

44TH STREET NOTES

FROM THE PRESIDENT: DEBRA L. RASKIN

Alan Rothstein Will Not Like This Column

Alan Rothstein will not like this column, because it's all about him. Actually, he'll probably hate it because it's about him at all.

In case you haven't heard, Alan Rothstein, our General Counsel, is retiring after thirty years at the New York City Bar Association. And what do you think Alan said when we pried a quote out of him for our announcement of his retirement? He said he would miss "the terrific staff" and "the many, many volunteers who completely dispel the notion that lawyers do not give back to their community."



How very Alan, trying to make it about others. Alan Rothstein would have the world's lowest score on the Full-of-Himself Index, if there were such an index. It's hard even to find a photo of Alan because he's always jumping out of the shot, which is quite the feat since we can't remember when he hasn't been at the center of the action around here.

While he's been a great General Counsel, Alan has been so much more than that. He's also been an extraordinary general counsel, lower case if you will, and that's why he's had such a profound effect on everyone with whom he's worked. Ask people about Alan and you'll hear: "He treats everyone the same." "He always makes time for me no matter how busy he is." "Alan helped me get it done." "When he dabbles in my area, he does it better than I do." "His fingerprints are all over this building."

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Welcoming New Lawyers into the Profession at the New Lawyer Institute

This past September, the City Bar launched the New Lawyer Institute (NLI) to provide law school graduates with high-quality, practice-oriented training, mentoring, and career support, and to introduce them to the broader legal community.

The creation of the NLI grew out of the 2013 report of the City Bar's Task Force on New Lawyers in a Changing Profession: *Developing Legal Careers and Delivering Justice in the 21st Century*. Due to changes in the legal profession—including a tighter job market and diminished opportunities for new lawyers to get hands-on experience and formal

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Monday Night Law at 25

"The public often views the legal system as a place only for large corporations or those accused of crimes," read the 1990 Young Lawyers Committee report proposing a new program called the Wednesday Night Legal Advisory Workshop. "Indeed, many people either cannot afford legal counsel... or are uncertain as to how to obtain legal assistance, guidance and counseling in order to help solve a particular problem. As a result, such people become disenchanted with and, in effect, disenfranchised by the legal system and, as a result thereof, either endure needless and unjust hardship or give up on problems that might otherwise be easily solved."

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Photo: J. McClinton

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor met and addressed participants in the City Bar's New Lawyer Institute on May 7th. Watch the video here: <http://bit.ly/1bDO0hd>

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: BRET I. PARKER

Visiting Guantanamo

One Sunday afternoon in February, I boarded a chartered plane that left Andrews Air Force Base filled with prosecutors, defense attorneys, court personnel, reporters, and "observers." We were headed to the Guantanamo Bay naval base to attend military tribunal hearings in the trial of Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri for crimes related to, among other things, the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000.



I was traveling on behalf of the City Bar, which is one of the official non-governmental observers of the trials being held at Guantanamo and has been sending observers since 2012. This observer work is coordinated by our Military Affairs & Justice Committee. During my trip, the observers spent the whole week together, along with our omnipresent (and extremely helpful) military escorts, sleeping on cots in large tents, using the latrine and shower house about 500 yards from our tents, and eating in the cafeteria on the naval base. Each morning we would walk to the "courthouse"—which was more like a trailer with incredible security—and watch the proceedings with other members of the viewing public, including victims' family members and the media. We were all separated from the proceedings by sound-proof glass so we could watch the proceedings live, but the audio was on a delay to allow government officials to prevent us from hearing testimony that was deemed to contain classified information.

Why do we observe these hearings? Back in 2002, the City Bar analyzed then-President Bush's Military Order for terrorism prosecution and expressed concern about the scope of the prosecutions of individuals apprehended far from the battlefield, and about significant procedural deficiencies in military tribunals. The City Bar urged maintenance of transparency in order to uphold the rule of law. In 2010, the City Bar expressed "profound concern" about legislation that would terminate

funding for the transfer of non-citizens to the United States for any purpose, consequently prohibiting Guantanamo inmates from being tried in U.S. courts for charges related to the attacks of 9/11. In 2013, the Military Affairs & Justice Committee reiterated its opposition to Guantanamo trials in a letter to President Obama requesting the base's closure. The letter called the base "a serious threat to our national security." Despite the City Bar's official opposition to trials at the base, the Military Affairs & Justice Committee has been active in observing and commenting on military tribunals there.

While I agree with the City Bar's position that these individuals should be tried in U.S. courts, I also appreciate the role we play by serving as a public watchdog of the proceedings and was relieved to see that the defense counsel in Nashiri's case appeared to be some of the best litigators I have ever seen. And the judge, despite being an Air Force colonel, appeared to show no favoritism to either side and, in fact, issued a significant ruling in favor of the defense. (See <http://hrl.d.us/1CmgOlx>)

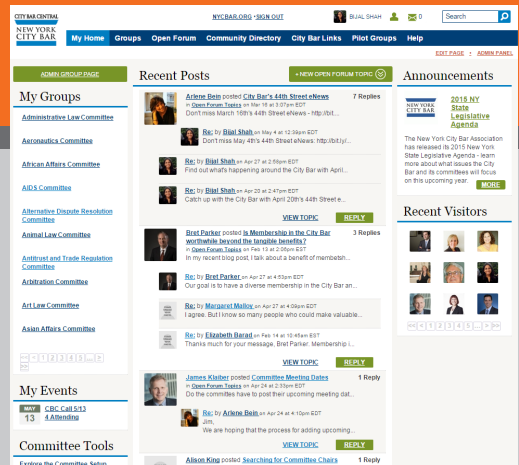
At the end of the week, I returned to the States with a deep appreciation for the role the New York City Bar Association plays in trying to maintain the rule of law by observing the hearings at Guantanamo. The work of our Military Affairs & Justice Committee epitomizes the unique and exciting opportunities available to City Bar members who want to make a difference in the world. ■



Introducing City Bar Central

City Bar Central is the new online community for City Bar members, who are welcome to start or join a discussion in our Open Forum, or in one of the Practice Forums (coming soon). Committees now have private communities where they can continue their dialogue from meeting to meeting, share files, collaborate on reports, and more.

Join us and join the dialogue — sign on to City Bar Central today. Just log in to your City Bar member account (www.nycbar.org) and click on the City Bar Central button. Please contact coordinator-central@nycbar.org with any questions you have about City Bar Central.



Space constraints prohibit a full accounting of Alan’s accomplishments, but any list would have to begin with those blurry days and weeks after 9/11, with the trainings of volunteer lawyers and the clinics for victims’ families. Who would you want rather than Alan to communicate and coordinate with the Mayor’s office, city agencies, and the courts during a crisis? Talk to people at the City Bar Justice Center who were in the thick of it and they’ll describe Alan at the time, quintessentially, as being both ubiquitous and insistently behind the scenes.



Photo: Rick Kopstein

The City Bar has long benefited from Alan’s core passions for civil liberties and good government. In the years following 9/11, quick to recognize the unique historical moment upon us in the tension between national security policy and civil rights, Alan guided the City Bar’s response in creating the Task Force on National Security and the Rule of Law. “He brings together law, policy, and action,” is how a colleague describes what Alan does.

Bravo, but if you’re wondering what makes Alan tick, look not to the high-profile but to the low-profile work. Because if Alan treats everyone the same, he also treats all of the work the same — with excellence, patience, persistence, and any other admirable quality you can think of. After praising everyone else’s work, here’s the other thing Alan said about his retirement: “I have been incredibly lucky to work in an organization of such high integrity that is so focused on serving the legal profession and, to me more significantly, the public interest.”

This, I believe, is the key to Alan’s work ethic. When Alan guides a committee report from conception to completion; or when he nurtures a new department like the Office for Diversity and Inclusion; or when he troubleshoots an issue at the Vance Center, he’s not pushing paper and dealing with people. He’s upholding the rule of law and increasing access to justice. He’s carrying out the mission of the New York City Bar Association and the highest principles of our profession. This mission-imbued approach to office work, this ethic that all the work, even the most prosaic, is important and, if done right, adds up to make a difference, appears to be what makes Alan tick.

Everyone is in a bit of denial about Alan’s leaving. We’ll miss his wise counsel, his puckish humor, and his reassuring presence by the Meeting Hall door. But we’ll be fine, because he showed us what to do and how to do it. Plus we’ll reassign his responsibilities to four colleagues, hire two more lawyers, and mobilize the whole crew that it will take to fill his shoes.

And, if you’re fretting that Alan will be the type of person who doesn’t know what to do with himself in retirement, don’t worry, Alan will be fine, too. He will take a good long break, immerse himself in his next chapter, and then find new ways to do what he’s always done—express his values, exercise his ethical muscles, and make the world a better place—including by serving on a City Bar committee.

And with that, in conclusion, a tip to readers and fair warning to Alan: Following the summer of 2015, when he no longer works here, the next time you see Alan Rothstein at the City Bar, and you will see him, his longstanding no-hug policy will no longer be enforceable. ■

Late-Breaking News: The City Bar’s Executive Committee has voted to present Alan Rothstein with the Association Medal for exceptional contributions to the honor and standing of the bar. He will be the 25th recipient, since 1952, of the Association Medal.

Need Help with Business or Technical Problems?

Pro Bono Advice is Available from the

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Monday Night Law at 25

CONTINUED FROM COVER

The City Bar's Young Lawyers Committee, led in those years by Jennie Cherry, Jim Herschlein, and Pamela K. Phillips, knew that a weekly clinic for people of moderate means was an idea whose time had come (except for the Wednesday part) and Monday Night Law (MNL) was born "to give people the opportunity to meet with a legal professional without charge in order to discuss problems, explore options and solutions, and provide counseling and direction with respect to an individual's problem." According to Herschlein, the idea was hatched "at a meeting at Patrick Conway's. We were young lawyers, after all."

The new clinic was a hit, and still is. Last month, MNL and its current, longtime organizer, Russ Bleemer, received the New York State Bar's Angelo T. Cometa Award, which recognizes individuals or groups that help advance the goals of the State Bar's Lawyer Referral and Information Service.

Bleemer started with MNL as one of the program's original volunteers. "In addition to the Young Lawyers Committee, I credit much of the program's success to Peter Fleischman's leadership of the Committee on Legal Services for Persons of Moderate Means in the late 90s," Bleemer says. MNL is run by that committee and the Legal Referral Service (LRS), which is co-sponsored by the City Bar and County Lawyers' Associations. Bleemer adds, "I must also mention the City Bar Justice Center for the staff and administrative support they provide. We've also had an extensive internship program throughout most of our history, with a team of as many as six interns contributing research, intake, and other support each year."

Allen Charne, the longtime LRS Executive Director who helped form MNL, views the weekly clinic as filling an important niche between phone consultations and full-blown representation. Since 1946 the LRS has fielded phone calls from New Yorkers seeking legal assistance. If a caller's question can't be answered over the phone, she will be referred to a vetted lawyer or, since 1991, to MNL.

"A lot of the calls to LRS didn't make sense to refer to private practice," Charne says. "What we found were a lot of people who needed help with paperwork—forms and letters, and so forth—and a weekly clinic was the perfect place for that."

George Wolff, LRS's current Executive Director, says MNL appeals to people who don't want to hire a lawyer. "Hiring a lawyer is daunting for some people, and in many cases it's not cost-effective if the stakes are not that high and all you need is, say, a lawyer to look over a draft letter," he says. "In consumer law, for example, Monday Night Law



Russ Bleemer at a recent Monday Night Law clinic.

provides a way to get a top-notch lawyer involved in a cost-effective way for those things in life that cause distress but seem too complicated to resolve on your own."

MNL focuses on, and trains volunteer attorneys each September in, six areas of law: Employer and Employee Law; Divorce, Matrimonial and Family Law; Bankruptcy; Consumer Law; Landlord-Tenant; and Small Business Matters. Not surprisingly, Landlord/Tenant issues are perennial in New York City, but certain areas, like bankruptcy and credit card debt, have seen a surge in recent years. Following the financial crisis of 2008, the City Bar and MNL tripled the number of its volunteers and expanded the space dedicated to the weekly clinic.

In their 1990 report, the Young Lawyers predicted that in addition to addressing the public's ever-increasing need for affordable and accessible legal assistance, MNL would also address "the current debate in the State of New York as to the compelling need for additional (as well as mandatory) pro bono services." While the pro bono debate is still going on, MNL has provided a convenient way for lawyers to fulfill their pro bono obligations, and to receive free CLE credits while they're at it.

The work is the reward, according to Sofia Hubscher, who has volunteered with the clinic almost from the beginning, and who ran it for several years. "People thank you," she says. "They ask where they should pay, and can't believe there's no fee."

Herschlein recalls the relief and satisfaction among the young lawyers following the very first Monday Night clinic. "We just looked at each other, like, 'It worked!' Then we headed back to Patrick Conway's." ■

Passage of a State Budget

BY MARIA CILENTI & ELIZABETH KOCIENDA

With the arrest of Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos on the heels of the indictment of former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, one is left to wonder whether the remaining weeks of a session scheduled to end on June 17th will produce much in the way of legislative accomplishments. Indeed, the completion of the budget by (or near) the April 1st deadline may stand as the Legislature's primary achievement this year. Since the budget negotiations left several of the Governor's policy proposals on the table, it remains to be seen whether those issues will be revived for debate this session.

Against that backdrop, we are pleased to report that the City Bar was particularly active in commenting on the budget this year. Here is a roundup of how things turned out:

- In accordance with a 2010 City Bar report, we supported the Governor's call for enhanced disclosure requirements for New York legislators to show all sources and amounts of outside income, including the identity of paying clients and descriptions of services rendered. The Governor's initial proposal largely followed our recommendations, which included certain limited exceptions but an overall presumption toward disclosure. *The final budget language enhanced the disclosure requirements for legislators receiving outside income and, if followed in both letter and spirit, more legislators will disclose more information about their sources of outside income than in the past. The final deal also included a procedure whereby legislators can seek exceptions to disclosure, guided by a series of factors. We hope that those factors will be interpreted in a way that favors disclosure and that exceptions will be granted only where the need to keep a client's identity confidential truly outweighs the public's right to transparency.*
- Our **Government Ethics Committee** called for the immediate appointment of a commission to evaluate and review the performance of JCOPE and the Legislative Ethics Commission, as the statutory deadline for its creation passed in June 2014. *The review commission was appointed at the May 1st deadline set in the final budget.*
- We supported a proposal to raise the age of criminal responsibility in New York to 18, shifting the majority of the cases involving 16- and 17-year-olds to Family Court. *While this provision was ultimately omitted from the final budget, the Governor indicated that a stand-alone bill to "raise the age" will be taken up post-budget. Funding for this policy change was also allotted in the final budget, contingent on the passage of that stand-alone bill.*
- We provided comments from multiple committees on the proposed Criminal Justice Reform Act. In particular, the committees opposed the creation of an independent monitor to review grand jury investigations of cases involving the police-related death of an unarmed civilian. *The Criminal Justice Reform Act was not included in the final budget.*
- Our **Council on Judicial Administration** supported the proposed Judiciary Budget Request, which sought a moderate increase to ameliorate the impact of past budget cuts and to provide vital legal services for vulnerable New Yorkers. *The Judiciary Budget was enacted as supported.*
- Our **Sex and Law Committee** provided recommendations to the proposed affirmative consent policy, intended to combat sexual assault on college campuses. *These provisions were omitted from the final budget so that further study can be given to the proposed language.*
- Our **State and Local Taxation Committee** commented on proposed New York City corporate income tax reform provisions and their conformity to State corporate tax laws. *These provisions were largely enacted in the final budget; however, measures to conform the State and City nexus provisions, which the Committee cautioned could face potential constitutional challenges, were not included.*
- Our **Construction Law Committee** supported a provision authorizing the use of design-build service delivery methodology by various state-level agencies on certain projects, and recommended that design-build be expanded for use by local governments. *Design-build was extended for two additional years for five state agencies.*

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Monday Night Law: **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

The Monday Night Law Clinic is held on the first four Mondays of each month, from the first week in October through the last week of August, except when the Association is closed. A client must schedule an appointment for Monday Night Law through the LRS hotline: (212) 626-7373 (English),

(212) 626-7374 (Spanish). Walk-ins are not permitted.

Training sessions are held in September for lawyers who want to volunteer at the clinic. Volunteers are expected to devote one Monday each month. Pro bono CLE credit is available free of charge.

If you are interested in receiving program information or have questions, please send an email to mondaynightlaw@gmail.com.

Information is also available on the City Bar's website at: <http://bit.ly/1czhk9M>

City Bar Fund **UPDATES**

CITY BAR JUSTICE CENTER UPDATE

Building a Pro Bono Pipeline

As the need for quality pro bono legal services increases in this country, particularly for immigrants and other underserved populations, several innovative new programs have been created to encourage law students and recent graduates to help fill that need. The City Bar Justice Center is participating in three of these initiatives: the Immigrant Justice Corps, the Fragomen Fellowship, and the Pro Bono Scholars Program.

“We must find new ways to bridge the justice gap. Getting students and recent grads involved early is imperative, not only to increase resources but to instill in them the importance of pro bono work early on in their careers,” said Justice Center Executive Director Lynn Kelly.

The **Immigrant Justice Corps**, inspired by Hon. Robert Katzmann and funded by the Robin Hood Foundation and others, is the nation’s first fellowship program devoted to providing legal support for immigrants seeking citizenship and defending against deportation. The program provides law school and college graduates the training and experience needed to engage successfully in the complex field of immigration law upon completion of their two-year fellowship.

“Immigration law in particular has really foundational effects on people’s lives,” said Caitlin Miner-Le Grand, one of two fellows working with the Justice Center. “Being able to regularize your immigration status can lead to so many positive changes, including increased educational opportunities and more economic stability.”



From left: Immigrant Justice Fellow **Miriam Lacroix**; Pro Bono Scholars **So Yeon Chang** and **Khushbu Patel**; Immigrant Justice Fellow **Caitlin Miner-Le Grand**, and Fragomen Fellow **Danny Alicea**.

The Justice Center is one of only two host organizations selected by the Immigrant Justice Corps whose main model for delivering immigration services is to recruit, train, and mentor pro bono attorneys to leverage scarce resources. Working primarily with the Justice Center’s Immigrant Women and Children Project and the Refugee Assistance Project, the fellows have participated in a number of areas, from filing asylum applications due to political beliefs, to preparing motions to close removal proceedings for unaccompanied minors, to helping domestic violence victims apply for adjustment of status and obtain benefits and work authorization to support themselves and their families.

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VANCE CENTER UPDATE

Vance and Partners Submit Amicus Brief to Supreme Court on Marriage Equality

While lawyers at the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice regularly support clients before international forums like the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, they recently participated in submitting a brief to the United States Supreme Court. The case is *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in which the Court is expected to rule on whether Americans have a constitutional right to marry someone of the same sex and have that marriage recognized nationwide.

Human Rights Watch, a Vance Center client in work around the world, requested help with an amicus brief comparing the laws of five jurisdictions that have legalized same-sex marriage: Argentina,

Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and South Africa. The objective was to demonstrate that countries with fundamental human rights protections similar to those in the U.S. Constitution have managed to establish marriage equality without controversy or incident.

This sort of international comparative project suited the Vance Center perfectly. Within the last year, it completed a survey of laws throughout the Americas discriminating against LGBT persons, as well as a similar survey of southern African countries. It undertook similar projects focusing on disability rights and women’s rights and has an ongoing project seeking to expand children’s rights.



Marie-Claude Jean-Baptiste and **Suzanne Knijnenburg**

These projects are possible because the six lawyers at the Vance Center collaborate over the course of the year with more than 500 lawyers from more than 150 law firms in 75 countries. The Vance Center reaches out to human rights and environmental organizations, as well as the

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DIVERSITY UPDATE

Making New York Attorneys Reflective of the City's Diversity

In recent years, prospective law students have been inundated with negative information about law school. News articles report staggering student debt and dismal employment prospects, particularly for students who did not attend top-14 schools. Even without the negative messages, law school can be an intimidating environment for low-income, first-generation, and minority students.

Despite recent progress, there remains a critical lack of diversity both in law school and in the legal field. According to the City Bar's 2013 Diversity Benchmarking Report, minority and women attorneys still lack representation at the most senior levels of leadership, despite an upward trend over the last decade. Of the 117 New York law firms surveyed by the City Bar's Office for Diversity and Inclusion, nine are headed by white women, two by Hispanic/Latino men, and two by African-American men. With 92 firms led by white men, the demographics of New York's legal field are far from reflective of the city's population at large.

Many 1Ls seek advice from family or friends in the legal profession to develop a plan for academic success. Others pay the \$1,295 tuition to attend Law Preview, a one-week prep course offered at law schools around the country. However, for many minority and first-generation students, neither of these are viable options.

In 2012, the City Bar partnered with Law Preview to expand opportunities for first-year minority and first-generation law students by creating a Scholarship Program for diverse law students entering all 13 law schools in the New York metro area. The Program targeted minority students, selecting Scholars representative of the following groups: 66% African-American; 15% Latino/Hispanic; 14% Asian-American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander; and .5% Middle Eastern. Three percent of Scholars also self-identified as LGBT. In its first three years, the Law Preview Scholarship Program has become a critical part of the City Bar's diversity pipeline, ensuring the academic success of students who are reflective of the community they will one day serve.

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LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Spreading the Word about Free and Confidential Help

The City Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP), which provides free, confidential services to attorneys, judges, law students, and their families who are struggling with substance abuse, anxiety, stress, and mental health issues, continues its outreach to the community.

Mental Health Initiative

The Law Student Division of the American Bar Association established March 27th as "Law School Mental Health and Wellness Day." LAP staff and Committee members participated in programs at CUNY School of Law, Touro Law Center, and NYU Law.

LAP was also interviewed by the ABA's Student Lawyer Magazine for an article entitled "Shedding the Stigma of Mental Illness," which is available online.

Alcohol Awareness Month

April 2015 marked the 29th anniversary of Alcohol Awareness Month, sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) to reduce stigma and increase public awareness and understanding. LAP is distributing copies of "Rethinking Drinking: Alcohol and Your Health," published by the National Institutes of Health. To receive a copy, email Eileen Travis at etravis@nycbar.org.



In April, Eileen Travis, Director of the City Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program, gave a Character & Fitness presentation at the CUNY School of Law. From left: **Elizabeth Palumbo**, Director of Student Affairs, CUNY LAW; **Rachael Barrett**, Executive Director, David Nee Foundation; **Arthur Terranova**, Executive Director, Queens County Bar Association; **Meredith Heller**, Former Chair, NYC LAP Committee; **Katherine Bender**, Programming Director, David Nee Foundation; **Eileen Travis**, Director, Lawyer Assistance Program; and **Katherine Meng**, Character & Fitness Committee, Appellate Division, Second Department.

Outreach & Education

In March, LAP participated in a CLE presentation at the Westchester Bar Association entitled "Lawyers and Stress: Personal and Professional Obligations." The program focused on the effects of lawyer impairment on ethical obligations and subsequent disciplinary sanctions.

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City Bar Fund **UPDATES** *cont'd*

CITY BAR JUSTICE CENTER UPDATE: CONTINUED FROM PG 6

Both fellows noted how this program has influenced their view of immigration law. Fellow Miriam Lacroix says, "This experience has taught me that although immigration laws are complicated and imperfect, the laws that we have to work with are valuable because they still help many people. DACA may not lead to a green card, but it has been a major help to many undocumented students because it has allowed them to work and support themselves."

Adds Miner-Le Grand, "The field is changing as the law evolves, and it's a very exciting time to be involved with immigration work. It feels like there is a lot of room to make a difference, and part of this fellowship is learning where and how changes should be made."

In 2007, global immigration firm Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP created the **Fragomen Fellowship** with the Justice Center as an innovative pro bono effort to increase outreach to, and representation of, immigrants in need of legal services. The Fragomen Fellowship has become a national model for expanding legal services to low-income immigrants by leveraging thousands of hours of pro bono service, while helping volunteer lawyers gain experience in immigration law. In October 2014, attorney Danny Alicea began his two-year fellowship.

Beyond the Immigrant Outreach Project run by the Fragomen Fellow, Alicea has assisted with the Refugee Assistance Project and the Immigrant Women and Children Project, and also directs the New York Immigrant Advocacy Initiative.

Additionally, he collaborated with the HIV Law Project and African Services Committee to train volunteer lawyers for Temporary Protected Status clinics for West Africans affected by the Ebola epidemic.

"The Fragomen Fellowship has allowed me to assist, screen, advise, and experience a greater range of immigration

cases and be exposed to the nuances of what it's like in New York for different subpopulations of immigrants," says Alicea of his fellowship experience so far. "It makes me proud to be an attorney."

A broader pro bono program and the first of its kind in the country, **Pro Bono Scholars** is a partnership between the judiciary, law schools, and the profession that provides students in their last year of law school with the opportunity to dedicate their final semester to pro bono service. Introduced by New York State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman in 2014, the program gives students the opportunity to provide legal assistance while preparing them for the real-life practice of law, and instilling in them, at this early stage, the importance of public service.

The Justice Center's Pro Bono Scholars, Khushbu Patel from New York Law School and So Yeon Chang from Cornell Law School, are working with a range of different Justice Center projects including the Elderlaw Project, the Cancer Advocacy Project, the Veterans Assistance Project, and the Legal Hotline.

Both students emphasized how their participation in the program has affected their view on the importance of pro bono work. Chang says, "I think it is a very rewarding experience as you are able to help so many people in one day. I view pro bono work as mini projects where you can actually feel that you have made a change in people's lives."

"I never fully knew how much of a need there was until I started working at the City Bar Justice Center," says Patel. "It can be very emotional work, but the way public service changes people's lives has been a very gratifying experience. It has opened my eyes to how much of a change it can make."

For more information about Justice Center pro bono projects, visit www.CityBarJusticeCenter.org ■

VANCE CENTER UPDATE: CONTINUED FROM PG 6

United Nations, to develop legal assistance projects and then invites law firms to participate.

In this case, the Vance Center turned to Weil Gotshal & Manges, a regular pro bono partner, to lead the effort. Weil pro bono counsel Miriam Buhl assembled a team led by partner Rick Levine and including associates Robert Vlasits III, Jay Minga, William Brewer, and Jennifer Johnson. They not only accomplished the traditional challenge of drafting under tight time pressure, but also collaborated with lawyers in the countries whose laws the brief described.

Marie-Claude Jean-Baptiste, Vance Center program director, assisted by Suzanne Knijnenburg, Vance Center human rights fellow, coordinated the project, relying on the recent work on LGBT rights in Latin America and southern Africa, as well as the Vance Center's worldwide network of partner NGOs and law firms.

The amicus brief presents the experience of the five countries with the legalization of same-sex marriage, describing how it came about and how the countries adapted to it. The brief made two main arguments: 1) countries that have legalized same-sex marriage faced and rejected arguments similar to those being advanced in the United States, and 2) countries that have legalized same-sex marriage have not experienced any observable adverse impact on society.

The City Bar's LGBT Rights Committee joined the Vance Center as amici on the brief. The Canadian Civil Liberties Association; the National Council for Civil Liberties UK; Legal Resources Centre, South Africa; Center for Legal and Social Studies, Argentina; and La Federación Argentina de Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales y Trans, Argentina, assisted in reviewing the brief's presentation of their countries' experiences and also joined in the brief as amici. The brief may be read here: <http://bit.ly/1xzp316> ■

DIVERSITY UPDATE: CONTINUED FROM PG 7

The strong support network created by the Program allows students to achieve academic excellence during their 1L year, by providing them with a one-week, intensive introduction to their core first-year classes. Academic success during the first year is not only critical but potentially life-changing, as first-year grades often determine scholastic honors like law review membership and eligibility for coveted summer associate positions at highly selective legal employers. Additionally, because of the bar-critical topics covered, first-year grades can be a predictor of whether students will ultimately pass the bar exam and become admitted to practice. Entering the 1L year with a concrete plan for academic success is an essential first step in every accomplished student's legal career.

Of the 59 scholars from 10 regional law schools, 53% are first-generation college students and 66% are first-generation graduate or professional students. Glenn L. Thompson, a 3L at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, credits the Law Preview Scholarship for his academic and professional success. "As a first generation law student, I had no family or friends able to let me know what law school truly entailed," he says. "Thanks

LAWYERS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE: CONTINUED FROM PG 7

This month, LAP is participating in a similar CLE presentation at the Queens Bar Association, addressing the identification of signs and symptoms of substance abuse and/or mental health problems, effects on the family as well as the profession, and disciplinary diversion and the LAP Monitoring Program.

LAP is also taking part in a roundtable discussion with Paul Curtin from OCA's Judicial Assistance Program and Hon. John Rowley, Chair of the New York State Bar's Judicial Wellness Committee, entitled "What to Do When a Lawyer in Front of You Seems Impaired." A "nudge from a judge" has helped many lawyers find the help they need to save their lives and careers.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On Monday, June 15, 2015, LAP and the LAP Committee will sponsor the Ninth Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. This year's honorees are Hon. A. Gail Prudenti, Chief Administrative Judge of the Courts of New York State, for her steadfast support of the Lawyer Assistance Programs throughout New York, and Deborah Scalise and Sarah Jo Hamilton for their dedication and commitment to helping attorneys, judges, and law students in need. ■

LAP is here to help. Call the helpline at 212-302-5787.

to Law Preview, I entered law school prepared, which made a huge difference. I look forward to the day when I can make a similar difference in the life and career of a law student."

Thompson's desire to connect with future Law Preview Scholars is common among alumni. Students can take advantage of an extensive network of sponsors during and after the program. Scholarship recipients are matched with an attorney mentor from Practicing Attorneys for Law Students (PALS) and given law student membership in the New York City Bar Association.

In addition to providing academic support, the Scholarship Program has helped to alleviate the difficulties of searching for meaningful summer and postgraduate employment. Ninety percent of 1L Scholars and 66% of 2L Scholars were able to secure summer legal positions, and 71% of 3L students had secured postgraduate legal employment at the time of the survey.

With the Scholars' impressive employment prospects, the Law Preview Scholarship has been essential in creating a class of future New York attorneys reflective of the city's diversity.

For more information about the Program, or to help fund a scholarship, please visit: www.nycbar.org/lawpreview. ■

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training—the Task Force concluded that an organized curriculum would address an important need for recent law school graduates and lawyers during their first years in the profession.

In its inaugural year, the NLI had 84 participants from nine area law schools. Seven of the schools sponsored the 2014-15 NLI: Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Brooklyn Law School, Columbia Law School, CUNY School of Law, Fordham University School of Law, Hofstra Law, and New York Law School.

The nine-month program kicked off with an orientation, followed by a curriculum including career development courses, practice “readiness” and skills workshops, and CLE programs. All participants had the opportunity to complete at least 16 CLE credits, with many earning beyond that. Participants wanting additional one-on-one career development advice were paired with career counsellors.

“In this over-saturated legal market where recent graduates struggle to find entry-level employment, the NLI has been a much needed support network for me,” said Taier Perlman. “It welcomed me into a vibrant legal community, offered programs that have sharpened my legal skills, and allowed me to participate in CLE programs that will make me a more responsible and effective lawyer.”

NLI participant Ralph Carter said, “The program is comprehensive in the wealth of offerings in terms of access to the City Bar’s institutes, CLE programs, and professional development sessions. What makes the program so great is the way that world-class content is coupled with the dedication of so many prominent members of the City Bar in welcoming us to the legal profession.”

Throughout the program, instructors emphasized the importance of networking and involvement in the profession at large. All NLI participants were given membership in the City Bar and encouraged to take advantage of membership benefits, including the opportunity to serve on a committee.

“I really enjoyed having a set of familiar faces that I see often at the City Bar, who are also going through their first year after law school. I really feel the NLI made me part of the City Bar community,” said T. Austin Brown. Homer Turgeon said, “The NLI has given me a great chance to build my connection with other lawyers in the City Bar, and to educate myself in the profession.”

In order to encourage participants to expand their circle of professional contacts, the NLI implemented a 60-Minute Mentoring Program, which paired participants with volunteer mentors. Pairs met in one-hour sessions, which

provided new lawyers an opportunity to ask questions about practice settings, practice areas, career goals, and general career development strategies.

A special feature of the inaugural NLI program was a Speaker Series featuring leaders in the profession, including New York City Corporation Counsel Zachary Carter, New York State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, and General Counsel to the New York Public Library Michele Coleman Mayes. All spoke of their respective career paths and shared keys to making one’s way in the profession.

The NLI program concluded on May 7th with remarks by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Eschewing the podium and speaking with a wireless mic as she walked among the rapt audience, Justice Sotomayor described the ups and downs of her journey from a housing project in the Bronx to the Supreme Court. Watch the video here: <http://bit.ly/1bDO0hd>

The City Bar is currently planning the curriculum for the 2015-16 semester of the New Lawyer Institute. To apply, or for questions about the program, please email Martha Harris, Director of Professional Development and Committee Engagement, at mharris@nycbar.org or call her at 212-382-6607. ■

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: CONTINUED FROM PG 5

- **Our Committee on Non-Profit Organizations** opposed an expanded definition of “independent expenditure” in the State’s campaign finance law, which would have required not-for-profit organizations that issue a written communication referring to a clearly identified candidate during a certain period before a general or primary election to register as a political committee with the State Board of Elections. *This provision was included in the final budget but with a provision excluding public charities from the reporting requirements, a change in line with our comments.*

- **Our State and Local Taxation Committee** opposed provisions in the budget which would have allowed

various executive branch agencies, including the Office of Court Administration, to deny a renewal license to holders of an occupational, professional, or business license if the individual has past-due tax liabilities or has failed to file returns or register during the three prior years. *This provision was omitted from the final budget.*

- **Our Legal Problems of the Aging Committee** opposed the elimination of the use of “spousal refusal” for Medicaid recipients. *This provision was omitted from the final budget.*

- **Our Estate and Gift Taxation Committee and Trusts, Estates and Surrogate’s Courts Committee** proposed a series of reforms to New York’s estate

tax. *The suggested reforms were not included in the final budget.*

We applaud our committees for their quick and diligent review of these important budget provisions. Their positions will guide our advocacy throughout the remaining months of session.

For further information on these reports or related issues, please visit the Legislative Affairs section of our website.

Maria Cilenti is Legislative Affairs Director and Elizabeth Kocienda is Assistant Legislative Affairs Director at the New York City Bar Association. ■

Member Moves & Milestones

Devika Kewalramani, chair of the City Bar's Committee on Professional Discipline and partner and co-chair of Moses & Singer LLP's Legal Ethics & Law Firm Practice, was appointed as a member of the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline....**Noah Genel**, a member of the City Bar's Criminal Advocacy Committee, joined the New York City Business Integrity Commission as General Counsel....**Richard B. Friedman**, a City Bar delegate to the NYSBA House of Delegates and a founding co-chair of the City Bar's In-House/Outside Counsel Group, formed a business litigation boutique specializing in commercial and employment-related litigation, arbitration, and mediation matters....**Robin H. Gise** joined the JAMS panel and will serve as a mediator and arbitrator in employment and business/commercial disputes....**Richard Faughnan** joined Kroll Inc. as a managing director in their Investigations and Disputes practice....Dorsey & Whitney LLP announced that **Franklin R. Ciaccio** joined the firm as Of Counsel in the Finance & Restructuring Group in their New York office....**Matthew C. DeSaro**, a member of the Government Ethics Committee, joined the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney as an Assistant District Attorney in the Criminal Court Bureau....**Nancy Kramer** joined the JAMS Panel after 15 years as an independent mediator and arbitrator. She will specialize in employment, family, and co-op/condo matters....**David J. Kerstein** joined litigation funder Bentham IMF as a senior Investment Manager and Legal Counsel....WilmerHale named **Anjan Sahni** as partner in its white-collar and securities enforcement practices....**Hon. Peter H. Moulton** was appointed Administrative Judge of New York County Supreme Court, Civil Term....**Nathalia Bernardo** was named partner at Paul Hastings LLP, where she

focuses on equity in commercial real estate transactions in the United States and abroad....FisherBroyles, LLP announced that partner **Richard B. Cohen** joined their New York City office, which specializes in corporate, employment, and commercial law....**Barry Kamins**, former New York State Supreme Court Justice and former City Bar President, joined Arthur L. Aidala and Marianne Bertuna to form Aidala Bertuna & Kamins PC....**Ian L. Kelley** joined McCanliss & Early, LLP as Counsel, where he will focus on real estate and commercial law....**Piper Hoffman** founded Piper Hoffman, Esq., PLLC, which specializes in consulting for other firms in plaintiff-side litigation, class actions, and employment law....**Joseph Giminaro** was elected partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, where he heads the Tax Certiorari Group....**Doug Jacobs** joined Cowan, DeBaets, Abrahams & Sheppard LLP as a partner, where he will focus on the cable television and digital media industries....**Jerome McCluskey** was elected to partnership at Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCoy LLP, where he is a member of the firm's Global Leveraged Finance Group....**Brendan Mee** was elected to partnership at Pearl Cohen Zedek Latzer Baratz LLP, where he specializes in patent prosecution, IP strategy, and portfolio management....Former Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) enforcement attorney **James Kim** joined Arnold & Porter as Counsel in the firm's New York office....**Lawrence Gerschwer** joined Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP as partner in the White Collar Criminal Defense and Securities Enforcement Practice....**Derelle Janey** was made partner at Gottlieb & Gordon, where he leads the firm's Civil Litigation, Securities and Regulatory Group....**Michael Munoz** was made partner at Golenbock Eiseman Assor Bell & Peskoe LLP, where he will continue his practice in litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

Switching firms or made partner? Receiving an award? Send your news to MemberNews@nycbar.org; select announcements may appear in the 44th Street Notes, eNews, or other City Bar materials.

New York City Bar Chorus Off-Broadway Debut

On March 14th and 15th, the New York City Bar Chorus made its Off-Broadway debut at the renowned New York Theatre Workshop, in David Greig's acclaimed play "The Events," which has been produced in Edinburgh (where it won a "Best of Fringe" award), London, New Haven, and other venues.

Catch the Chorus, directed by Kathryn E. Schneider and accompanied by Matthew V. Grieco, on Thursday, June 25th, at 7:00 p.m. at the City Bar in a concert to benefit the City Bar Justice Center and the Chorus. Suggested donation: \$20 (adults); \$10 (seniors, students and children). Register on the event calendar here: <http://bit.ly/1AF8H2K>



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Save the Dates

2015

EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015
4 PM – 6 PM

The Destiny of Democracy

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

How Lawyers Can Unlock
the Secret Writer Within

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015
6 PM – 8:30 PM

Why Innocent People
Confess: The Phenomenon
of False Confessions

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015
12:30 PM – 2 PM

Small Law Firm Luncheon:
Business Opportunities
Through the New York City
Bar Legal Referral Service

CLE

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015
6 PM – 9 PM

Current Ethical Issues for
In-House Counsel and Those
Who Advise Them

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2015
9 AM – 1 PM

10th Annual Lawyering
in the Fashion Industry

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2015
6 PM – 9 PM

Current Developments in
Commercial Division Practice

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2015
9 AM – 11:30 AM

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