Alumni Offer Cardozo Students Guidance ... and More

Guided by the Alumni Coordinating Committee, the Alumni Association has established a number of successful "hands-on" projects at Cardozo.

Scholarships Provide a Link to Current Students

The Alumni Association raises money for scholarships it awards to 2Ls and 3Ls each year. Rosemary Byrne (CSL '80), one of the founding members of the Association, says the scholarships are awarded on the "basis of need, community service, second-careers, to handicapped and disadvantaged students, and to students who demonstrate academic achievement and service to the school." By raising the funds, and reviewing scholarship applications and making the distributions each year, "we feel we are directly involved in the life of the school and its students. It's a very 'hands-on' project, and very rewarding," says Rosemary.

Paula Whitney Best (CSL '89), now with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, was a recipient of an alumni scholarship. "It made all the difference in the world to me," she remembered. "I was living in the Bronx, existing on bagels and peanut butter. I put a lot of time and effort into writing my scholarship application and I was so honored when the Alumni Association awarded me $1,000 — that was like $100,000 to me then! They really heard my need, and they responded."

Mentoring Offers the Benefit of Wisdom in Trying Times

The Association's Mentor Program links Cardozo alumni with first-year students, offering advice and counseling on career goal planning and job placement. Alan Stack (CSL '83) is an active mentor who usually takes five or six "mentees" each year. "The Mentor Program," he says, "is so important for students because it gives them insight into what to expect in the real world. Although we also help them learn how to study and take exams, I think helping them understand the effort required to get a job after graduation is our most important role. I advise them to work during their summers, to work part-time during school if they can, and to conduct a planned, wide ranging, job search."

The Alumni Association Coordinating Committee is co-chaired by Noah Gordon ('86) and Jay H. Ziffer ('83). The Committee's other officers are Sarah K. Steiner ('83), vice president, and Karen Turner ('87), treasurer. Committee members are Rosemary Byrne ('80), Alan H. Figman ('82), Tom Furth ('89), Isaac Jaroslawicz ('88), Thurman Mathis ('90), Mark Moskovitz ('79), Ira S. Pers ('79), Sheryl Presser ('85), Alan Sack ('83), David Schrader ('88), and Noel Williams ('87).

Icahn Grantees Report Summer of "Strengthened Resolve"

The Carl C. Icahn Institute for Child Protection provides tuition remission for selected Cardozo students who work as advocates for children. Last summer, three students worked full-time in this field and all report, as a result of their experience, a renewed commitment to continue their careers in the area of child abuse and neglect.

Marlene Mazel worked for Lawyers for Children, which provides "legal advocacy and social work support for children who have been voluntarily signed into care by parents and guardians who are unable to care for them," she says. One of the things Marlene found interesting about child advocacy was that legal guardians use the law to help children achieve their goals. Every child benefits from having a lawyer, regardless of whether or not they 'win' their case. The children are reassured by the fact that their lawyer in speaking to the judge on their behalf. This sense of empowerment is critically important. Many children who are frustrated by the bureaucracy of the foster care system run away. Those who are represented by a legal guardian may turn to their lawyer for practical assistance and advice before doing so.

Marla Whitman worked for The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Division, Appeals Bureau in Manhattan, where her supervisor was the Bureau's Director, Barbara Dildine. Ms. Dildine writes Marla quickly grasped the issues at hand. Her ability to relate the law to the facts of the case was exceptionally strong for a student ... I earnestly hope that her commitment to our goals will continue and that one day we will be fortunate enough to work side by side as attorneys."

Marla worked, primarily, on two (Continued on page 4)
Ellen Cherrick (CSL ’80) Appointed Associate Dean for Placement

Ellen R. Cherrick, a member of Cardozo’s first graduating class, has been appointed associate dean for placement, student and alumni affairs.

Many will remember Ellen as assistant dean for admissions, a post she held from the time of her graduation in 1980 through 1988. She most recently held the office of associate director of the Bureau of Management and Budget of the City of New York. Prior to that, she served as director of the Office of Transportation Services of the city Board of Estimate’s Bureau of Franchises.

While assistant dean for admissions at Cardozo, she was awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Award, given by the Cardozo Law School Faculty “in recognition of exemplary service to the student body.” She also received the Monrad G. Paulsen Award (named in honor of the Law school’s first dean) presented “in recognition of devoted service to the ideals and purposes of legal education.”

Saperstein Elected to Cardozo Board

Michael Saperstein, a senior managing director of Bear Stearns & Co., has been elected as a member of Cardozo’s board of trustees. Mr. Saperstein has been with Bear Stearns for 18 years. Prior to that, he was associate chief counsel and associate director of the Division of Trading and Markets of the Securities Exchange Commission.

He serves on the boards of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Commentary magazine, and the Skin Cancer Foundation.

Luncheon Honoring New Dean Raises Nearly $100,000 for Cardozo

New York Attorney General Robert Abrams (left) greets Dean Macchiarola (right) and Yeshiva University President Norman Lamm at a luncheon held recently to introduce the dean to friends and supporters of Cardozo and of the university. Nearly $100,000 for Cardozo’s student academic activity fund was raised at the luncheon.
The Kukin Program for Conflict Resolution at Cardozo hosted the fourth annual Cardozo/A.B.A. Negotiation Competition this fall. There were 76 student competitors, “the largest Cardozo intraschool negotiation competition to date,” says Professor Lela Love, the program’s director. There were 26 judges, including Cardozo graduate Jonathan Kukin, the son of Ira Kukin, after whom the program is named. The winning student teams (Amy Berlin/Marilyn Bodner and Marc Palmer Kram/Jonathan Jadow) represented Cardozo at the regional competition, held at Albany Law School in November. Out of a field of 20 teams from northeast region law schools, the Cardozo teams finished in third and fourth place. Schools participating included Harvard, Boston University, Northeastern, Rutgers, Hofstra, Albany, Touro, and Brooklyn Law School.

Dean Macchiarola has co-edited Caring for America’s Children, a publication of The Academy of Political Science, of which he is president. “One of the ironies of the present period of educational reform is that it was launched by a report entitled A Nation at Risk, but we now discuss children at risk and see school failure and children’s failure,” he and co-editor CUNY Professor Alan Gartner say in their introduction. “True, the failure of the schools (and other child-serving institutions) disproportionately affects certain children — those of color, those living in poverty, and those who do not fit in an ever-narrowing mainstream. Yet, so long as the focus is on those who suffer the effects of school failure and not on the failure of the institutions, we will continue to fail children.” The dean also authored one of the book’s chapters, “Schools That Serve Children.”


Professor Malvina Halberstam participated in a conference on “The Rule of Law in United States Foreign Policy and the New World Order”, sponsored by the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security and by the University of Virginia Center on National Security Law. Her paper was entitled “The Copenhagen Document: Use of Force in Defense of Democracy.” Professor Halberstam has also been appointed to the Advisory Committee of the ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security.

Adjunct Professor Michael Ross has been appointed to the Committee on Professional Discipline of the New York State Bar Association. He has also recently completed a series of lectures on “Practical Aspects of Evidence” as part of the 1991 New York State Basic Course for Prosecutors. In October, Professor Ross chaired a symposium sponsored by the New York Council of Defense Lawyers at the City Bar Association entitled “Advocacy Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines.”

Adjunct Professor Michael Stallman, a judge of the civil court of the City of New York, has authored the sections on provisional remedies and chattel seizure in the forthcoming revision of Weinstein-Korn-Miller CPLR Handbook (Chase, ed.) It is “the most up-to-date in-depth coverage of the subject now available,” says Professor Stallman.

Miranda E. Fritz and Michael C. Miller, both legal writing instructors, recently wrote an article published in the New York Law Journal on securities fraud. Fritz and Miller are both assistant district attorneys in the Frauds Bureau of the Manhattan D.A.’s office. In addition to teaching legal writing, they will be teaching a course entitled White Collar Crime at Cardozo next fall.

Mack Professor Appointed

Cardozo Professor Stewart Sterk has been appointed to the Bert & Ruth Mack Chair in Real Estate Law. “This appointment is made in recognition,” says University President Norman Lamm, “of the high quality of your work and your continuing excellent service to the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.”
appeals cases. However, “because of my interest in the law guardian’s role,” she says, “I arranged for myself to spend a day with a law guardian in the Bronx. I was able to observe what actually happened at the trial level with cases similar to those I had handled on appeal. I witnessed eight different cases, all in various stages of the Family Court system. I found the day fascinating and could envision myself doing this kind of work after graduating from law school. I am now confident about how I would like to put my law degree to use.”

Comparative Constitutionalism Conference

Columbia University Law Professor Louis Henkin (center) presented the keynote address at a two-day conference entitled “Comparative Constitutionalism: Theoretical Perspectives on the role of Constitutions in the Interplay Between Identity and Diversity.” The conference was organized by Cardozo Professor Michel Rosenfeld (left) and also featured Israel Supreme Court Justice Aharon Barak (right).

“When No Means No: The Consent Defense In Acquaintance Rape”

The consent defense was the subject of a symposium sponsored by Cardozo’s Women’s Annotated Legal Bibliography on November 5th.

Issues addressed included what qualifies as “consent,” the interplay of alcohol and the consent defense, the inherent difficulties for both the prosecutor and complainant in commencing such a rape action, and the stigma facing even an acquitted defendant. Speakers included Larry Silverman, Esq., defense counsel in the St. John’s University rape trial; Suzanne Melendez, Esq., deputy chief of the Sex Crimes Unit at the King’s County District Attorney’s Office; Honorable Leslie Crocker Snyder, New York State Supreme Court Judge, president of the Women’s Bar Association, and founder and chief of the New York County District Attorney’s Sex Crimes Bureau; and Susan Brownmiller, noted feminist and author of Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape. Professor Barry Scheck, who directs Cardozo’s Criminal Law Clinic, was the moderator.

Symposium panelists in the Jacob Burns Moot Court Room (from left to right): Larry Silverman, Esq., Defense Counsel, St. John’s University Rape Trial; Susan Brownmiller, author of Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape; Professor Barry Scheck, Criminal Law Clinic, Moderator; The Honorable Leslie Crocker Snyder, New York State Supreme Court Judge; Suzanne Melendez, Esq., Deputy Chief of Sex Crimes Unit, Kings County Office.
On the morning of November 18, 1991, a group of nearly thirty Cardozo alumni was sworn in at the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Noah Gordon, co-chairman of the alumni association, moved the admission of the group before Chief Justice Rehnquist and all but one (Justice Stevens) of the associate justices. The motion was granted and the applicants became members of the Supreme Court Bar and officers of the Court. Several alums even had a chance meeting with newly appointed Justice Thomas, who congratulated them on their admission to the Court. The alums congratulated Justice Thomas on his recent “admission” as well.

The group swearing-in, which was organized by the Cardozo Alumni Association, was the fifth one of its kind in the last several years in which over one hundred alumni have participated. As in past years, a reception for the applicants, their families and friends was held at one of Washington’s hotels the night before the swearing-in. This year, the reception was held at the Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel.

The event was very successful, judging by the reaction of those alumni who went, all of whom seemed very pleased. Those admitted were Michael Charles Adges, Peter Daniel Assail, Alan Edward Burkohlz, W. Robert Curtis, Robert Joseph Cyrull, Cristina Marie D'Amato-Avoy, Elen B. Friedland, Barbara Joy Glens, Judith Ilana Goldberg, Janice Beth Grubin, Jerald Horowitz, Sharon Hyman, Jon David Jacobs, Frances Mary Maloney, Thomas Abraham Moore, Marilyn Joy Moriber, Cheryl L. Riess-Curtis, Alan Martin Sack, Jeffrey T. Schwartz, Peter Laurence Skolnik, Sarah Kramer Steiner, Teresa M. Grant Stoeth, Karel Lee Turner, Hanalie Waranch, Edward Ira Weiner, Noel Leslie, Christopher Williams, Joseph N. Yamaner, and Todd Alan Zuckerbrod.

Another group swearing-in is planned for December of 1992. Details will be announced in a future Alumni Association mailing.

This 1991-92 program, sponsored once again by Cardozo’s Burns Institute and the New School’s Graduate Faculty Committee on Liberal Studies, encompasses a wide range of subjects and participants. The series, to date and upcoming, includes:

“Truth, Contingency and Modernity” by Albrecht Wellmer of the Free University of Berlin (Sept. 25th); “Why the History of English Law Has Still Not Been Written” by J.H. Baker of Cambridge University (Oct. 2nd); “Return to History in Eastern Europe: The Structure of Things to Come” by Shlomo Avineri of Hebrew University with comments by the New School’s Ferenc Feher and Cardozo’s András Sajó (Oct. 7th); “Parliamentarism, Constitutionalism, Corporatism: Visions of a Post-Community Regime in Hungary” by Janos Kis, president of Alliance of Free Democrats of the Republic of Hungary (Oct. 21st); “Rights and Their Bearers in the Political Philosophy of Claude Lefort” by Bernard Flynn of SUNY Empire State College (November 18th); “Looking Up the Fascists in Wartime Britain” by A.W.B. Simpson of the University of Michigan with comments by Cardozo’s John Beckerman (March 2nd); “Legal Life, Legal Death” by Patricia Williams of the University of Wisconsin with comments by Cardozo’s Marty Slaughter (April 30th).

Second-year student Michael Rohde found time this fall to win first place in the U.S. Open Chess Championship in Los Angeles. Here he talks strategy with Dean Nemerson.
OnLine Card Catalog Installed in Chutick Law Library

The Chutick Law Library introduced an online catalog in December. The catalog lists all the books, journals, and other materials cataloged by the library since 1976. The online catalog can be searched by the names of authors, the titles of books, a combination of author and title, the subject headings that identify the books, the call numbers of the books, or significant words from the titles of books (not the exact title). The catalog can also assist subject browsing by displaying the authors and titles particular book retrieved by the search. Searching is done through menus, and by reading only the screen instructions anyone can quickly learn to search in the catalog.

The law library has installed five terminals — three terminals on the 7th floor and one terminal on each of the 6th and 8th floors. Faculty also have access to the catalog through personal computers in their offices.

The online catalog is the first phase of a library automation project. During the late spring the library will begin to add its specific periodical holdings to the online catalog so that library users will be able to tell if a particular issue has been received from the publisher. During the summer the library will add a circulation system that will signal the availability of a book — indicate if it is in use, at the bindery, etc. The final phase of the automation project, computerizing the book ordering and invoice payment processes, will occur in late 1992.

Summer International Institutes Offered in Four Cities

Building upon the success of last summer’s International Institutes, Cardozo will once again sponsor specialized summer courses in Moscow, Budapest, Hong Kong, and Maastricht.

Designed for law students, recent law graduates, and practicing attorneys, the two courses “The New World Economy: Policy and Practice” (3 credits) and “Law and Society in a Time of Rapid Change” (2 credits) will focus on current issues central to each institute’s locale.

Each institute has been developed in a co-operative effort between Cardozo and an excellent host institution. The academic program — taught by distinguished faculty from Cardozo and other leading American and foreign law schools — will, where appropriate, draw on the expertise of major American law firms with offices in the area. Cardozo’s program, unlike many other law school summer programs, is truly international, featuring participation by students, as well as faculty, from the host area. “Past participants in the institutes,” says Cardozo Professor Stewart Sterk who is coordinating the program, “have found the resulting cross-fertilization of ideas an invaluable part of the program.”

In Moscow (June 29-July 31), the institute will focus on the role of law in internal restructuring. In Budapest (June 29-July 31), the centerpiece will be the transformation from a command society into one in which western democratic norms are being put in place. In Hong Kong (June 15-July 7), a core theme will be the process of transformation occasioned by the agreement between the United Kingdom and the People’s Republic of China. In Maastricht (June 29-July 31), most of the comparative discussion will focus on the building of the European community and ideas of federalism.

For information, and to be sent a brochure, call Cynthia Church at Cardozo, ext. 367.
Alumni News

Class of 1979

Debbie Eis Streeter has published an article in the Journal of Family Law entitled “Nothing to Lose but Their Chains: A Survey of Agunot in American Law.” On October 16th, Debbie gave birth to her sixth child, David Israel.

Susan Kassapian has been appointed consumer affairs assistant commissioner for legal affairs. She will serve as chief counsel to Consumer Affairs Commissioner Mark Green. “Susan Kassapian is one of the best attorneys ever to work at this agency,” said Green. “Sue’s expertise in all aspects of consumer law is essential to our law enforcement success.”

Class of 1981

Lois Lipton (formerly Lipton-Rigolosi) is a partner in the firm of Lipton & Kearns in Hackensack, NJ, engaged in general practice. She is the municipal prosecutor in the Borough of Edgewater and the attorney to the Rent Leveling Boards of Fort Lee and Fairlawn.

Frances Scanlon, an administrative law judge with the New York State Division of Human Rights, continues to produce and host a variety of talk shows aired over the “New York Group” cable systems, including, she reports, “interviews with The Honorable William D. Friedmann, Councilman Sal Albanese, Police Commissioner Anthony Schembri (whose life is being depicted on ABC TV’s “The Commish”) and Dr. James Flannery, a leading W.B. Yeats scholar.”

Class of 1982

Meyer Last has been named a partner at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson. He specializes in complex debt and equity real estate financings, acquisitions, development projects, and major lease transactions.

Class of 1984

Steven S. Polinsky has opened his own solo practice. His office is in Paramus, NJ. He was married last August to Eveline C. Traeger, M.D.

Class of 1988

Baird Cuber, an associate in the law office of Paul I. Freedman (CSL ’81) reports “Over the last two years my work has taken me to 14 countries and 20 U.S. cities on immigration and criminal matters. I participated in a foreign investment and immigration convention in Hong Kong, obtained the release of clients from a Mexico City jail through negotiation with Mexican officials, conferred a case with the Israeli Attorney General’s office in Jerusalem for an Israeli client in New Jersey held for extradition, traveled to Belgrade Yugoslavia five times pursuing immigrant and non-immigrant visas for clients and even once had to ‘work’ for nine days in Bermuda.”

Class of 1989

Elaine Shay and Lorraine Nadel announce the expansion of their office (Shay & Nadel) which will continue its general practice in the areas of marital and family law, commercial litigation, and real estate in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York.

Class of 1991

William B. Jaffe is working for the Legal Aid Society, Civil Division, Park Place Trial Office.

What’s News?

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