consumers are biggest losers of Trump's ongoing war on regulations" in *The Conversation*, which was republished online in the *Houston Chronicle*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and elsewhere. Professor Sovern spoke on Consumer Law topics at the Practising Law Institute and at several law schools. He was also quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Examiner*, and *BNA/Bloomberg*.

## { SUBOTNIK }

Professor **Eva E. Subotnik** presented a paper at the Third Copyright Scholarship Roundtable at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She also moderated a panel at the interdisciplinary conference Images, Copyright, and the Public Domain in the Nineteenth Century at the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.

## 2018–19 Faculty Workshops

Our annual **Faculty Workshop Series** brings legal scholars from across the country to St. John's Law throughout the academic year to discuss their current research and receive feedback on their works in progress from our faculty. Here are the scholars scheduled to present at this year's workshops:

- **Sahar Aziz**, Rutgers Law School, *From Protestant to Judeo-Christian: The Expansion of American Whiteness (Book Chapter)*
- **Madhavi Sunder**, Georgetown Law School, *Intellectual Property in Experience*
- **Dana Brakman Reiser**, Brooklyn Law School, *TBA*
- **Cristina Rodríguez**, Yale Law School, *Whither Legislative Supremacy? (Book Chapter)*
- **Andrew Crespo**, Harvard Law School, *Probable Cause Pluralism*
- **Richard Re**, UCLA Law School, *Clarifying Legal Ambiguity*
- **Rachel Barkow**, NYU Law School, *Chapter from Prisoners of Politics*
- **David Pozen**, Columbia Law School, *The Nonprofit Constitution*
- **Anna Roberts**, Seattle University School of Law, *Arrests as Guilt*
- **Zachary Clopton**, Cornell Law School, *National Injunctions and Preclusion*
- **Scott Skinner-Thompson**, University of Colorado Law School, *Recording as Heckling*
- **Molly Brady**, University of Virginia Law School, *Property and Projection: Casting Light on the Nuisance-Trespass Divide*
- **Michael Coenen**, Seton Hall Law School, *Equilibration's Bias*
- **Jeffrey Pojanowski**, Notre Dame Law School, *Neoclassical Administrative Law*
- **Eve Primus**, University of Michigan Law School, *Revisiting Strickland: A New Approach for Measuring Violations of the Right to Effective Trial Counsel*
- **Clare Huntington**, Fordham Law School, *The Institutions of Family Law*

# ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

After eight years as a full-time administrator, **LARRY CUNNINGHAM** has stepped down as Vice Dean to return to teaching Legal Writing, Evidence, and Appellate Advocacy on the full-time faculty.

“Larry has played a critical role in the Law School’s progress and success, filling key administrative positions as Assistant Dean for Students, Associate Dean for Student Services, Associate Academic Dean, and Vice Dean,” says Dean Michael A. Simons. “Just as significantly, he has been instrumental in designing and implementing the most important strategic changes we have made over the last eight years—from the complete redesign of our career development process in 2011, to our strategic re-sizing in 2014, to the revitalization of our recruitment and admissions process in 2016.”

Even with his return to full-time teaching, Dean Cunningham will continue to guide St. John’s Law as **Associate Dean for Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness**. In this new role, he is responsible for assessment of student learning outcomes, strategic planning, and institutional research and data analysis.

These are assignments that Dean Cunningham is well suited to take on since he has been at the forefront of the Law School’s compliance with new American Bar Association standards on assessment and is adept at strategic planning and data analysis. He also continues to serve as the Director of the Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy.



Replacing Dean Cunningham in the Dean’s Office is **SARAH JEAN KELLY**, who has been promoted to **Associate Dean for Administration and Graduate Studies**. Since coming to St. John’s Law as Director of Graduate Studies two years ago, Dean Kelly has reorganized the Office of Graduate Studies and greatly expanded the Law School’s LL.M. programs.

In her new administrative role, Dean Kelly continues to oversee the Office of Graduate Studies and the Law School’s international J.D. programs. She also assumes many of the responsibilities formerly held by Dean Cunningham in his role as Vice Dean, including oversight of the four administrative departments and 11 academic centers at St. John’s Law. In addition, she works closely with the Office of Budget Services and is responsible for the Law School’s compliance with various regulatory and accrediting requirements.

“We’re fortunate to have Larry and Sarah serving in these new administrative positions,” says Dean Simons. “They’ve been tremendous assets to the Law School, and have worked tirelessly to help us achieve our strategic goals of academic excellence and student achievement. I look forward to working closely with both of them in the years ahead.”





## ST. JOHN'S LAW WELCOMES ITS FIRST DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

**T**wo young women from the Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program for College Students, the flagship pipeline program of the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights at St. John's Law, pulled T-shirts from their welcome 'swag bags,' held them up, and read the message on the back aloud: "The world is diverse. The law should be, too." Their smiles and nods said it all.

Through its pipeline and other initiatives, the Ron Brown Center aims to increase racial and socioeconomic diversity in law schools and in the legal profession. It's a mission that resonates deeply with Kamille Dean. For the last two years, serving as the Center's Chief Strategy Officer, she helped to guide the Ron Brown Prep Program and was instrumental in securing a \$300,000 grant to fund its new offering for men of color. Now, she is building on that success as the Law School's first-ever Director of Diversity and Inclusion.

"Kamille is a wonderful addition to our leadership team," says Associate Dean for Administration and Graduate Studies Sarah Jean Kelly. "Since our founding, St. John's has been committed to providing a first-rate education to students who lacked access to economic and educational opportunities. We continue that commitment to serving underrepresented communities today, in a warm, welcoming, and inclusive environment. In her new role, Kamille will oversee, and develop, programs and initiatives that foster the success of our students, while we strive as an institution to diversify the legal profession."

Among other initial undertakings, Dean is developing a strategic plan for promoting diversity and inclusion at the Law School. She also serves as Director of the Ron Brown Center, and is responsible for its administrative, operational, and fundraising activities. In that capacity, she works closely with Professors Elaine M. Chiu and Rosa Castello '06, who lead the Center's academic programs as its Faculty Directors. In addition, Dean oversees the Ron Brown Prep Program and guides efforts to expand its support base. Overall, she helps to engage St. John's Law students, faculty, and staff through a range of diversity-oriented events and activities.

Dean is well-equipped for these multiple tasks. A Queens native and a graduate of Queens College, she received her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. After several years of law practice, she served as a faculty member at two southern law schools before moving back to New York. Since her return, she has worked as an attorney for ERASE Racism and taught at the Touro Law Center and Hofstra University School of Law.

"One of our key strategic goals is to increase and promote diversity and inclusion within the St. John's Law community," says Dean Michael A. Simons. "To fulfill that goal, we must continue to increase the diversity of our student body, faculty, and staff; we must work closely with all of our current students and faculty to ensure an inclusive learning environment and successful outcomes; and we must actively engage our alumni of color. Kamille is perfectly positioned to help us with each of those important initiatives, and I look forward to working closely with her."

**"As a woman of color, lawyer, and legal educator, I understand that law schools are uniquely positioned to open doors for people who have faced barriers to achievement historically."**

Dean also welcomes the collaboration. "I'm honored to serve as the Law School's inaugural Director of Diversity and Inclusion," she says. "As a woman of color, lawyer, and legal educator, I understand that law schools are uniquely positioned to open doors for people who have faced barriers to achievement historically. A legal education can be transformational, and I know that St. John's Law is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our community. I look forward to advancing our collective goal to solidify the legacy of St. John's Law as an agent of positive change."



### FOSTERING A MORE DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE LEGAL PROFESSION

St. John's Law Launches a New Pipeline Initiative

**J**erome (Trey) Fuller III knows what it's like to be an outsider. Growing up in New Hampshire, he was one of just two families of color in his small hometown. "I never felt included or understood" he says. "My mother is in the military and, as a family, we place a high value on service to others. So I've had a longtime social justice calling. I want to be an agent of change, and to make a difference in the world as a diplomat. But no one in my high school supported my dreams. I felt worthless."

Despite the obstacles he faced, Fuller held tight to his ambitions and earned a spot in the Ozanam Scholars Program at St. John's University, which provides a select group of students with an innovative learning experience through academics and research, Vincentian service, and global citizenship. "It's a wonderful curriculum, and exploring social justice issues that impact people around the world has helped me make the connection between international diplomacy and the law," Fuller says.

With his budding interest in law school, Fuller applied to the Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program

for College Students, the award-winning summer pipeline program of the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights at St. John's Law. For more than a decade, in partnership with colleges and universities across the country, the Ron Brown Prep Program has helped students from traditionally underserved and underrepresented groups—who are often the first in their families to attend college—apply to law school and pursue legal careers.

Over three summers, they learn the fundamentals of legal analysis, writing, and advocacy in courses taught by St. John's faculty and through internships with lawyers and judges in the New



York City area. Ron Brown Prep Program students also participate in workshops on professionalism and, as rising seniors, take a comprehensive, customized LSAT course. “The Ron Brown Prep Program is emblematic of the Ron Brown Center’s commitment to support students who have faced real struggles and setbacks, and to foster diversity and inclusion in our profession,” says Professor Elaine M. Chiu, who serves as the Center’s Faculty Director with Professor Rosa Castello ’06. “This is a success story. To date, over 150 Prep Program alumni have attended 55 law schools across the country, including: Harvard, Yale, Boston College, Cornell, Duke, Emory, Georgetown, George Washington University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, St. John’s University, UC Berkeley, UCLA, University of Michigan, and Vanderbilt.”

With his admission for Summer 2018, Fuller was thrilled to join 16 other young men from around the country as the inaugural class of the all-new DiscoverLaw.org PLUS Program/Ron Brown Prep Program Foundations. This first-of-its-kind offering was made possible by a very generous \$300,000 grant from the Law School Admissions Council, through its Diversity Initiatives Grant Programs.

“We’ve had a lot of success with our Prep Program I for rising juniors and Prep Program II for rising seniors, but we saw an unmet need for a program designed specifically for male students of color who have finished one year of college,” explains Kamille Dean, who oversees the Ron Brown Prep Program as the Law School’s Director of Diversity and Inclusion and who helped secure the grant. “Our aim with Prep Program Foundations is to address the gender

imbalance in higher education for minority students that can be a very isolating experience.”

Fuller and his classmates spent three weeks at St. John’s Law and then interned for five weeks with judges



Jerome Fuller III

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**“Being with a group of men of color, I felt included, supported, and uplifted. These are people who are in the struggle with me. That’s incredibly empowering and unifying, having that common sense of struggle, and celebrating our discoveries and achievements together.”**

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throughout New York City. As part of the on-campus curriculum, they attended inspiring talks by successful attorneys who overcame barriers; learned to analyze and write about cases; participated in weekly ‘peak performance’ sessions facilitated by a psychologist; and read and discussed

*Just Mercy*, a compelling book on the U.S. justice system by activist lawyer Bryan Stevenson, who heads the Equal Justice Initiative.

“It’s important for our Prep Program Foundations students to be exposed to vast opportunities that a career in the law has to offer,” says Dean. “Many of them don’t personally know any attorneys, and they have a limited view of what the legal profession entails. What they really appreciate about our program is that we open their eyes to a range of possibilities. Our students move forward knowing what it takes to become a successful professional. St. John’s Law has invested in the Ron Brown Prep Program for over a decade, and it continues to pay dividends when we welcome students like Trey to our community.”

Fuller seized the opportunity to grow personally and professionally. “I’ve always believed that education provides greater understanding,” he says. “But Prep Program Foundations was a life-shifting experience. Being with a group of men of color, I felt included, supported, and uplifted. These are people who are in the struggle with me. That’s incredibly empowering and unifying, having that common sense of struggle, and celebrating our discoveries and achievements together. I can’t wait to continue on this path with the Ron Brown Prep Program next summer.”

➤ To learn more about the Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program for College Students and opportunities to support it, please visit [stjohns.edu/law/rhbcntr](http://stjohns.edu/law/rhbcntr) or contact Kamille Dean at [wolffk@stjohns.edu](mailto:wolffk@stjohns.edu)



# SERVING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

## *Allie Cabibbo '19 Finds an Invaluable Mentor in Maria Martinez '11*

Since arriving at St. John's Law on a St. Thomas More Scholarship, Allie Cabibbo has pursued a career in the public interest with laser-like focus.

As a 1L, she volunteered with the Civil Legal Advice and Resources Office to support its mission of assisting low-income New Yorkers being sued by debt collectors. She also earned a position on the executive board of the Law School's Public Interest Center, which offers St. John's Law students and alumni opportunities to help the underserved in and around New York City.

Receiving one of several Catalyst Public Service Fellowships awarded to St. John's Law students, Cabibbo spent her 1L summer as a legal intern at the Urban Justice Center's Mental Health Project. Then, during her second year at St. John's, she broadened her public interest experience as a student advocate in the full-year Criminal Defense Clinic, assigned to the Legal Aid Society in Queens.

"I loved the work," Cabibbo says. "Pursuant to a Student Practice Order, I carried my own caseload representing clients accused of misdemeanors and other minor offenses. I had all the duties of a criminal defense attorney, including client intake, arraignment, bail proceedings, discovery and motion practice, court appearances, hearings, plea negotiations, and trials." As she navigated the hands-on learning at Legal Aid, Cabibbo had steadfast mentors. One was St. John's Law alumna Maria Martinez, a staff attorney in the office's Criminal Defense Practice.

Like Cabibbo, Martinez grew up in New York and, from an early age, was drawn to work in the public interest. "As far back as I can remember, I was interested in criminal

law," she says. "In high school, I attended a summer law program where we received a case file and prepared for a mock trial. I've been hooked on trial work ever since. When it came time to apply to law school, St. John's was a natural choice. Its Vincentian mission is consistent with my personal philosophy of helping those who are poor, marginalized, and struggle to access justice."

Also, like Cabibbo, Martinez participated in the Law School's Criminal Defense Clinic and found it a formative experience. "Had it not been for the Clinic, I don't think I would be where I am today," she says. "The curriculum was comprehensive and engaging, and weekly lectures helped us connect what we were studying in class to real world law practice. In fact, I found my Clinic work so rewarding that I've basically been at Legal Aid ever since."

As a Legal Aid staff attorney, Martinez provides holistic, client-centered representation to low-income New Yorkers facing misdemeanor, felony, and homicide charges. "I handle matters from arraignments through hearings and trials, working closely with other units in our office to help mitigate any collateral consequences my clients could face due to their arrest or conviction," she explains. When presented with an opportunity to support Cabibbo during her time in the Criminal Defense Practice, Martinez didn't hesitate.

"Mentoring Allie was one of my most rewarding experiences at Legal Aid to date," she says. "She was high energy and always ready, willing, and able to dive into the work. She spent countless hours at arraignments with me, including Saturday nights. I may have given Allie some practical tools, but

she sure put them to good use. Through her perseverance and amazing advocacy, she gained the trust and respect of her clients and the attorneys in our office. I consider her a colleague, and I know our connection—as lawyers in the public interest and as representatives of St. John's Law—will remain strong."

The connection to Martinez also endures for Cabibbo, who, as a St. John's Law Summer Public Interest Fellow, returned to Legal Aid this past summer to work in its Consumer Law Project in Jamaica, Queens. "What I enjoyed most about Maria's mentorship during my year in the Clinic was feeling comfortable being confused, confident in my representation despite being such a novice, and being able to be candid with my questions," she says. "I always felt like my input mattered, and that I was part of the Legal Aid team."

Cabibbo also appreciates that she and Martinez have St. John's Law in common. "Alumni mentors are vital because law school can feel very abstract and legal practice can feel like a misty, distant shore," she observes. "Getting to know an attorney, delving into their day-to-day work, and understanding their role in the immense legal community makes your own career feel more tangible and less mysterious. I don't know how anyone could choose a career path without a mentor in the field, and I'm very grateful for Maria's guidance as I chart mine."

➤ To learn more about, and to support, the Legal Aid Society's work for justice, please visit [legalaidnyc.org](http://legalaidnyc.org) or contact Sharon Kleinhandler at [SKleinhandler@legal-aid.org](mailto:SKleinhandler@legal-aid.org)



# Christine Bella '96 Builds Community as a Legal Aid Lawyer and Nonprofit Leader

**F**rom a young age, Christine Bella was crystal clear about her career path. “I wanted to be a ‘poverty lawyer’ before I even knew what public interest lawyers did,” says the New York native. “So I arrived for my first day at St. John’s Law intent on working as a community-based lawyer for a nonprofit legal aid or legal services office.” Bella pursued her professional interests as a law student and, in her final year at St. John’s, she received a fellowship to work at the Legal Aid Society after graduation.

The nation’s oldest and largest provider of legal services to the indigent, Legal Aid works in the courtroom and in the community on behalf of vulnerable New Yorkers who struggle to access justice. Bella started her fellowship in the organization’s Civil Practice. “I worked in our Community Law Office located in East Harlem, first representing victims of domestic violence, and then people living with HIV/AIDS,” she recalls. “After my fellowship, I transferred to Legal Aid’s Juvenile Rights Practice, where I advocated for children in abuse and neglect cases, and for young people arrested and charged as juvenile delinquents in the Bronx and in Brooklyn. After several years, I moved to our Criminal Defense Practice.”

While she has served communities throughout New York City, Bella has worked in lower Manhattan for the past decade with the Juvenile Rights Practice’s Special Litigation and Law Reform Unit. “We bring class actions to address systemic problems in child welfare and juvenile justice,” she explains. “For example, for nearly a decade, I’ve been counsel on a statewide class action involving claims of unconstitutional, abusive restraint practices and inadequate mental health treatment in state-operated juvenile prisons. I worked on the case from investigation, through years of litigation, to settlement and, now, monitoring.”

Bella has benefitted from handling such diverse matters in the public interest. “With each transition at Legal Aid, I gained new lawyering skills and a deeper understanding of the complexities and intersectionality of living in poverty in New York City,” she says. Her varied experience is the foundation of her holistic approach to practice. “Clients rarely present with just one legal issue,” she notes.



“Usually, they’re confronting many stressors and have complex needs that I help them address through a wide range of legal services and referrals.”

In addition to litigating for Legal Aid, Bella presents testimony at public hearings and participates in policy and legislative advocacy. Outside the office, she continues her work to uplift marginalized New Yorkers. “Having been proximate to suffering and the negative impact of racism, oppression, and poverty, I’m dedicated to building community and community connections,” she shares. That commitment manifests in her leadership roles at two local nonprofits.

Bella co-founded Preparing Leaders of Tomorrow (PLOT), which provides mentors to boys living in Brooklyn, particularly those involved in, or at risk of being involved in, the criminal or juvenile justice systems. She sits as Vice Chair of PLOT’s Board of Directors and oversees its operations and fundraising efforts. She is also on the Board of Directors of Drama Club, a theater and internship program for incarcerated youth in New York City.

Over the years, Bella has taken many opportunities to share her work with St. John’s Law students and prospective students. “I’ve had the pleasure of being witness to great advocates and champions, and have met so many people who have overcome incredible adversity in the face of prejudice, cynicism, and indifference,” she says. “The work is inspiring. The people are inspiring. And I’m happy to do whatever I can to nurture the next generation of public interest lawyers and community builders.”

➤ You can learn more about PLOT and ways to support its work at [plotforyouth.org](https://plotforyouth.org). For more information about Drama Club and support opportunities there, please visit [dramaclubnyc.org](https://dramaclubnyc.org)



## AFAF NASHER '97SVC, '05L ADVOCATES FOR NEW YORK'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY

No one was texting under the table. There were no drooping eyelids, or gazes out windows. The young women and men from St. John's Ronald H. Brown Law School Prep Program for College Students listened with rapt attention recently, as civil rights activist Afaf Nasher recounted her path to her current work as Executive Director for the New York Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-NY).

It was a journey of faith and determination. "I was born in Yemen, a small and poor country on the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula," Nasher says. "Specifically, I was born at my grandmother's neighbor's house, as giving birth at a hospital was rare in my mom's generation. I immigrated to New York City with my family when I was an infant, and we settled in Queens, where I've lived ever since."

Nasher, who is one of seven children, loved school. But her aspirations to higher education were often met with doubt and disapproval from her traditional Yemeni American community. Although she was only 16 when she got married, she became the first female in her family to graduate high school and college. By the time she entered St. John's Law, she had two young daughters.

"A lot of people have shared with me that someone they care about, or even an acquaintance, has told them that they'll never make it to law school, or through law school, or become a lawyer," Nasher says. "People I care about told me the same thing—several times." Despite the naysayers, she was undeterred. She had a long-standing dream to fulfill.

"My intention to attend law school surfaced as a young teenager, and was cemented by the time I was 14," says Nasher. "It initially stemmed from a very proud fascination with our country's ideals of equality and justice. That fascination became an urgent calling after the tragedy of 9/11. While Muslim Americans were also in mourning at the devastation, we faced immediate backlash, and we were grossly unprepared for it. So I felt required to do whatever I could to defend our nation's stated commitment to 'one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'"

At St. John's, Nasher's classroom experience and hands-on learning in the clinical program solidified her commitment to helping victims of injustice. "I am Muslim, and living one's faith conscientiously through everyday actions, including those of charity and service to others, was and remains very important to me," she shares.

After starting her legal career as a commercial litigator, Nasher took a professional hiatus to care for her newborn daughter. "As much as I appreciate *Sesame Street*, I grew restless," she says. "I prayed that God would give me an opportunity to utilize myself productively in a way that pleases Him. Soon after, opportunities to do charitable work presented themselves. Among them was a random meeting my husband had with a man who, unbeknownst to us, was on CAIR-NY's Board of Directors. He invited us for dinner and, by the end of the evening, asked me if I wanted to join the Board. Within two years of this destined meeting with a stranger, I was accepted as a CAIR-NY Board member, then asked to become Board President, and finally invited to transition into the full-time Executive Director role."

As one of the busiest chapters of America's premier Muslim civil rights group, CAIR-NY defends, represents, and educates nearly one million Muslims in the New York area. "We empower the Muslim community by building coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding, and by encouraging participation in political and social activism," Nasher explains. "We also advocate on behalf of Muslims and others who have experienced discrimination, harassment, or hate crimes. By upholding our country's constitution and founding values, we're supporting the rights of all Americans."

Nasher returns to St. John's Law regularly to share her experience as a civil rights advocate and activist. "Coming back to the Law School gives me an opportunity to learn from, and be inspired by, our future leaders," she says. "Interacting with students, faculty, and administrators renews my hope for a better tomorrow, and so the benefit is truly mine." Those who have heard Nasher speak at St. John's say the benefit is mutual, and appreciate the power of her message. "Every living human being has some responsibility to better the plight of humanity," Nasher observes, "and lawyers are particularly charged with shaping, promoting, and demanding laws which further the justice that intolerance seeks to destroy. Each and every one of us should heed that call."

➤ Please visit [cair-ny.org](http://cair-ny.org) to learn more about the New York Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations and how you can help to support its work.



# CHRISTINE BURKE '93

## Teams With St. John's Law for Justice

All criminal predators are ruthless, but these schemers were particularly despicable. As operatives of the Kings Development Group and its affiliates, they preyed on elderly New York City homeowners. One of their victims was a U.S. military veteran, who was in a VA rehabilitation facility recovering from an organ transplant when Kings' agents asked him to sign legal documents. He and his wife thought they were avoiding foreclosure. In reality, they were transferring ownership of their home.

As victims of the deed theft scheme came forward, the Queens District Attorney's Office investigated their claims. The case was assigned to Senior Assistant District Attorney Christine Burke in the Economic Crimes Bureau's Elder Fraud Unit, a career prosecutor with 25 years on the job.

The work suits Burke. Growing up on Long Island, her parents were model public servants. "My father retired from the New York City Police Department after 30 years of service, and my mother has had a long career as a visiting nurse," she says. "I was always around people who valued and respected law enforcement, and I knew from an early age that I wanted to be a lawyer and which side of the law I wanted to be on." Burke enrolled in the evening program at St. John's Law and, as a 2L, she worked for the Queens DA as a paralegal. "After that, I set my sights on becoming a prosecutor," she recalls.

Burke started as an ADA in Queens just two weeks after taking the bar exam. She accrued practical skills and experience in the Criminal Court and Intake Bureaus, presented countless cases while assigned to the Grand Jury Bureau, and handled a wide range of government fraud investigations for the Economic Crimes Bureau. "Government fraud includes welfare fraud, housing fraud,

unemployment fraud, and other fraud related to government benefits," Burke explains. "These crimes don't just hurt the agency being defrauded, they also hurt the people who should rightfully benefit from government programs and, of course, the taxpayers who support them." Burke then spent eight years heading the Public Assistance Unit at the Nassau County District Attorney's Office before returning to the Queens DA's Economic Crimes Bureau.

With her latest assignment to the Elder Fraud Unit, Burke uses her talents to right wrongs perpetrated against the elderly. "I've met so many wonderful seniors who have such interesting life stories and, unfortunately, many of them come to my office after someone has exploited their vulnerability," she says. "If I can make their life a little bit better by holding a defendant accountable for their criminal conduct, then I've succeeded in doing justice."

In the case of the defrauded veteran and his wife, justice also required a helping hand. "I knew they were still facing foreclosure and couldn't negotiate with the mortgage company until the fraudulent deed was reversed," Burke shares. "So I reached out to agencies that serve veterans, and that led the couple to the Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic at St. John's Law, which agreed to represent them."

Helping the needy and underserved gain equal access to the legal system is a cornerstone of the services offered by the Clinic, which is supervised by Professors Ann L. Goldweber and Gina M. Calabrese. Staffed by student advocates, the Clinic provides representation to individuals who would otherwise go without counsel against well-represented foreclosure rescue scammers, debt collectors, and debt buyers.



L-R: Christine Burke, Ann Goldweber, and Gina Calabrese

"While the criminal and civil matters remained separate, the clinic students and I communicated with ADA Burke regularly and met with her in person," Professor Calabrese says. "That collaboration helped us resolve the civil case more quickly than we otherwise would have. We negotiated a stipulated judgment, entered by the court, declaring the fraudulent deed null and void. Once recorded in the property record, the judgment restored record title to our clients as if the fraudulent transaction never occurred. Seeing justice prevail through our teamwork with ADA Burke, a St. John's Law alumna, was an exceptional learning experience for our students."

After helping the veteran and his wife regain rightful title, the Clinic continued representing them as they successfully negotiated a loan modification. "They're now living in their home and making their mortgage payments," says Professor Goldweber, who handled the matter. She also led the Clinic team that took on a second case involving an elderly victim of the Kings Development scam. "ADA Burke helped us secure another wonderful result for our client, who was able to avoid a protracted civil proceeding," Professor Goldweber says. "Instead, the judge presiding over the related criminal case agreed to void the fraudulent deed transfer *ab initio* as part of the defendant's plea

bargain. Legal title reverted back to our client, who was made whole with \$123,000 in restitution."

On Burke's recommendation, the Clinic has received \$11,000 in donations under plea deals in the Kings Development cases. "We're very grateful for the support and recognition," Professor Goldweber says. "The Clinic has been collaborating successfully with the Queens DA's Economic Crimes Bureau for over a decade. Working with ADA Burke, a tireless advocate for victimized seniors, has been particularly meaningful and rewarding."

Burke also appreciates the collaboration. "I now see more clearly the importance of staying connected to the institution that helped me become the attorney I am today, and I'm hopeful that I've given a little bit back as well," she shares. "I'm truly grateful to be an alumna of St. John's Law, and to be able to join with its Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic to serve and uplift our Queens community."

➤ To learn more about the Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic, please visit [stjohns.edu/law/clinics](http://stjohns.edu/law/clinics). You can make a gift online to support the clinics by visiting [lawgiving.stjohns.edu](http://lawgiving.stjohns.edu)



## Kristin M. Roshelli '10

### Helps Afghan Interpreters Who Served America on the Front Lines

nurse in a medical intensive care unit. "As a nurse, I helped people through stressful times and advocated on their behalf," she says. "I understood that lawyers do the same thing, just on a different scale, and I enrolled at St. John's Law knowing that I wanted to practice health law in some capacity."

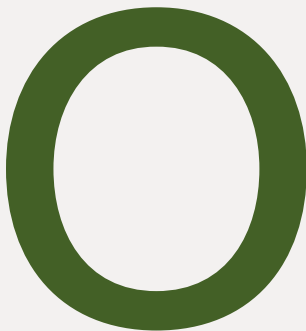
As a law student, Roshelli found support in St. John's network of alumni and student veterans and helped to start the Law School's Armed Forces Society. She also achieved academically, earning a spot on the *St. John's Law Review* and serving on its editorial board as a Notes and Comments Editor. After graduation, she held a federal clerkship with Hon. P. Kevin Castel '72SVC, '75L, '04HON in the Southern District of New York before practicing as a healthcare attorney at one of New York's preeminent law firms.

Now, at King & Spalding, Roshelli works with healthcare providers and suppliers on a variety of regulatory, compliance, and transactional matters. Her clients include health systems, hospitals, academic medical centers, medical schools, physician groups, ambulatory surgical centers, and clinical laboratories. Despite her busy practice, Roshelli makes *pro bono* work a priority.

"Erich, who's also a military veteran, and I took on this *pro bono* matter through our firm's partnership with the International Refugee Assistance Project," she explains. "Our client had volunteered to help the U.S. forces shortly after his 18th birthday and, for over seven years, he translated for high-ranking military officials in multiple, active combat zones and arranged meetings between the U.S. military and community leaders in his hometown. He was ambushed by gunmen because he aided the U.S. As the representation evolved, I became involved with the nonprofit Veterans for American Ideals (VFAI) and its parent organization, Human Rights First, who are working to ensure the ongoing operation of the SIV program."

In April, Roshelli took her mission to Capitol Hill, where she and fellow VFAI leaders advocated for the SIV program. "I'm very proud of what we've accomplished so far," she says. "Unfortunately, there's still a lot more to be done, for my client and for the many others who helped us in Afghanistan. Our country made a promise to them, and I'm going to do all I can to make sure we keep it."

➤ To learn more about Veterans for American Ideals and to support its work on behalf of Afghani interpreters and others, please visit [vfai.org](http://vfai.org)



Operation Enduring Freedom launched in Afghanistan less than one month after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. From the outset, local Afghan interpreters stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. troops on the ground, providing vital aid in the War on Terror.

It was very difficult and dangerous work for the interpreters, who faced retaliation from terrorist groups. Recognizing their sacrifice, the U.S. Congress established a special immigrant visa (SIV) program that offers Afghan interpreters and their families a direct path to citizenship in America.

But, as it's rolled out over the years, the SIV program has been plagued by problems. The application process can take more than three years and cost thousands of dollars to complete. Also, according to recent reports, the number of Afghans seeking visas has surpassed the number of available visas. All this has left around 9,000 SIV applicants and 13,000 family members in limbo.

Kristin Roshelli, a senior associate in the Houston Healthcare Practice at King & Spalding LLP, is well aware of the hardships that these stalled applicants endure. Together with her law firm colleague, Erich Almonte, she represents *pro bono* a former Afghan interpreter and his family in their SIV applications.

Roshelli has long seen the connection between service to others and the law. Prior to studying at St. John's, she served in the U.S. Air Force Nursing Corps, worked in the general counsel's office of a large academic medical center, and practiced as a registered



# DAN CLIVNER '88

## PUTS DOING GOOD INTO PRACTICE

There is a framed lithograph on the wall in Dan Clivner's office at Sidley Austin LLP. His parents gave it to him as a gift when he graduated from St. John's Law, and it's hung in every office he has occupied since then. It conveys a simple, but powerful, message from Deuteronomy 16:20: *Justice, Justice Shalt Thou Pursue.*

Those five words have guided Clivner through a successful career rooted in his early interest in the law. Born and raised in Queens, he participated in extracurricular moot court and mock trial programs during high school and college. He also worked in a small law firm, where he met some enthusiastic St. John's Law alumni. They encouraged him to attend their *alma mater*, and he took their advice.

Clivner excelled as a law student and became a member of the *St. John's Law Review*, which he considers a formative experience. "Working on the *Law Review* was a privilege and honor," he says. "It gave me excellent credentials for job hunting. More than that, it instilled the importance of attention to detail and writing and research, which are critical to success in 'Big Law.'"

After graduating from St. John's, Clivner spent years honing his craft as a corporate attorney at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. He eventually left New York to serve as managing partner of the firm's Los Angeles office, where he advised The Seagram Company and Universal Studios in connection with television industry, theme park, motion picture, and music business transactions.

In 2015, Clivner joined Sidley, where he is co-leader of the firm's M&A and Private Equity practice, managing partner of its Los Angeles and Century City offices, and a member of the Executive Committee. While he has earned acclaim for his work on a variety of high-profile transactional matters, Clivner has never lost sight of the clarion call framed on his office wall.

"Even early on, I tried to find the time to take on interesting *pro bono* matters, including an asylum case, an adoption from foster care, advice to a non-profit organization, and board service," he shares. "As I became more senior, I was able to introduce resources of the firm beyond my own capabilities to the *pro bono* partner." Recently, that included an affiliation with Public Counsel, the nation's largest *pro bono* law firm. Public Counsel assists more than 30,000 families, children, immigrants, veterans, and nonprofit organizations annually and addresses systemic poverty and civil rights issues through impact litigation and policy advocacy.



"I began by taking on cases and contributing funds," Clivner says of his Public Counsel connection. "Soon thereafter, Public Counsel asked me to join its Board of Directors. That allowed me to learn more about the organization's inner workings and impact. Later, I served on its Executive Committee as an officer and as Chairman." Public Counsel and Sidley have teamed on a groundbreaking, impact litigation against the State of Michigan asserting a constitutional right to literacy, which is now on appeal. They also collaborated to assist on the DACA appeal to the 9th Circuit and the pending family separation cases.

In addition to supporting Public Counsel, Clivner has served as director of APLA Health (formerly AIDS Project Los Angeles), volunteer work that earned him a nomination for *Chambers Diversity's* LGBT Equality Lawyer of the Year. Through his current position on the Williams Institute Legal Council, he advances research on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy. "I joined the Williams Institute to better connect Sidley and to counter bias with advanced data," Clivner says. "By lending my name to its mission and sharing my story, I hope I can inspire others and have an outsized impact."

Experience tells Clivner that the demand for *pro bono* legal services will only grow in the coming years, and he welcomes

the opportunity to be of service. "If we want to be among the best lawyers and law firms in the country, we will be judged by whether we're bringing justice to the poorest and neediest in our communities," he says. "Doing so elevates us. True to my St. John's roots and my parents' teachings, I will always prioritize doing good over doing well."

➤ You can learn more about Public Counsel and support its work by visiting [publiccounsel.org](http://publiccounsel.org). For more information about APLA Health and support opportunities there, please go to [aplahealth.org](http://aplahealth.org). To find out more about the Williams Institute, and to support its mission, please visit [williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu](http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu)



Dan Clivner's Office Lithograph

School children assisted by  
the Uzima Centre in Tanzania



Photo: Joanne Miya

# *Called to Go Forth and Serve*

Alumni Support  
the Work of  
Maryknoll  
Lay Missioners





**Bob Carlsen (left) and Mike Cammarota (right) on a mission trip to Nepal**

**Robert C. (Bob) Carlsen '88** can't give up his *Maryknoll Magazine* collection. Hundreds of issues sit in a box in his basement, containing thousands of stories he read growing up in Queens and on Long Island in the 1960s and 1970s. Back then, the print publication was a staple of Catholic parishes and households, and its vivid content brought home the work of Maryknoll, a Catholic non-profit, comprised of four organizations, that has been a pillar of the U.S. Catholic Church's global mission for more than 100 years.

"The magazine fascinated me," Carlsen says. "It was like the intersection of *National Geographic* and the *Tablet*. It showed priests and nuns traveling by donkey and motorcycle to visit communities in the Andes, work with tribes in Africa, and serve in remote parts of Asia. And they didn't just learn Spanish or Tagalog for their missions. They became conversant in pretty obscure tribal languages as a way to connect with the local people. As a kid interested in language and culture, and raised in a strong faith tradition, those stories played a big role in opening up the 'world church' to me. So when a missionary came to Sunday mass and passed out cards stating 'check the box if you're interested in joining Maryknoll,' I turned to my mom and said, 'check the box!'"

Now, several decades after that enthusiastic response, Carlsen is on the Board of Directors of Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM), an independent lay mission organization within the larger Maryknoll family. Serving alongside him is his good friend of 30 years, business associate, and fellow St. John's Law alumnus **Michael J. (Mike) Cammarota '82C, '85L**. Over the last eight years, the two have also lived the MKLM mission as short-term volunteers in El Salvador, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bolivia, and, most recently, Tanzania.

Like Carlsen, Cammarota is a Queens native who grew up in a Catholic family that encouraged faith-based volunteerism. He had a Catholic education through high school, earned his undergraduate degree from St. John's University, and enrolled at St. John's Law as a St. Thomas More Scholar. Excelling academically, he became a published member and an editor of the *St. John's Law Review*. After graduating, Cammarota

started in IBM's legal department, where he worked for 20 years. As Senior Attorney, he provided legal advice and counsel to personnel in the company's business units engaged in services, consulting, marketing, development, and manufacturing, among other responsibilities.

Every year, Cammarota returned to St. John's to connect with law students who had accepted positions at IBM. "In 1987, that was Bob Carlsen, and we hit it off immediately" he recalls. Carlsen had entered St. John's Law with a St. Thomas More Scholarship, and with confidence that he attributes to being "the son of a classic neighborhood lawyer who took on anything that came in the door." He served on the *St. John's Law Review*, ran the faculty research assistant program, and pursued his interests at the intersection of technology and corporate law. IBM was a natural fit for Carlsen at graduation.

His work there took him across the country and around the world, learning about technology, software, procurement, and litigation. As Senior Counsel in IBM's software business, Carlsen relocated to Bangalore, where he spent two years advising the company's software labs in the region. "Living as an expat in India turned into the greatest spiritual journey of my life," he says. "I was with Hindus, Muslims, Jains, and others in a big, churning country that was just starting to feel its global presence. The Gandhi history and legacy, and the deep personal commitment to holiness I saw in so many Indians, strengthened my Catholic faith tremendously." In his memoir, *Sacred Dust on Crowded Streets*, Carlsen deftly recounts his life-changing experiences in India.



Clockwise from top, Cammarota and Carlsen on mission trips: in Nepal with the Bishop of Nepal and others; with Fr. Bill Vos, the Bishop of Zanzibar, and others in Tanzania; on the shores of Tanzania's Lake Victoria with Fr. Bill Vos; in Tanzania playing flash cards with school children







Terry Miller viewing bones from mass grave in Chile

In the years that followed, Carlsen left IBM to lead the global software legal practice at Accenture, a management consulting and professional services firm where he is now Director—Legal Services. The move reunited him professionally with Cammarota, who had already left IBM to become Accenture’s Managing Director—Senior Director of Legal Services, Global Transactions. “The boys in the band were back together,” says Cammarota, expressing a warm camaraderie that carries over to their service with MKLM, including their most recent lay mission in Tanzania.

“Lay missions are refreshing because they’re just about good people interacting with good people, serving others, and putting our lives in perspective,” Cammarota says. “Like our prior missions, Tanzania was a fabulous experience. We stopped in a number of cities to visit with missionaries, work in their missions, and attend mass with them and the people they support, often in Swahili.” Cammarota took particular delight in interacting with the children that he and Carlsen met along the way. “That’s one of the many constants about these trips: kids are simply awesome,” he says. “We went to a school run by Maryknoll and they were so happy to show us around and play with us. I was particularly good at flash cards.”

Carlsen shares his friend’s enthusiasm. “Our Tanzania trip was specially designed by Father William Vos, an MKLM missionary who worked with rural tribes for 30 years,” he explains. “With his contacts, we visited places the average traveler can’t access, including MKLM mission sites focused on education, women’s empowerment, and self-sustaining communities. It was great to meet some of the successful students and catechists that Fr. Bill has worked with, such as a young man who, with Maryknoll’s support, studied law at university and became a district court judge.”

Carlsen and Cammarota also traveled to a remote village, where they enjoyed a traditional meal of goat and other foods prepared by a family to celebrate all that Fr. Bill did for their son, who had just joined the priesthood. “This is the impact of acting locally and globally according to the Maryknoll way,” Carlsen observes. “Change one person’s life in rural Tanzania and the pond ripples with new opportunity, new hope, and new dreams for everyone on the path. We saw this time and time again in Africa.”

The insight that Cammarota and Carlsen gain on their lay missions around the world informs their stewardship on MKLM’s Board of Directors, which is now led by fellow St. John’s Law alumnus **Terence W. Miller ’81**. “When we first met Terry on the Board, and found out he went to St. John’s, it was as if we were dealing with a known entity,” says Carlsen. “We knew the values, the hard work, the commitment, and the legal training he was bringing to his leadership role. Having served MKLM overseas for years, Terry also brings mission to life every day in a way that makes our shared experience even more special.”

Miller, who is Senior International Officer at Marquette University and has worked in senior international education leadership positions for 20 years, is equally delighted to work with Carlsen and Cammarota. “To have three St. John’s Law graduates on the same Board, sharing a commitment to Vincentian values, permits a level of trust that permeates our deliberations and decision making,” he says. Miller’s MKLM Board leadership is rooted in an early desire to advocate for human rights and social justice.

Raised in New York, he was one of six children in what he describes as “an active Catholic family” that made frequent trips to Maryknoll’s campus in nearby Westchester County. “I made the connection between a legal education, my interest in social justice and working for the economically poor, and my Catholic faith during Sunday family breakfasts with Father Murphy, our parish priest and the brother of John J. Murphy, who was Dean of St. John’s Law at the time,” Miller shares. “I wanted to use the law to benefit people who didn’t have access to justice.”

While earning his J.D. at St. John’s, Miller interned with the Legal Aid Society’s Civil Division in Queens. “It was a great opportunity to apply the excellent classroom instruction I was receiving at St. John’s along with the Vincentian value of serving the poor,” he recalls. “The internship continued through my 3L year and I was able to represent clients under attorney supervision in an array of civil matters. That experience helped me get my first full-time job after graduation as a defense attorney with Legal Aid in Brooklyn.

Looking to broaden his impact, Miller left Legal Aid to join MKLM as a lay missionary in the rural diocese of Linares, Chile. For the next three years, he worked with the families of individuals who were detained, disappeared, and tortured under Pinochet’s brutal dictatorship. “Among other duties, I assisted in the investigation and excavation of a mass grave where 17 victims of the repression had been secretly buried,” Miller says. “I also helped prepare Linares diocesan input for the National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation Report on human rights abuses during the dictatorship.” Miller then returned to the United States to serve MKLM full time in different leadership capacities before starting his career in international studies and education. A year ago, he joined the Board of Directors to support MKLM’s global commitment to the economic poor.

For Miller, Cammarota, and Carlsen, their affiliation with MKLM is a meaningful expression of their Catholic faith and of a lawyer’s duty to serve the greater good. “There are so many lawyers out there, wishing they could stretch themselves a bit,” says Carlsen. “I believe that, as a lawyer, you’re a person first. As a Catholic, you’re a force of change in the world. And as a St. John’s Law graduate, you’re part of a powerful network. So there are no limits to the synergies that our St. John’s legal training and our faith can drive. The world needs committed folks to go forth and serve, and MKLM has plenty of ways to get involved.” For Cammarota, it’s a simple equation: “I’m a kid from Queens who, through hard work, good luck, and help from others, has been able to live a blessed and fulfilling life. I need to give back. We all need to give back.”

➤ To learn more about Maryknoll Lay Missioners, and to support its work around the world, please visit [mklm.org](http://mklm.org)



# LISA KURBIEL '92 AIDS CHILDREN IN A LAND OF GREAT DISPARITIES

It sometimes seems like there are two Kenyas. There is the country that has become a regional economic superpower, outpacing Nigeria and South Africa as a hub for innovative financing and foreign direct investment. That Kenya has luxury apartments, hotels, and shopping malls. But in the shadows of all that prosperity are thousands of makeshift homes whose occupants suffer in poverty.

“The slums of Nairobi are known for their ‘flying toilets,’” says Lisa Kurbiel, who lives and works in the capital city as Chief of Communications, Advocacy & Partnerships for UNICEF Kenya. “Families are forced to package their waste in plastic bags, which are then flung over their tin rooftops. Imagine what happens when those bags land. Imagine the cholera outbreak when it rains.”

Kenya’s great disparities present a challenge and an opportunity for Kurbiel, as she and her team try to put UNICEF’s work on behalf of children at the center of a national dialogue involving high-level advocates and investors. “It’s our job to identify key moments linked to priority issues for advocacy,” she explains. “For example, in the wake of a recent polio outbreak, we launched a national campaign to

spotlight the safety and efficacy of routine vaccinations.”

Kurbiel recognizes that her work is a balancing act of sorts between responding to the urgent needs of children in a developing nation and engaging international stakeholders who see Kenya as key to their eight-percent growth margin. It’s a task that she is eager to take on and well-equipped to manage.

For over 20 years, Kurbiel has worked on human rights policies, legislative reform, programming strategies, and advocacy campaigns within the UN system. In that time, she has led initiatives to combat sexual abuse and exploitation, human trafficking, and child labor around the world, and has advised governments on their long-term legislative, policy, and development strategies. Most recently, she worked as Chief of the Social Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at UNICEF Somalia.

Kurbiel traces her career in international humanitarian service to her final year at St. John’s Law, when she interned with the UN’s former Centre for Transnational Corporations. “I was tremendously affected by the imbalance of power I witnessed as countries attempted to negotiate with multinationals over natural resources,”

she says. “Governments that had tremendous resources but no legal representation signed deals detrimental to their interests. It was so clearly unfair that I felt it was important to try and help. I joined the UN full time after passing the bar exam.”

As she advocates for Africa’s children, Kurbiel draws on the legal training she received at St. John’s. “My law degree positions me well to handle a range of issues,” she says. “A strong advocate means determining which evidence to present in a particular negotiation at the opportune time. In Somalia, there was an issue of price gouging during the most recent drought. I proposed language for a presidential decree, based on U.S. and European examples, and presented text for national legislation. I was proud to be a part of something so directly linked to saving lives in a humanitarian emergency.”

In Kenya, Kurbiel also taps her legal skills and experience to build partnerships between UNICEF and private entities. “We see doing good for children as good business, and look for ways to co-create partnerships that help corporate agendas while moving UNICEF’s agenda forward,” she shares. “At the global level, our partners range from IKEA to Phillips to Procter and Gamble. At the national level, our

challenge is to access local corporate leaders, like the tele mobile operator Safaricom. Recently, I’ve been working with DLA Piper, UNICEF’s global *pro bono* law firm, as we try to set up an investment fund for donors who want to focus their support on youth employment.”

Throughout her career, Kurbiel has maintained close ties to *alma mater*. While based in New York, she initiated an externship program at the UN for St. John’s Law students and, later, she hosted two student interns in Mozambique. “It was fabulous for me,” says Kurbiel, “and it gave the students a chance to see the day-to-day realities of working in service of children in one of the poorest countries in the world. UNICEF’s work around the globe aligns closely with St. John’s Vincentian mission. It’s enormously fulfilling to use your law degree to help poor, vulnerable, and marginalized children who don’t have a voice and desperately need us to advocate for them.”

➤ If you would like to learn more about corporate partnership opportunities with, or ways to support, UNICEF Kenya, please contact Lisa at [lkurbiel@unicef.org](mailto:lkurbiel@unicef.org)





On Sunday June 3, 2018, 227 J.D. candidates, 63 LL.M. candidates, and their 3000 guests joined faculty, administrators, and alumni for the 2018 Commencement Exercises.



# COMMENCEMENT 2018

“Great lawyers have never been more important than now. The rule of law has never been more important than now. And good leaders have never been more important than now. That means you!”

2018 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER PREET BHARARA '18HON  
FORMER U.S. ATTORNEY, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK





# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Dear Friends,

I'm privileged to serve as the president of our Alumni Association for the 2018–2019 term. It's an honor to have this opportunity to give back to the institution that has done so much for me.

Today's St. John's Law is in some ways much like the Law School that I remember as a student. It remains a close and congenial community where a diverse student body learns the fundamentals of the law from an outstanding faculty.

However, under the leadership of Dean Michael A. Simons, today's students also benefit from innovative courses, programs, and initiatives that position them for success in our global profession. Externships and the many opportunities afforded by our clinics and academic centers provide our students with a true practice experience.

I look forward to working closely with Dean Simons, as well as with Brian Woods, Claire McKeever, the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and the entire Law School staff to ensure the Alumni Association's continued role in supporting St. John's Law.

I encourage you to join me in this endeavor by mentoring our students, offering them employment opportunities, and supporting the Law School financially. We've always been a loyal and tight-knit alumni family and, together, we can help St. John's Law continue to thrive.

I look forward to seeing you soon, and to working with you for the benefit of *alma mater*.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Gartner '84  
Co-Chair, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP



**1** | Rose F. DiMartino '81, senior counsel at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, hosted **Celebrating Women**, a special event sponsored by the Law School's Women's Law Society on March 13, 2018. St. John's Law admitted women to its first class in 1925 and has a long history of supporting women in the legal profession. The Women's Club, established at the Law School in the late 1920s as a legal forum just for women, evolved into today's Women's Law Society. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Leadership Award to Krista Miniutti '96, a partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. Ashley Kloepfer '11, a staff attorney at Brooklyn Defender Services, received the Public Services Award, and Michelle M. Johnson '05, Director of Production Legal at Sony Pictures Entertainment, was the Outstanding Alumna Award recipient.

**2** | Dean Michael A. Simons and alumni from the Southern California Chapter gathered at the beautiful home of Kairavi Patel-Daum '92 on March 23, 2018 for **A Conversation With Terence Winter '88**, the writer and producer behind such hits as *The Sopranos*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, and *Vinyl*.

**3** | On April 13, 2018, Manhattan's Tribeca Rooftop provided an elegant backdrop as more than 275 alumni, students, faculty, and friends celebrated the rich fabric of the Law School community at the second annual **Diversity & Inclusion Gala**. The evening's keynoter was David C. Banks '93, president and CEO of the Eagle Academy Foundation. Expressing gratitude for his St. John's legal education, Banks recalled how he navigated his years as an evening student, always encouraged and inspired by his professors, particularly the late Hon. Philip D. Roache.

**4** | The **Class of 1973 45th Reunion** was held at the Law School on May 11, 2018. Once again, Thomas J. Principe '69C, '73L, a partner at Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore, did a terrific job as event organizer. Dean Michael A. Simons and Professor Robert E. Parella '11HON were on hand for the festivities.

**5** | Manhattan's historic Metropolitan Club was the venue for the **Law Review Alumni Reception and Dinner** on May 15, 2018. Dean Michael A. Simons started the evening with a ceremonial farewell to the journal's graduating members. The celebration continued with tributes to event honoree Rose F. DiMartino '81, who is senior counsel at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP.





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6 | On June 6, 2018, the Manhattan Chapter hosted the **Hon. John E. Sprizzo Reception** at the iconic New York Athletic Club. Dean Michael A. Simons

welcomed the alumni, friends, and members of the judiciary who came to celebrate United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York William H. Pauley III. The Hon. John E. Sprizzo Award, presented to Judge Pauley, recognizes individuals for their commitment to the rule of law, and is named in honor of its first recipient, the late Hon. John E. Sprizzo '56C, '59L, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

7 | Members of the Law School's Loughlin Society cheered (and groaned) at a special **Subway Series Event at Citifield** on June 8, 2018. The Loughlin Society is St. John's leadership giving society, and this marked the second year that Law Loughlin members gathered for a night of Subway Series fun and entertainment.

8 | The Law School Alumni Association hosted the **Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. '72, '07HON Memorial Golf Outing** on June 12, 2018 at the award-winning Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle. It was a perfect day, both on the course and at the dinner and auction, to celebrate Hon. Lawrence Knipel, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters at the New York State Supreme Court in Kings County, and Alain V. Massena '97C, '00L, a principal at Massena Law P.C.

Philip McManus '68C, '72L, did another outstanding job as event chair, helping to raise funds for the Law School's Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. '72 Memorial Scholarship.

9 | On June 19, 2018, alumni gathered for the **Brooklyn Chapter Spring Dinner** at Marco Polo Ristorante.

Chapter President Joseph Sorrentino '05 and Chapter Founder Hon. Reinaldo E. Rivera '76, '06HON welcomed the evening's honoree, Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman '75, presiding justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, and presented him with the Hon. Guy J. Mangano Award in recognition of his strength of character, leadership, and unwavering devotion to *alma mater*.

10 | Fun and camaraderie were on tap for the first-ever **Queens Chapter Happy Hour** on June 21, 2018. Over 30 alumni enjoyed the rooftop views from Bourbon Street in Bayside while making professional connections, enjoying friends, and sharing common St. John's Law bonds.

11 | On June 28, 2018, more than 280 alumni from the classes of 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, and 2017 celebrated **Reunion 2018** at the New York Athletic Club. It was a fun and lively evening as friends old and new connected and party-hopped with the other classes.

12 | On July 24 and 25, 2018, Dean Michael A. Simons and members of the Law School's faculty and staff were on hand to offer a hearty lunch and cheering section to **St. John's New York Bar Exam Takers**.

At the **Alumni Association Annual Meeting** on May 22, 2018, Dean Michael A. Simons presented outgoing president Lourdes Martinez-Cipolla '92 with an award in recognition of her dedication and leadership over the past year.



Here is the Alumni Association's new slate of officers and directors:

#### OFFICERS

**President**  
Steven J. Gartner '84

**President-Elect**  
Michael Mattone '91

**Vice Presidents**  
James Herschlein '85  
Michelle Johnson '05  
Rachel Paras '04

**Secretary**  
Lisa Chun '00

**Treasurer**  
Eun Chong Thorsen '08

#### DIRECTORS

##### Second Three-Year Term (Expires in 2021)

Michael Carroll '97  
Kathryn Carney Cole '02  
Robert Gunther '81C, '84L  
Michael Henry '97  
Kevin Khurana '09  
Alfred Williams '14  
Kathryn Zunno '06

##### First Three-Year Term (Expires in 2021)

Nelson Castillo '93CBA, '98L  
Ellen Knarr '05  
Thomas Giuffra '94  
Christopher Palmer '94

**Honorary Director**  
Samuel S. Lionel '40, '10HON

# CLASS NOTES



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At 98 years young, **Samuel S. Lionel '10HON** has been elected to serve as an honorary director of the Law School Alumni Association.

'64 The Catholic Lawyers Guild of Brooklyn presented its St. Thomas More Award to **Bartholomew M. Verdirame** in recognition of a lifetime of leadership in, and faithful service to, the legal community and the Guild.

'65 *Continental Who's Who* recognized **Bernd Allen** as a Pinnacle Lifetime Member in the field of real estate law in recognition of his role as a senior partner at Allen, Morris & Troisi LLP.

'69 On April 26, 2018, at a special session of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, the Theodore Roosevelt Courthouse lobby atrium was dedicated to **Hon. Raymond J. Dearie '08HON**.

'76 **Ronald Fatoullah**, of Ronald Fatoullah & Associates, serves as co-chair of the Alzheimer's Association Long Island Chapter Board of Directors and is chair of its Legal Committee. The Queens Interagency Council on Aging honored him with its Leon Von Holden Advocacy Award for his outstanding leadership, community service, and commitment to the needs of older adults throughout New York.

'78 **Joann Prinzivalli** is the state director and founder of the New York Transgender Rights Organization and has been named to the Westchester County LGBTQ Advisory Board.

'80 **Mary Ann Aiello**, a partner at Aiello, DiFalco & Gianakos LLP, has been named to *Super Lawyers* 2018 New York–Metro Super Lawyers list.

*Super Lawyers* has named **Gerard K. Ryan**, a partner at Kelner & Kelner, to its 2018 New York–Metro Super Lawyers list.

**Alan J. Schwartz** received the Melville Chamber of Commerce's Michael J. Weisbrod Memorial Award in recognition of his charitable contributions and philanthropy.

'81 **Eugene A. Schlanger** has joined Commerzbank AG as senior counsel in New York, with a focus on OTC derivatives.

'86 **Thomas Kowalski** has joined Duane Morris LLP as a partner. He is a registered U.S. Patent attorney whose practice includes biotech, chemical and medical apparatus litigation, patent prosecution, licensing, and counseling. He also represents his clients in procuring and enforcing trademarks worldwide.

'87 The Securities and Exchange Commission has named **Maura C. Keating** an associate regional director for the investment adviser and investment company examination program in the agency's New York regional office.

'88 **Francis V. Kelly** is the commander of the U.S. Army 4th Legal Operations Detachment headquartered at Fort Totten in Queens.

**Patrick McCormick** received the Suffolk County Bar Association's (SCBA) Directors' Award in recognition of his conscientious and meritorious service to the Association and the Suffolk Academy of Law and his zeal and enthusiasm for all of the activities of the Association and the Academy. McCormick continues his term as dean of the Suffolk Academy of Law and also serves on the SCBA Board of Directors.

'89 **Paul Ferrillo** has joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP as a shareholder in the firm's cybersecurity, privacy, and crisis management practice. His practice focuses on cybersecurity corporate governance issues, complex securities and business litigation, and internal investigations.

**Hon. Michele S. Rodney** has been confirmed to serve on the New York Court of Claims. She will also serve as an acting Supreme Court justice.

'90 **Steven Reisman** has joined Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP as a partner. He counsels public company, private clients, and governmental entities on a wide range of domestic and international matters involving bankruptcy, restructuring, and creditors' rights.

'91 **Lori Lee Dickson** has joined McCarthy Fingar LLP as counsel, in the land use and municipal practice group.

'93 The Nassau County Bar Association presented **Thomas J. Foley**, a partner at Foley & Griffin, LLP, with the President's Award, its highest honor. Foley has served as the Nassau Academy of Law dean and was recognized for his extraordinary vision for the Academy and the Association.

**Anthony J. LaPorta** is a partner at Connell Foley LLP, where he litigates on behalf of clients across a wide range of matters, including probate litigation, complex commercial litigation, insurance coverage litigation, professional liability, products liability, premises liability, and construction defect. He also serves as a mediator in New Jersey.

**Raymond Martinez** was appointed director of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

**JoAnn C. Stonier** is the global privacy and data protection officer for Mastercard Worldwide. She is responsible for privacy compliance for the enterprise, which includes identifying, evaluating, and managing risks associated with privacy and information management on a global basis.



**'94 Carolyn Austin** has joined Greenspoon Marder LLP as a partner in the firm's real estate practice group. She specializes in navigating negotiations between lenders and borrowers in addition to landlord and tenant agreements.

**James Pitaro** has been named ESPN's president and co-chair of Disney Media Networks. He oversees a leading portfolio of multimedia sports assets with over 50 business entities internationally.

**Janet Rubinstein-Keller** was honored at this year's Brandeis Association Scholarship Fund Brunch, where she received the Barry Tivin Award for her extraordinary commitment to the legal community.

**'95 Alex Butterman** has joined Dunlap, Bennett & Ludwig, PLLC, where his practice covers all facets of trademark prosecution and practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and virtually every trademark office around the world.

The *Vanguard Law Magazine* article "Ending to a World of Responsibilities" featured **Laurence Grayer**, vice president, general counsel, and chief compliance officer at Creative Associates International.

**William J. Kelleher III** has been promoted to senior vice president, corporate counsel, and assistant secretary at People's United Bank, N.A.

*Savoy Magazine* named **Reginald Rasch**, general counsel and head of legal at Rakuten USA, Inc., to its Most Influential Black Lawyers list.

**Gary S. Rosner**, a partner at Ritter Chusid, LLP, was named to the City of Parkland, FL Planning and Zoning Advisory Board. He is also a Florida Supreme Court certified civil mediator.

**'97 Brian S. Cohen** has launched Lachtman Cohen PC along with his partners at the firm. An accomplished state and federal litigator, *Super Lawyers* has named him to its New York–Metro Super Lawyers list for the last several years, after selecting him to its New York–Metro Rising Stars list.

**Maria Pantina DiConza** has joined O'Melveny & Meyers LLP as a partner in the firm's bankruptcy and restructuring practice group.

**Jennifer Naeger** has been promoted to general counsel and vice president of Trek Bicycle Company.



**'99 Joseph Moreno**, a partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, is a frequent contributor to CNN and MSNBC coverage of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation and the Paul Manafort prosecution, among other topics in the media spotlight today.

Selective Insurance Company of America has promoted **Maria Orecchio** to senior vice president and deputy general counsel.

**Anna Roach** has been named chief operating officer of Fulton County, GA. In this role, she is responsible for oversight of all of the county's public-facing departments and agencies. She previously served as the county's chief strategy officer.

**'00 Lawrence P. Casson, Ph.D.** has joined Duane Morris as special counsel. His practice focuses in intellectual property law, and taps his experience in patent portfolio analysis, patent validity and infringement opinions, and patent drafting and prosecution, with particular emphasis on biotechnology.

**Darryl Gibbs**, lead director and associate general counsel at AXA US, was named to *Savoy Magazine's* list of Most Influential Black Lawyers.

**Joseph Sensale**, a partner at the Chase Sensale Law Group, L.L.P., was featured in the 2018 edition of *Top 100 Lawyers*.

Monetate, the worldwide leader in personalization, named **Dave Swarthout** its data processing officer. In this role, he continues to lead Monetate's legal team and drive GDPR training and global compliance measures throughout the organization.

**'01 Jamel Oeser-Sweat** has been elected president of the Supportive Children's Advocacy Network Board of Directors.

**'03 Jennifer Hillman**, a partner at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C., has been named a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

**'04 Thomas Horan** has joined Fox Rothschild LLP as a partner. He focuses his national practice on representing debtors and official unsecured creditors' committees in complex Chapter 11 proceedings.

**Nicholas J. Mauro** has joined the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office as a deputy bureau chief in the office's Enhanced Prosecution Bureau and is in charge of the Electronic Surveillance Unit.

**'05 Matthew Chase** is a member of the investment funds practice in the corporate department at Latham & Watkins LLP.

**Annamarie F. De Primo** has opened the Law Office of Annmarie F. De Primo LLC, where she concentrates her practice in personal injury, wrongful termination, trusts and estates, and real estate.

# CLASS NOTES

'05 **Laura Paris Paton** has been named a partner at Carlock Copeland & Stair LLP, where she is co-chair of the construction litigation practice group and a member of the firm's general liability practice group.



'06 At its annual dinner, the Bench and Bar of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York honored BakerHostetler partner **Esterina Giuliani** (holding award) and presented her with the prestigious James Duane Award for her exemplary service to the District.

'07 **Tiffanie Anderson** is the founder and CEO of Away to Africa, a destination travel management company that is dedicated to providing guided, cultural tours throughout selected countries in Africa.

**Nicholas Cutaia** has joined Goulston & Storrs PC as a director. He is a litigator who helps resolve complex disputes in the financial services, securities, legal, and real estate industries.

**Hale Yazicioglu Lake** has been elected partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, where she practices in the firm's consumer financial services practice group.

**Rebecca van Uitert** is dean of career services at the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University.

'08 **Elizabeth Lopez** has joined Smith Hulsey & Busey as director of firm development. She is responsible for strategic planning and growth for the firm and works with attorneys to maximize their strengths and expertise within their practice areas.

'09 *The New York Law Journal* has named **Tanya Blocker**, past president of the Association of Black Women Attorneys, a 2018 Distinguished Leader. The honor goes to attorneys in leadership roles who achieved impressive results in the past year.

'10 *Super Lawyers* has named Aiello, DiFalco & Gianakos LLP partner **Michael DiFalco** to its 2018 New York–Metro Rising Stars list for matrimonial and family law.

'11 **Marcus Cheung** delivered keynote remarks at the St. John's University Asian Pacific Heritage Month's Full Moon Banquet in April.

**Brendan Lantry** has been elected chairman of the Richmond County Republican Committee.

**Amanda S. Reynolds** has joined Rivkin Radler LLP as a member of the firm's general liability and complex torts and product liability practice groups.

'12 **Carrie C. Adduci** is an associate in the real estate practice group at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP.

**Kathryn Garland** is vice president and counsel in the legal department at Credit Agricole CIB.

**Alexander Nicas** has joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP as an associate in their restructuring practice group.

**Deirdre M. Salsich** is an associate at Jackson Lewis P.C., where her practice focuses on representing employers in workplace law matters, including preventive advice and counsel.

'14 **Viraj Deshmukh** is an associate at Thompson O'Brien Kemp & Nasuti, P.C., where he focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, particularly in the areas of real estate, banking, and finance.

As a senior associate at KPMG, **Kathryn Pando** performs tax due diligence for M&A transactions.

**Mordechai Sutton** has joined Haynes and Boone, LLP in the firm's real estate transactional practice group.

'15 **Pardis Camarda** has joined Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP as an associate in the firm's admiralty and maritime practice group.

**Adam Lanza** has joined the corporate practice group at Finn Dixon & Herling LLP.

**Marissa Dioguardi Muscarella** is an associate at Nixon Peabody LLP.

'16 **Jonah H. Blumenthal** is an associate in the tax, trusts and estates practice group at Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP.

'17 **Claudia Carbone** has joined Aaronson Rappaport Feinstein & Deutsch, LLP.

'18 **Michael Hofmann** has joined the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps.

'19 **Sean Kelly** will begin his federal clerkship with Hon. Nicholas G. Garaufis in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York in 2021.

**We'd like to hear from you!** Please send your **Class Notes submissions to Assistant Dean for Alumni Relations Claire C. McKeever '80SVC, '93L** at [mckeevec@stjohns.edu](mailto:mckeevec@stjohns.edu).



# BIRTHS



↑ **Florina Altshiler '12** and husband Gregory Conley welcomed Elias Altshiler in January.

↓ **Anmarie Giblin '06**, husband Alvaro Fortich, and big sister Bridget Denise welcomed Michael Rafael in March.



↑ **Maryanne Kaishian '15** and husband **Masoud Mortazavi '15** welcomed Iman James in February.



↑ **Aura M. Gomez Lopez '15** and husband Christian R. Romero welcomed Amelia in May.



↑ **Jason S. Pachter '17**, wife Dani, and big sister Emrey welcomed Keaton in April.

↑ **Adina Phillips '12CPS, '18L**, husband Marcus, big sister Amara, and big brother Marcus, Jr. welcomed Marcel on February 26, 2018. The very next day, Adina took the New York Bar Exam, passing on her first try.



↑ In the spring of her 2L year, **Althea Harris '18** and husband Collwyn welcomed twins Marcus and Lucas.

## IN MEMORIAM

Isidore Starr '36

Eleanor J. Smirti '43

Robert Ahlstrom '46C, '48L

Norman Goldstein '48

Jerome Wolff '48

Vincent M. Albanese '49

Hon. Anne Targum '50

Hon. James Niehoff '51

Robert Haas '52

John Murray '52

Raymond J. Ferraro '53

Josh Vogel '53

Joseph Bellon '55

Cornelius Davis '57

Emmet J. Agoglia '58

Michael Eliseo '58

John C. Brazil '59

Joseph Fratello '50C, '60L

Robert Hanley '61

John J. Mari '61

Philip O'Reilly '63

John D.

Thirkield '59CBA, '63L

James S. O'Kelly '64

Perry Fish '67

Kevin Flood '63CBA, '67L

Richard Inzerillo '64C, '68L

William Kelly '64C, '68L

Michael London '68

Robert Parrilli '64CBA, '68L

James F. Furey '72

John M. DelliCarpini '73

David Maldonado '73

John J. Hyland '76

Francis P. Lavin '76

Joan K. Davis '77

Roselyn Dlutman '77

Jane Revellino '82

Neil Tomeo '97

## Hon. George Deukmejian '52, '83HON



Two-term California Governor **George Deukmejian** passed away in May at the age of 80.

An Albany native, Deukmejian served in the U.S. Army after graduating from St. John's Law. He then moved to California, where he practiced law and started out in Republican politics. As a fiscal conservative who looked to tamp down government spending, he was elected to the State Assembly and then to the State Senate before serving as State Attorney General.

Deukmejian was elected Governor of California in 1983 and, over his two terms in that office, he expanded the state prison system and supported tough, anti-crime legislation, among other actions and accomplishments. But, by his own account, his greatest achievement was signing California's landmark divestiture law in opposition to South Africa's system of apartheid.

# FROM BIG LAW TO BIG SKY

CHRISTEEN WALCH '09 FINDS  
HER CREATIVE CALLING

**L**ife has its crossroads, and Christeen (Chris) Walch came to one a few years ago. She had been an associate in the real estate practice at Latham & Watkins LLP since graduating from St. John's Law. She enjoyed the work, earned recognition for it, and had wonderful clients and colleagues. Still, she knew it was time for a change.

"It was hard to leave Latham," Walch recalls. "It was my home, where I had grown up and become really good at something. But there were just too many other parts of my identity that I wanted to explore and nourish. I knew I'd never work for another firm because, to me, there's no better firm than Latham. And I knew two other things: I wanted to live in the mountains, where I could pursue my love of skiing, and I wanted to create something."

With those two lodestars, Walch bought a trailer and spent the next six months on the road out west. "I let myself be completely curious about anything that seemed interesting to me," she says. "I took a lot of photographs and wrote about local food, watering holes, and culture. I was really interested in people who were able to dream up and bring to life these hand-crafted, artisanal, and curated objects and experiences. I was drawn to their creativity."

While the journey to her next calling was unique, Walch was no stranger to exploration. After earning a Master of Science, she moved to Austria for a year at age 22. "Almost all of my mother's family had immigrated from the Philippines to Hawaii, where I grew up, and I strongly identified with my Asian roots," she explains. "But we weren't able to visit my father's family in Austria very often. So my cousin and I essentially exchanged lives. She went to live with my parents in Honolulu, and I went to live with her parents in Vienna."

It was a transformational time. "Austria's where I first put skis on my feet, and I had no idea then that skiing would shape so many of my life decisions," says Walch. It was also where she decided to become a lawyer. "My aunt drove me from Vienna to Munich and I took the LSAT during Oktoberfest," she says. "We walked straight into the beer tents from my exam to celebrate."

Walch started at St. John's Law soon after, drawn by the strength of its curriculum and reputation and by its New York City location. While excelling academically and earning a spot on the *St. John's Law Review*, she held a campus job as a graduate assistant for the St. John's University women's volleyball team. "I got to travel all over the country with a superbly talented team, and for each year of those three years we won the Big East Championship and even played in the NCAA Sweet 16," she shares.

As a rising 2L, Walch participated in the Law School's On-Campus Interview Program. "Latham was my very last of 20-plus interviews," she says. "It turned out that the interviewer had also been a graduate assistant, and we clicked immediately." That was the start of a five-year career at Latham during which Walch worked on a variety of cutting-edge deals. "Although real estate is just like any other asset that's secured, bought, sold, developed, or wrapped up into a larger asset bundle, it stands alone as something you can visit, stand on, and touch," she observes. "It was such a fulfilling practice."

Looking to sustain that sense of fulfillment, Walch ended her six-month search, unhitched her trailer, and settled in Bozeman, MT, a small, but thriving, university town. It's an outdoor adventure paradise, with the Bridger Range to the north and the Spanish Peaks to the south. It's also a hub of entrepreneurial activity. And, all around, it's a great fit for Walch, who now works as Director of Operations for the award-winning film and video game composer, virtuoso cellist, producer, public speaker, and inventor Philip Sheppard. She is also Chief Operating Officer for Sheppard's music technology start up, LifeScore.

"It's been a steep, interesting, and rewarding learning curve working in the music, video game, and film industries and in the startup world," says Walch. "I've designed the business's website; negotiated music publishing, composition, and licensing agreements with HBO, Netflix, and other companies; and hunkered down in Abbey Road Studios working on the recording of a film or video game score. What I love most about my work is that we're always creating something. I'm part of a growing business, and I have a say in how it grows."

When she isn't at work, you can often find Walch honing her art and craft on the slopes solo, with friends, and as a ski instructor at the members-only Yellowstone Club. She has found her creative calling in Big Sky Country, and she couldn't be happier.





## JONATHAN S. SACK '89

# Fights for Victims of Workplace Harassment

**G**rowing up, Jonathan Sack wanted to be the kind of gutsy, upstanding lawyer depicted in a John Grisham thriller. When he was 12, he first saw the law in action while shadowing his older brother, Steven, who was an intern with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. His apprenticeship continued over the years as his brother graduated from law school and started his own practice. "I saw the magnitude of injustice and the unique power a lawyer wields in righting wrongs," Sack recalls. "It left an indelible impression on me, and I was determined to use my communication skills, can-do attitude, and underdog persona to achieve justice in the courtroom."

Earning a generous scholarship, Sack began his legal studies at St. John's, where he learned the law and grew as a person from lessons imparted by Dean Edward Fagen in Torts and Professor Thomas Shea in Evidence and Criminal Procedure, among others. "Professor Shea made people cry, but he also made us think on our feet," says Sack. "Litigators need to be prepared for anything and everything. He taught us to never read the case file on our subway ride down to the courthouse. That lesson has served me well. Sometimes, being prepared for anything beats being smart."

After graduating from St. John's, Sack started working at a law firm. But, when Steven became ill, he took a leave of absence to help him manage his practice as he underwent treatment. It was 1991 and Sack found himself transfixed watching Anita Hill testify at the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings. "Workplace sexual harassment wasn't a topic I studied in law school," he says. "So, as part of my continuing legal education for newly-admitted attorneys, I completed a course on Women's Rights in the Workplace and took on a *pro bono* Equal Pay Act case involving several women who worked at a New York City supermarket chain."

It was a formative experience that would alter Sack's career path. "I initially appeared before Judge Sotomayor, and told her that I'd

never handled an Equal Pay Act case, or any other matter in federal court," he says. "She was struck by my candor. Most lawyers, she said, came to her courtroom pretending to know more than they actually did." The case, which ultimately settled, received media attention and Sack's career as a plaintiff's employment lawyer took off. "The phone didn't stop ringing," he says. "At the time, my dad of blessed memory remarked: 'Most people earn notoriety after they achieve success. In your case, you got the notoriety first.' Since then, I've enjoyed a robust and successful practice litigating discrimination, whistleblower, breach of contract, and non-compete cases."

That enormously gratifying work has taken on new depth and meaning with the #MeToo movement and its spotlight on harassment in the workplace. "I represent driven, successful, intelligent, and educated people of all backgrounds who work in a range of industries," Sack says. "They're navigating a difficult time in their lives with a loss of benefits and career disruption. After doing it for so long, I'm sure it's my calling and that there's a reason for me being in this place, doing what I'm doing. People are entitled to their sensitivities, and everyone else must learn to be considerate, to be respectful, and, for a moment, to consider what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes. The #MeToo movement has empowered people to speak out. While there's still much to be done, I'm proud to be a part of changing the way our world approaches inequality."

Reflecting on his meaningful and rewarding career, Sack credits the education he received at St. John's Law, along with a particular bit of wisdom he gained in Professor Robert Parella's Real Estate Transactions course. "He told us that we'd have a payday at some point in our career and, when we did, we should invest in real estate," says Sack. "I took his sage advice and, with some of those winning investments, I established the Professor Robert Parella Scholarship at the Law School." Sack is also funding another endowed scholarship. "St. John's provided me with the tools and the means to ply my craft," he says. "It's only fitting that I give back in this way. My aspiration is to inspire students to use their St. John's legal education to improve our world, one client at a time."



## Richard P. Donoghue '92

# Takes the Helm at the EDNY

**T**he Eastern District covers a big swath of downstate New York, including Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island in New York City and Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island.

Richard P. Donoghue has been the federal jurisdiction's chief law enforcement officer since January and, in May, he took the official oath of office to become the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

It's a leadership role with deep roots for Donoghue. Growing up the youngest of 12 children in a suburban Long Island family headed by a police officer and a school administrator, he appreciated the importance of rules early on. "Even as a child in that big crowd, I could see that one person's rights often end where the rights of another begin," he says. A high school reading of *Inherit the Wind* gave Donoghue an inspiring view of the courtroom and the laws that play out in it. "I found myself drawn to the idea that lawyers not only vindicate the rights of their clients, but also serve as architects for society," he shares.

With this take on the law and lawyering, Donoghue started his legal education at St. John's. "Across the board, the professors and courses were excellent," he says. "To this day, when weighing constitutional issues, I can hear Professor Shea ask: 'but what does the Constitution actually say about this?' Professor

Alexander's New York Practice classes, and Professor Polestino's Criminal Law courses, gave me the knowledge and confidence I needed to walk into any New York courtroom and hold my own. I also gained key skills during my internship with the FBI and through trial and appellate advocacy competitions."

After graduating from St. John's Law, Donoghue decided to start his legal career in service to his country. "I have long believed that the greatest heroes in our society are the young women and men who volunteer to step into harm's way to protect others," he says. "I enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves a few days after my 17th birthday and knew that serving in the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps was the right next step for me after law school."

Donoghue considers his seven years in the JAG Corps, which included three years as a paratrooper in the storied 82nd Airborne Division, the most exciting and challenging years of his career. "There were times when we would jump out of airplanes in the middle of the night with full tactical gear and then be in the courtroom by 0900 trying a case," he recalls. In recognition of his exemplary military career, Donoghue received the Law School's Distinguished Veteran Alumni Award last year.

Donoghue left the full-time military and moved on to civilian public service as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, where he worked for 11 years,

rising to Chief of its Long Island Criminal Division and Chief of the office's Criminal Division. As an AUSA, he investigated and prosecuted a wide array of cases, including MS-13 racketeering and other violent crimes, white collar crime, public integrity offenses, and drug trafficking. His outstanding work as a federal prosecutor earned Donoghue the New York City Bar Association's Henry L. Stimson Medal and the Eastern District Association's Charles E. Rose Award.

Just prior to taking the helm in the Eastern District, Donoghue spent several years as Chief Litigation Counsel for a major technology corporation. He's delighted to return to public service in an office that upholds the rule of law in a large, complex, and diverse district of eight million residents.

"Serving as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York is, and will always be, the greatest privilege of my professional life," Donoghue says. "The office I have the honor of leading stands at the forefront in so many critical areas—from national security to public integrity, from securities fraud to environmental law, and so much more. Our AUSAs are amazingly intelligent, disciplined, and focused, and the paralegals, investigators, and support staff are creatively and tirelessly dedicated to the mission. Together, they conduct meticulous investigations, uncover truth, vindicate rights, and work ceaselessly to protect the people of New York. I'm incredibly fortunate to be a part of this team."



# EVENTS CALENDAR

The St. John's Law Alumni Association hosts and participates in many events throughout the year. Below is just a sampling of the slate of upcoming events. Please visit our online events calendar at [stjohns.edu/law/events](http://stjohns.edu/law/events) for full event details and updates as they come in.

**October 27, 2018**

Class of 1968 50th Reunion  
School of Law, Queens, NY

**November 3 and 4, 2018**

Fall CLE Weekend  
School of Law, Queens, NY

**November 13, 2018**

Armed Forces Society Reception  
School of Law, Queens, NY

**November 29, 2018**

Bar Passage Reception  
Connolly's Pub & Restaurant,  
New York, NY

**December 5, 2018**

Nassau Chapter Holiday Luncheon and  
Toy Drive  
The Carlton, East Meadow, NY

**December 6, 2018**

Westchester Chapter Holiday Luncheon  
and Toy Drive  
Westchester Hills Golf Club,  
White Plains, NY

**December 12, 2018**

Brooklyn Chapter Holiday Party  
and Toy Drive  
Floyd, NY, Brooklyn, NY

**January 25, 2019**

Alumni Luncheon  
Grand Ballroom, Manhattan Center,  
New York, NY

**February 9 and 10, 2019**

Spring CLE Weekend  
School of Law, Queens, NY

**March 28, 2019**

Public Interest Auction  
School of Law, Queens, NY

**April 5, 2019**

Diversity & Inclusion Gala  
Tribeca Rooftop, New York, NY

**April 11, 2019**

Hon. John E. Sprizzo Reception  
New York Athletic Club, New York, NY

**May 21, 2019**

Alumni Association Annual Meeting  
School of Law, Queens, NY

**June 18, 2019**

Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. '72, '07HON  
Memorial Golf Outing  
Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY



**June 27, 2019**

New York Athletic Club, New York, NY

**December 14-16, 2019**

Washington Weekend  
and Group SCOTUS Admission  
Washington, DC

## SAVE THE DATE



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Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow  
Make the Road New Jersey

**2017-18 Recipient:**  
Fine Family Scholarship  
Lauren Nicole Marcus Memorial Scholarship



**CHARLES AKINBOYEWA '19**  
Summer Associate  
Shearman & Sterling LLP

**2017-18 Recipient:**  
Adam S. Hakki, Esq. '97 Scholarship  
Honorable Theodore T. Jones, Jr. '72  
Memorial Scholarship  
Michael and Karen Simons Scholarship

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