

The
CRUSADERS

Graduates leading
the fight for
marriage equality
say there's still a
long way to go

Proud Pioneers

As your dean, faculty and staff strive to lead Northeastern to new heights, we draw inspiration from the trailblazing successes of our graduates. In this magazine, we find Northeastern lawyers heading to Alaska to start life anew; using technology to re-fashion small law practices; and bending the arc of history in winning legal recognition for same-sex marriage. Their stories make us proud.

We embrace this pioneering spirit as we position the law school to thrive in the Internet age. Our co-op program uniquely enables a law student to graduate with nearly a full year of professional experience. But as other schools attempt to copy our approach, we are moving to extend our experiential advantage. Our first-year

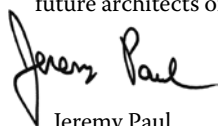
social justice team projects and our weeklong course emphasizing professionalism (which all students take before their first co-op) mark the beginning of key new directions. Our guiding star, which co-op makes possible, is to treat career coaching as central to the educational enterprise. Today's students must be facile enough to navigate a rapidly changing professional world — and we are building that goal into every aspect of our program.

On the curricular side, we are adding concentrations that will permit students to focus their studies by taking multiple courses in a single area of interest, and completing a co-op, paper or clinic in their selected field. This March, we will host a national conference

on the future of legal scholarship, asking if legal blogs and other media threaten traditional law reviews, whose value has already been powerfully questioned. Finally, we are exploring ways to more fully assess student achievement while preserving our longstanding commitment to a collaborative environment.

All this change takes place against a backdrop of success that your help makes possible. The law school was among a handful nationwide to increase its first-year class size (to 185) while maintaining our students' historically strong academic and personal qualifications. The class of 2016 welcomed 14 Public Interest Law Scholars, the most in our history. Our LLM class this year includes 25 students from 15 countries and five continents, eight of whom are specializing in health policy and law. And our recent causes to celebrate include a reception for Senator William "Mo" Cowan '94, hosted by Kevin Fitzgerald '77 at his renowned Jacob Wirth restaurant; a Washington, DC, gathering headlined by Leocadia Zak '82, director of the US Trade and Development Agency; the confirmation of US District Judge (New Hampshire) Landya McCafferty '91; and the awarding of a Skadden Fellowship to Nicolle Vasquez '14, who will serve at the Domestic Violence Action Center in Honolulu.

Keeping this ball rolling will be a team effort; your energy, initiative and, I hasten to add, your generous financial contributions are essential to Northeastern's continued success. Your support of our program in every way allows us to train the future architects of a just society.



Jeremy Paul
Dean and Professor of Law



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Thinking Differently About the Job Market

THE DRUMBEAT about declining job prospects for law students has not gone unnoticed. Everywhere from legal education literature to the popular media one finds bleak employment opportunity assessments as the profession adapts to economic, technological and social disruptions. This story is often told.

Less well told is what we at law schools, generally, and Northeastern, specifically, are doing about it. Here at the School of Law, we assist students in finding fulfilling employment. Over the past year, we have acted aggressively and boldly to respond to significant adjustments in a very competitive job market.

Initially, we did what all good lawyers do: a little research. We learned our students' satisfaction with the school's co-op and career services offices fell after the first year. We discovered it was harder to place students in our traditional area of strength, public interest, because of devastating financial cuts. We recognized that a majority of our graduates practice in the private sector, and that we need to strengthen our capacity to help them find post-graduate jobs. And finally, we came to the conclusion that although 40 percent of students' post-graduate job offers came through co-op connections, that number could be much higher.

We then did the next things that good lawyers do: we analyzed, planned and got to work implementing. We decided to integrate the co-op and career services functions into a forward-looking Center for Co-op and Professional Advancement. CCOPA, as we call it, is responsible for developing our students' professional identities, placing them in co-op and translating this experience into potential post-graduate placement.

We've identified five core features of this process:

- the assignment of a single professional advisor for each student, from acceptance until after graduation
- a mandatory professional development program
- strategic outreach to employers to expand co-op and post-graduate opportunities
- data collection and analysis to provide better knowledge of interactions between co-op and post-graduate placement opportunities
- promoting co-op as a gateway to employment.

Our ambition is to be additive: continuing what we've done so well in the past but also expanding opportunities so students find satisfying careers consistent with their professional goals and aspirations.

We're also exploring opportunities for inventing new jobs. As disruptions to the legal profession are widely felt, we recognize that bleak forecasts are based on views of traditional legal jobs. Northeastern, of course, has a long history of bucking tradition and thinking creatively. Accordingly, we're working with legal entrepreneurs to rethink how law is practiced — now and in the future — and identifying emerging technologies that can be used to deliver legal services. Likewise, we offer a class in law practice management for those interested in going solo.

Our focus on students' job prospects will develop further as the profession continues to evolve and our proactive initiatives to help students and graduates are ongoing. But we expect to see positive results from this major commitment designed to help our students become lawyers who are ready to practice with

a full complement of skills and ethical and social values necessary to serve clients and the public interest, now and in the future.

Luke Bierman is associate dean for experiential education and distinguished professor of the practice of law.



Northeastern, of course, has a long history of bucking tradition and thinking creatively.

CRRJ Works to Clear Name of Lynching Victim

Hanged by the neck in a mob lynching in Bayou Lafourche, Louisiana, in October 1933, 16-year-old Freddie Moore had been accused in the death of a neighbor, a white girl. On the 80th anniversary of this hate crime, Northeastern law students in the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) and a daughter of Moore's cousin are trying to clear his name.

Arrested October 10, 1933, for the slaying days earlier of Anna Mae LaRose, a 15-year-old girl who was his friend, Moore was pulled from the parish jail in Napoleonville the next night by an angry mob of 50 to 200 armed and unmasked people who had the prison keys. Moore was then brought to the field where LaRose's body was found, according to an account in the black-owned New Orleans newspaper, *The Louisiana Weekly*. With a rope around his neck and clothes stripped to his waist, the teen was then marched, while being beaten, from the murder scene to a bridge and subjected to a branding iron whenever he fell.

Hanging from his body, a sign offered the final indignity: "Niggers Let This Be An Example. Do-Not-Touch-In 24 Hr. Mean it."

CRRJ, which investigates cold Civil Rights-era cases to determine what really happened, bring to justice those who may have been involved and, in the cases of the wrongly accused, clear their names, is seeking a state court judgment declaring the arrest of Moore a violation of his rights because, based on available evidence, the sheriff lacked probable cause to detain him and search his house.

"The arrest was unlawful, the failure to protect Moore violated his right to be protected in custody and the failure to pursue the real perpetrator — if indeed one was known at the time — also violated Moore's right not to be charged with another man's crime," Professor Margaret Burnham, founder of CRRJ, told *The Advocate* newspaper in a story published in October. "These harms have weighed on Moore's family for eight decades, and it is time to make it right."



Angela Davis

Angela Davis Headlines CRRJ Commemoration of the Birmingham Bombing

The School of Law's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) marked the 50th anniversary of the Birmingham bombing during an evening of remembrance with legendary activist, scholar and author Angela Davis. Held at the First Congregational Church of Oakland (in California), the September event also featured a performance by the Vukani Mawethu Choir and a reading by poet Donte Clark.

"It's important that we resist the temptation of abstraction, how easy it is to think about four innocent young black girls whose lives were violently taken away by white supremacists," said Davis. "And I'm not suggesting that this did not happen. Of course it did. What I'm saying is that it was a lot more complicated. And if we don't attempt to understand the complexity of this historical event, then we will certainly not be capable of comprehending that violence, that racist violence, and its connections with sexist violence or homophobic and xenophobic violence, which continues to erupt in our lives today. Resisting the temptation of historical



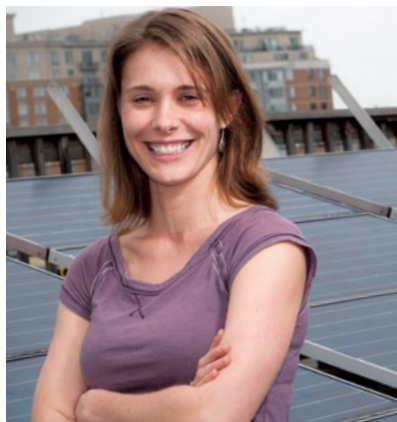
Professor Margaret Burnham

abstraction requires us to realize that this was not an extraordinary event that erupted one Sunday morning 50 years ago in an otherwise peaceful city. As I've pointed out, violence was very much the norm."

Boston Community Capital Launches \$100K Public Interest Law Fellowship

Boston Community Capital (BCC) has launched a \$100,000 one-year fellowship for a recent law school graduate to work for the nonprofit organization handling public interest law projects. The first fellow is Emily Rochon '13, who is working on state and federal public policy issues related to clean energy and is helping the organization develop a solar and energy business focused on low-income communities.

"I want someone to understand that they can engage in public interest work and do a fellowship that doesn't commit them to an extended period of time but gives them experience. And leaves open the possibility of a longer-term relationship," Elyse Cherry '83, chief executive officer of Boston Community Capital, told the *Boston Business Journal* in November.



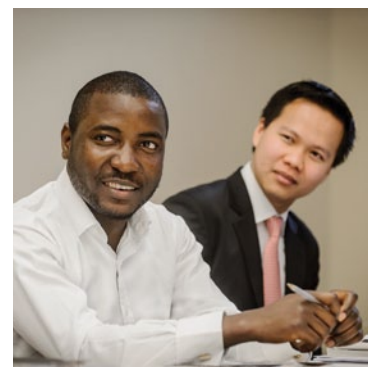
Emily Rochon '13

BCC is a community development financial institution focused on building healthy communities where low-income people live and work. Since 1985, BCC has invested more than \$920 million to



Elyse Cherry '83

support organizations and businesses that provide affordable housing, jobs and new opportunities in low-income communities, connecting these neighborhoods to the mainstream economy.



Students in the LLM program participate in upper-level classes with JD students as well as special LLM seminars.

LLM Class More than Doubles in Size

The School of Law welcomed 25 LLM students this fall — up from 11 in 2012-2013. The growing program now includes a concentration in health policy and law as well as a dual-degree program through which students earn an LLM from Northeastern University and a master's degree in sustainable international development from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.

Later this year, the School of Law will launch concentrations in human rights and

law and economic development as well as a dual-degree program in which students earn an LLM from the School of Law and an MBA from Northeastern University's D'Amore-McKim School of Business.

This year's LLM class includes 15 women and 10 men. They are natives of 14 countries on five continents, in addition to the US, including Puerto Rico. Many have experience in the legal field, including general practice, commercial law, trusts and estates, real estate and immigrant rights. Seventeen

are enrolled in the general LLM program and eight are enrolled in the health policy and law specialization.

"This is a truly impressive class," said Patrick Cassidy, director of the LLM and international programs. "They speak at least 13 different languages. Some are very young. Others remember what it was like to be young! The class includes a tax lawyer, a former judge and a veteran paramedic. We are thrilled to welcome them all and to watch them flourish in our community."



CO-OP MATTERS

Taking it to the Streets

ADAM CERNEA CLARK'S CO-OP LANDS HIM IN
THE MIDDLE OF POPULAR PROTESTS

Almost as soon as Adam Cernea Clark '14 set down in Romania last August, thousands of protesters took to the streets. The government was on the verge of approving a private-sector gold mining project that citizens feared would release cyanide into the environment. Cernea Clark, who studies environmental law and international development as part of Northeastern's dual-degree program with Vermont Law School, felt he had to get involved. "The movement is amazingly diverse. You have little kids sitting on dad's shoulders. You have older people," Cernea Clark says. "People are fed-up with the corporate influence in their country."

Cerne Clark came to Bucharest to work at the legal firm POP PEPA. His wife, Silvia Cernea Clark, grew up in Romania, and the two spent a year there after graduating from college.

Cerne Clark's responsibilities at POP PEPA mostly focus on contract law — mergers and acquisitions, non-disclosure

agreements and real estate transactions. Romania was ruled by a dictator until 1989 and only joined the European Union in 2007. Cernea Clark says some of his work involves smoking out "dubious" hidden investors in Eastern European companies about to be purchased. "A lot of these countries are suddenly getting this influx of capital as the EU expands," he says. "There's a lot of due diligence that has to go on."

But it's his involvement in the protests that Cernea Clark says made his time in Romania truly memorable. He was right there as the movement put together its legal and political strategies, marched in demonstrations and raised awareness about current events in Romania by writing articles for *The Huffington Post*. "There's something big going on here," he says, "but it's not clear to anyone yet where it will ultimately wind up."

— Lawrence Goodman

PHAI Report Advises Nutrition Advocates Use Anti-Tobacco Strategies

Nutrition advocates may be able to use lessons from tobacco control to help government protect the public from harmful food and beverage products and marketing practices, according to Public Health Advocacy Institute (PHAI) staff, who co-authored a study published this fall in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

In a content analysis of public and internal documents, PHAI and the Berkeley Media Studies Group examined national newspapers, tobacco industry documents and the *Congressional Record* and *Congressional Index* between 1952 and 1965 to learn how health harms from cigarettes were framed in the early days of anti-tobacco advocacy.

The study, funded by a grant from the National Cancer Institute to the School of Law, found that news coverage of tobacco focused primarily on its health harms — not who was responsible for addressing them, and government action

was contested only in internal industry documents, not public discussion. News coverage and legislative documents questioned not whether the government should act, but how.

Nevertheless, once the dangers of cigarettes were established, actions were individually oriented and related mostly to providing consumers with more education and warnings about smoking's health harms.

"We now take for granted how effective tobacco taxes and indoor smoking bans are," study co-author and PHAI Director Mark Gottlieb said. "But moving tobacco control efforts from smoking cessation to industry regulation happened over the long haul."

The study authors suggest that healthy food advocates may be able to do the same, shifting attention from unhealthy foods and beverages to the companies that manufacture and market them.

NuLawLab Joins Launch of Domestic Workers Hotline

The School of Law's NuLawLab has joined efforts led by socially engaged art studio REV-, together with the Brazilian Immigrant Center and the MIT Center for Civic Media, to support the growing domestic worker justice movement. The lab recently sponsored an independent study project for three Northeastern law students to work collaboratively with organizers for domestic workers, artists and media students. The result is "Claro Que Si," an audio and text message information hotline launching early this year that will educate domestic workers in Massachusetts about their rights.

Student Once Homeless, Wins Diversity Scholarship

Andrew Collins '16, whose parents kicked him out of his home at 14 when he revealed he was gay, received a \$10,000 diversity scholarship this fall from the law firm Adler Pollock & Sheehan.

A homeless teen on the streets of Oklahoma City, Collins realized that the only way he could live in a safe place was to work several jobs to pay rent and drop out of school. He later obtained his GED. After making his way to Massachusetts, he enrolled in Bunker Hill Community College while working full time. He did exceptionally well academically and was admitted to Tufts University's REAL (Resumed Education for Adult Learners) Program, where his efforts were rewarded with a scholarship. He then headed to the School of Law.

"My experiences have made me truly thankful for the opportunities I have



Left to right: Stacey Velarde, director of development and alumni/ae relations for the School of Law; Pamela Berman, chair of Adler Pollock & Sheehan's Diversity Committee; Andrew Collins '16; Dean Jeremy Paul; Rebecca Wohl '14 and Assistant Dean Bettye Freeman '91.

been given. I am especially excited about the chance to work with the firm this summer," said Collins, who will go on his first co-op this June, working as an associate in Adler Pollock & Sheehan's Boston office.

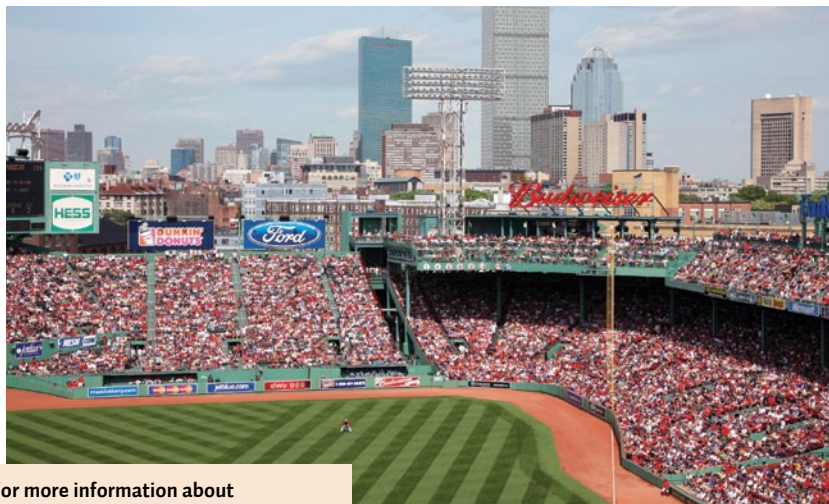
As part of Adler Pollock & Sheehan's diversity efforts, the scholarship aims

to encourage and assist a minority student who has demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to the community to attend law school and successfully enter the practice of law, with the ultimate goal of diversifying the legal profession as well as the firm.

Sports Law and Fenway Park Open to Grads and Friends

As part of the NUSL Summer program, which invites students from ABA-accredited law schools to take summer courses at Northeastern, the School of Law will allow graduates and friends to participate in Sports Law and Fenway Park, an extraordinary program that will include a twice-weekly Sports Law class taught by Richardson Professor of Law Roger Abrams. The course will explore the legal, economic and social aspects of national and international professional and amateur sports by focusing on judicial, administrative, legislative and arbitration decisions that have created a cohesive body of principles for the resolution of disputes.

"We will pay particular attention to the governance of sports, player reservation systems and player contracts, collective bargaining and salary arbitration, performance-enhancing drugs, franchise free agency, violence in sports, NCAA rules and regulations, gender and handicapped discrimination, and sports agents," said Abrams,



For more information about cost and schedule, visit www.northeastern.edu/law/summer.

co-author of the most widely used case book in the field, and the author of seven books on the business and history of sports law. He is also a much-in-demand salary arbitrator for Major League Baseball and a frequent commentator on sports law in the national press.

In addition to classroom instruction, the Sports Law and Fenway Park course includes:

- Private tour of Fenway Park guided by Red Sox insiders
- Meetings with top-level front office executives
- Red Sox games (opportunity to purchase tickets)

NU Law Journal Launches Online Edition

The Northeastern University Law Journal (NULJ) has launched *Extra Legal*, an online journal offering cutting-edge perspectives on practical and academic legal issues. *Extra Legal* publishes legal commentaries that support and educate legal professionals and facilitate ongoing discussion of emerging legal issues. Articles provide practical value explaining the law, take bold stances on legal issues and pose thoughtful questions on emerging issues. Recent articles include "Use and Abuse of Joinder in Copyright Infringement" and "Overprescribed and Underserved: Psychotropic Medication and Foster Care in the US." To read or contribute to *Extra Legal*, visit nulj.org.

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DAYNARD LECTURE

Eubanks Looks to Future of Equal Rights

9.30.13 In the 20th century, lawyers played a crucial role in helping secure basic rights for African Americans, women and others through lawsuits, advocacy and perseverance, according to prominent public interest attorney Sharon Eubanks.

In the 21st century, however, Eubanks said this work will require lawyers to forge strategic partnerships with those outside their profession to meet new challenges, from changes in the law to the evolving dynamics of information flow in the digital age.

"In today's world to advance equality for all, actions can't take place

only in litigation. There must be other forms of advocacy," said Eubanks during a public lecture to more than 100 Northeastern law community members in September. "We as litigators will find benefits in coordinating with advocacy groups that identify the best causes to move the law toward recognition of equality."

The role of journalists in shedding light on legal issues and challenges will also be more important than ever before, Eubanks added, as will the use of social media.

Eubanks' lecture, "Representing the Underrepresented: Civil Rights in the 21st

Century," was part of her three-day campus visit sponsored by the Daynard Public Interest Visiting Fellows Program, which brings two distinguished public interest practitioners to campus each academic year. The fellows serve as role models for students, demonstrating how legal skills can be used effectively and creatively to make the world a better place. University Distinguished Professor of Law Richard Daynard, president of the law school's Public Health Advocacy Institute, and his wife, Carol, established the program in 2004.

Eubanks is a founding partner of the public interest law firm Edwards & Eubanks. She previously spent 22 years as an attorney in the US Department of Justice's civil division, where she served as lead counsel in the largest civil Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations enforcement action ever filed, *United States v. Philip Morris*. Following a nine-month trial, the federal district court found that defendants — major US cigarette companies — committed fraud on a massive scale and were ordered to change the way they do business, particularly in the areas of marketing and advertising.

Dean Jeremy Paul lauded Eubanks for her accomplishments. "She's had the career that serves as a role model for anyone preparing for a life in the law," Paul said.

— Greg St. Martin

S.NET

Innovation, Responsibility and Sustainable Development

10.27-30.13 The Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies (S.NET), an international association that promotes intellectual exchange and critical inquiry about the advancement of nanoscience and emerging technologies, held its fifth annual conference at the School of Law in October. "We focused on the themes of innovation,

responsibility and sustainable development," said Professor Michael Bennett, who teaches in the fields of intellectual property law and law and technology. "Welcoming S.NET to the law school was part of our ongoing effort toward creating a broad variety of disciplinary perspectives on the issues faced by society."

PROGRAM ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY (PHRGE)

Human Rights and Violence Against Women: Applying the Due Diligence Principle

11.7-8.13 PHRGE's eighth annual institute brought more than 100 academics, advocates and practitioners to the School of Law for discussions about the effort to end violence against women. The School of Law's Due Diligence Project and the Domestic Violence Institute served as co-conveners for this exploration of the ways in which the international human rights framework might contribute to advocacy efforts against gender-based violence, especially those taking place in the Northeast region of the United States.



Charlotte Bunch (left), founder and senior scholar at the Rutgers University Center for Women's Global Leadership, delivered the keynote address. Above, a panel discussion focused on "US Context: Outcomes of the US Regional Due Diligence Consultation."

IP/INNOVATION CONNECTION

Challenges in Collaborative Innovation

11.21.13 The annual IP/Innovation Connection, co-sponsored by the School of Law, D'Amore-McKim School of Business and College of Arts, Media and Design, brought together entrepreneurs, strategists, advisors, policymakers, lawyers, academics and others operating on the frontiers of innovation — each with a different perspective — to explore developments in innovation, share insights gained from experience and take a fresh look at intellectual property (IP).



A panel discussed "Collaboration with Digital Fabrication" while Justin Fishkin (left), chief strategy officer for Local Motors, spoke about his company's crowd-powered automotive design, and shared insights and lessons from its experience with collaborative innovation.

Office of Alumni/ae Relations

Labor and Employment Program

12.5.13 This annual program featured two dynamic panels, moderated by Mark Irvings '75. Jaclyn Kugell '92 and James Weliky '95 led a discussion about the relatively new science of unconscious bias and how the practice of employment law has been affected by it. A conversation about public sector collective bargaining and public policy featured Janis Barquist '78, Timothy Buckalew '80 and Susan Horwitz '84.



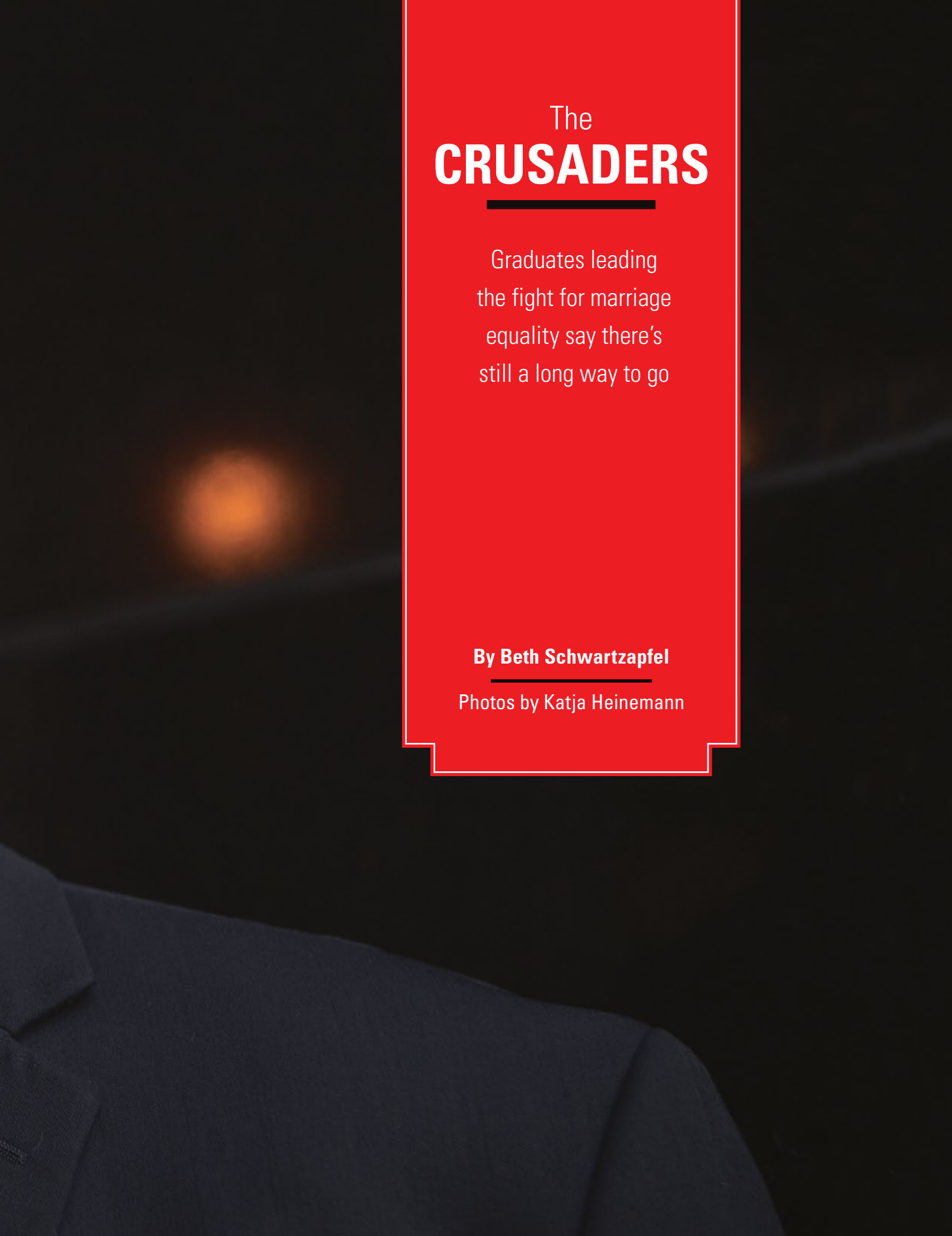
Once again, Mark Irvings '75 proved a masterful moderator.



Arbitrator Timothy Buckalew '80 and Jaclyn Kugell '92, managing partner of Morgan, Brown & Joy.



Kevin Cathcart '82, head of Lambda Legal since 1992, is a leading gay rights strategist.



The **CRUSADERS**

Graduates leading
the fight for marriage
equality say there's
still a long way to go

By Beth Schwartzapfel

Photos by Katja Heinemann



Urvashi Vaid '83 is the author of *Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class and the Assumptions of LGBT Politics*.



Last fall, Kevin Cathcart '82 was meeting with supporters of the LGBT civil rights organization Lambda Legal when a gay man turned to Cathcart and said, “Well, now that marriage has been dealt with ...”

Cathcart was incredulous.

“We are sitting in Chicago where people cannot get married,” Cathcart thought to himself. “How is marriage dealt with?”

Cathcart, Lambda Legal executive director for more than 20 years, kept calm and explained that while he was optimistic about the marriage equality challenges then working their way through the Illinois and New Jersey courts, neither were by any means a done deal at the time. That’s not to mention the 34 other states (37, at the time) with no marriage equality or, worse, outright bans on gay marriage.

“Right now if you look at the map, the vast majority of this country does not have same-sex marriage,” Cathcart says. “Sixteen states do not fill out the map.”

When the US Supreme Court ruled in June that section three of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional, LGBT communities and allies cheered. The federal government would now recognize same-sex marriages — a decision with wide-ranging implications for everything from taxes to veterans’ affairs and military benefits. President Obama

personally called Edie Windsor, the landmark case’s plaintiff, to tell her how moved he was by her story.

Still, *United States v. Windsor* was a partial victory: the federal government must recognize marriages validly performed in states, but other DOMA sections — including section two, which exempts states from recognizing marriages performed in other states — remain constitutionally permissible. Long noted as national leaders in advocating for LGBT legal rights, Northeastern law graduates are now planning a strategy to fill out the map and overturn DOMA entirely. Most expect that a deciding case before the US Supreme Court will happen in the next decade. In the meantime, there is much work to be done.

Mary Bonauto '87, hailed in *The New York Times* as the Thurgood Marshall of the gay rights movement, has been a leading crusader for marriage equality since the early 1990s. As civil rights project director at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Bonauto won the 1999 Vermont case that led to the nation’s first civil union law and also served as lead counsel in the Massachusetts *Goodridge* case that legalized same-sex marriage.

While today most polls report that same-sex marriage is supported by more than half of American adults, in the early 1990s, “The idea that ‘I need to marry my partner’ seemed fanciful, even sort of crazy,” Bonauto told *The New Yorker* in a recent article. Given that discrimination and hate crimes were both common, “there were so many obstacles to overcome before you could even have a rational conversation” about gay marriage, she said.

Fast forward to 2012: Recognition of gay marriage is marching along state by state — albeit with some notable defeats — when Bonauto and Maura Healey '98, then civil rights division chief in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (now a candidate for state attorney general), head to Boston's federal courthouse to argue concurrent suits: Bonauto asserting that DOMA's section three violates equal protection guaranteed by the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment, and Healey with a parallel suit against the Department of Health and Human Services claiming that same section is unconstitutional on the grounds that the 10th Amendment reserves power not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution to be the power of the states or the people.

Though the Northeastern grads did not argue the appeal that led to the Supreme Court's 2013 landmark decision, it's clear that Bonauto is viewed as the pivotal player in the triumph. As Roberta Kaplan, the attorney who successfully argued *United States v. Windsor*, told *The New York Times*, "no gay person in this country would be married without Mary Bonauto."

It's a tremendous achievement," says Urvasi Vaid '83, director of the Engaging Tradition Project at the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School. And yet, "activists have never seen marriage as the end point of anything. It was always a long list of things we were trying to push forward."

In most of America, marriage equality seems a far-off luxury. More than half of states still permit someone to be fired or kicked out of their own home for being gay. Though the Senate approved legislation in November that would protect LGBT employees from discrimination in the workplace, opposition in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives is strong.

Even if the federal employment discrimination act passes, more than 30 states still don't offer basic legal protection from discrimination for LGBT people in areas such as employment and housing. So national organizations continue their work in the courts, on administrative rulings in federal agencies and on passage of laws in state legislatures to ensure every American is protected against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"It's critically important that [state] laws can pass, because if you live in a state that doesn't include sexual orientation in its protection categories, we have very limited tools to help you," says Cathcart.

He cites a case that Lambda Legal won in 2011, in which a woman was fired from her job in the Georgia General Assembly when she came out as transgender, or a 2012 case in which a Texas community college professor was denied a permanent position because she is a lesbian. In each case, Cathcart says, "we were able to bring the case and win it on constitutional grounds because our client was an employee of the state. Had it been a private employer, there is no law that would have applied at the time."

Activists, of course, have been working on these issues for years. But the public doesn't hear much about it because "people only have so much bandwidth to think about gay people," says Bonauto. "Marriage takes up that space."

Cathcart adds, "Employment discrimination by and large is not considered sexy or particularly newsworthy. There are too many places in this country where we have to say, 'what happened to you is terrible, but terrible does not always have a legal response.' Much of the discrimination that real people face in their lives in this country is not considered illegal."

So the movement forges ahead with dual and dueling priorities though it's clear marriage is the high-profile goal. And, even when it comes to marriage equality, there is no single strategy controlled by a central organizer. At present, there are 44 marriage cases in 22 states; 23 are federal cases and 21 are in state courts. Many of the suits have been filed by private lawyers for individual couples. Bonauto and others in the movement are apprehensive. "The concern is, we could lose a lot of these cases. That dilutes the momentum we have at the moment. Losses sometimes are also just as damaging for the legal theories that we set out. Frankly, it's too many lawsuits," notes Bonauto. "Having said that, the enthusiasm is irrepressible. People are extremely focused on getting over the finish line."

The strategy employed by Bonauto and other leading marriage crusaders echoes the approaches that culminated in the Supreme Court wins in *Loving v. Virginia*, the 1967 case outlawing bans on interracial marriage, and in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the 2003 Lambda Legal case that struck down sodomy laws.

"When a near-majority of states and overwhelming public opinion support marriage, it's more likely that the Supreme Court will step in and act as the ultimate federal arbiter on the issue," says Bonauto. "That means continued state-by-state work, including winning in legislatures, winning in state courts and repealing some constitutional amendments that are in place." The recent legal and legislative wins in New Jersey, Illinois and Hawaii, and ongoing work in Utah, Nevada and West Virginia, are part of that strategy. "I think we need a few more years to get to that critical number of states. We need to do that so that the timing is right for the Supreme Court."

Beyond future legal challenges there are the on-the-ground realities. "Achieving formal legal equality does not translate to achieving lived equality," says Vaid, former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Even in states with nondiscrimination laws, prejudice and structural barriers persist. "The lessons of the other civil rights movements that have come before us reveal that you still have work to do on a basic level on implementation of those laws," says Vaid.

To this end, many LGBT organizations have launched education and anti-bullying campaigns to help schools be safer places for gay and transgender kids. Lambda Legal has a Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project for LGBTQ young people who are harassed or discriminated against in foster care, homeless shelters and the juvenile justice system.

Ultimately, LGBT leaders like Bonauto, Cathcart and others hope the many separate strands of work will become increasingly tied together. For example, in places with prohibitions on gay marriage, state constitutional amendments "serve as important markers that gay people are not considered equal under the law," Cathcart says. "That still spills over into other issues: employment, custody, young people in schools. It goes far beyond marriage itself."

It extends, he says, to "whether or not gay people are granted full humanity in this country. It's very hard to say we're full citizens in places where our relationships and families are not recognized, where the law says your family members are total strangers to you."

Beth Schwartzapfel is a Boston-based freelance journalist whose focus is the criminal justice system and LGBTQ issues. Read more of her work at blackapple.org.

LAW OFFICE
OF
AUDREY O'SHAUGHNESSY



Audrey Heidt O'Shaughnessy '06

Going It Alone — Together

NORTHEASTERN GRADUATES LIGHT THE WAY AS MORE NEW LAWYERS START SOLO PRACTICES STRAIGHT OUT OF LAW SCHOOL

By Jeri Zeder | Photos by Kathleen Dooher

It's called **Bloody Thursday**.

On February 12, 2009, six major US law firms announced that they were letting go 1,000 attorneys and other staff. It was likely the largest job layoff of lawyers ever to hit in a single day, and a chilling indication of the Great Recession's toll on the profession. And it wasn't just a bloody day; it was a bloody year. By May, more than 10,000 lawyers had been let go from law firms. Jobs were scarce, salaries were sinking and trends looked bleak. Today, the economy is better, but still flagging. Last year marked the fifth year in a row that the overall employment rate for new law grads had fallen.

Faced with this reality, many law school graduates have been opting for the unconventional path of starting out solo, but most law schools have been slow to catch up with the trend. They

tend to do little to prepare students in the business and practice of law, even as opportunities for training by employers are drying up. Local bar associations that typically cater to experienced solo practitioners offer hardly anything of immediate relevance to newbies, who are left to figure out for themselves how to attract clients, get trained, manage a profitable law business and avoid malpractice.



Sofia Lingos '09

Yet there's more to the story than new law graduates resorting to hanging out shingles when they can't find jobs. For some, opening their own practices has been a long-time dream — and today's technology makes that easier. "It seems like a lot more young lawyers are more entrepreneurial than they used to be, especially because

technology allows them to be," says Jennifer Rydell, chair of the Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division of the American Bar Association.

Sofia Lingos '09, who runs a boutique business law firm in Boston, began planning her solo endeavor while she was still a law student. "I realized at the end of law school that I had compiled a library of practice management resources that I happily shared with anyone interested," she says. She approached the dean about offering a course on how to establish a law firm, and learned that Professor Jim Rowan had taught one years earlier. She and Rowan updated the course, called Law Practice Management Seminar: Access to Justice, and co-taught it until recently, when Lingos took it over as an adjunct faculty member. About 20 students each quarter enroll. The course requires students to prepare operational, marketing and financial plans — and to present novel ways to address the issue of access to legal services for the middle class. Approximately 25 percent of US law schools offer a class on law practice management, though the course at Northeastern is one of the first to challenge students to address the access to justice issue.

Learning about the business of practice management during law school has value beyond preparing students to start their own firms, according to Rowan. "Understanding what it takes for a firm to succeed makes you a better member of that firm, whether it's somebody else's firm or your firm," he says. "Our co-op program and clinics help students stand out in terms of hands-on legal experience. This course adds yet another skill set that gives our graduates greater career flexibility: they can take this knowledge base to an employer, but if they end up wanting to try something else out, they will have the confidence to launch a private practice or take their skills elsewhere," he says.

The Outliers

Gabriel Cheong '07 is a law-practice experimenter, innovator and marketer extraordinaire. "I wanted to do my own thing in my own way," Cheong says about his decision to open his own firm. A self-taught entrepreneur, Cheong got his break when a small, general practitioner in Malden, Mass., whom he had worked for on co-op, decided to close up shop. Cheong bought the business and now runs his own divorce and family law practice. He fuels it with low overhead — he works out of his home office, strategically deploying technology and renting shared conference space — and a blend of energetic marketing and novel billing practices.

"Marketing never ends for me," Cheong says. He publishes, speaks at conferences, exploits social media and serves on bar association committees, all of which serve to burnish his reputation, cultivate referrals and let him "give back." When Massachusetts established new alimony guidelines last year, Cheong's firm created an app for calculating child support and alimony. It's been downloaded by lawyers and judges alike.



Gabriel Cheong '07

Cheong rejected hourly billing in favor of fixed-fees. "I want a fair settlement at a fair price, and I don't want to charge my clients for, for example, simply waiting in court," he explains. Based on the complexity of a case, he'll set a flat fee that covers six months of his unlimited time. This, he says, incentivizes clients to settle, which he believes leads to better outcomes for them.

Audrey Heidt O'Shaughnessy '06 has consciously devoted her law business to serving the middle class. In her long-term care and estate planning practice, she limits her clientele to those with estates valued under \$1 million, and will reduce her fees for low-income individuals. It's been enough to sustain her, allow her to hire an associate and staff, and give her a good work-life balance and professional fulfillment. "My clients are for the most part elders, and they write me thank-you notes and bake me cookies," she says. "These are just fabulous people who have a real need."

Being new is hard, O'Shaughnessy acknowledges. "One of the things people want to know about you is your experience or how you learned to do what you're doing, and it's hard to tell somebody, 'I read it in a book an hour before I met you,'" she says. Early in her practice, whenever O'Shaughnessy appeared before a judge for the first time, she'd introduce herself, explain that she was new and ask for feedback.

To get her practice going, O'Shaughnessy worked part time for a divorce lawyer, took lots of continuing legal education courses and networked heavily with

attorneys and estate planners, even asking a few of them to be her mentors. Her search for knowledge and training exposed the resource gap for new grads starting out solo. With Cheong and James Baron (a Suffolk law grad specializing in special education law), she founded Starting Out Solo (SOS), a web-based community of Boston-area attorneys that is also now a formal bar association.

911 for Newbies

Responding to the needs of its constituents, SOS limits membership and charges minimal dues. Meetings enable networking and professional development. A popular feature is the judgment-free, confidential listserv, which provides a safe place to ask the most basic of questions. New practitioners get guidance and "second chair" support on court appearances, share sample motions and documents, and engage in dynamic discussions. "I am part of numerous listservs, but in SOS, everyone goes above and beyond to assist colleagues," says SOS board member Lingos.

What's going on in the Boston area is being mirrored on the national level. The ABA runs a nationwide listserv that's similar to the SOS listserv, called Solo Sez. The ABA's Young Lawyers section and the Law Student division are both starting up mentoring projects. And, based on member feedback, the ABA has launched the Solo Strong Initiative, which will assemble and make available practical resources for solo and small firm attorneys within state and local bars throughout the US.

If the rising numbers of law grads starting out solo is spurred, in part, by the glut of new lawyers in the job market, the other side of the story is the dearth of lawyers serving middle- and low-income people. The US ranks 19th out of 29 high-income countries in providing access to justice (per the World Justice Project). Judges report rising numbers of pro se litigants — a trend that slows courts and legally imperils people.

Rowan argues that transforming legal practice so that it is broadly efficient, affordable and accessible will take disciplined experimentation, both in the legal academy and within the profession itself. It's here that the growing number of solo practitioners can have an impact, because to be successful, they must excavate new client markets. Their attempts to do so just might yield new angles of attack.

Lawyers like Cheong, O'Shaughnessy and Lingos are lighting the path. "They believe that there is a way, or many ways, to run a financially viable practice that reaches people who have previously been unreachable by legal services. And they do it in an ethical fashion," Rowan says. They share not only an independent streak, but also a commitment to their colleagues who start out solo. They represent the idea that, to be successful, solos must not go it alone.

Jeri Zeder is a contributing writer. She can be reached at jzns1@rede.zpato.net.

A serene winter landscape featuring a snow-covered ground in the foreground. A wooden bench is partially buried in the snow on the left. Several trees, including evergreens and bare deciduous trees, are scattered throughout the scene. In the background, a range of snow-capped mountains is visible under a soft, overcast sky. The overall mood is quiet and peaceful.

LAST FRONTIER, First Impressions

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the
Northeastern law co-op pipeline to Alaska

By Elaine McArdle | Photos by James Clark Mishler



Semi-retired from practicing law, Jeff Lowenfels '75 is America's longest running garden columnist. His weekly articles appear in the Anchorage Daily News.

Alaska.

It's the largest state. And the second youngest. Its natural beauty is celebrated. Its politicians frequently reviled. And, strangely enough, it's home to more than 80 Northeastern law graduates, most of whom trekked there in search of interesting co-ops and stayed because they fell in love with the "last frontier."

"It's a fairly common experience to find myself in the courtroom with either a Northeastern judge on the bench or as my opposing counsel — and sometimes both," says Jeffrey Feldman '75, one of the original forgers of the Northeastern-Alaska connection, and one of the state's most influential trial lawyers. Since launching his own law firm in Anchorage in 1976, Feldman has hired dozens of Northeastern co-op students, 15 of whom can still be found in courtrooms throughout the state as judges and lawyers.

Those same courtrooms have also been the setting for countless cases of first impression, with Northeastern lawyers and judges playing pivotal roles in shaping the state's jurisprudence, and thus, in some part, its destiny.

O, Pioneers

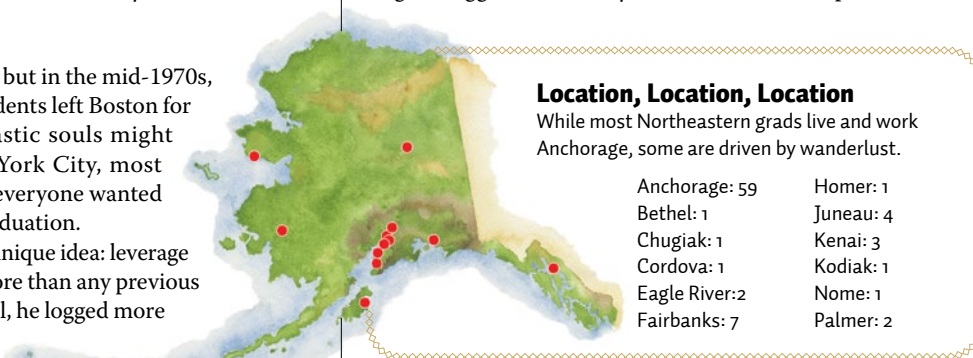
It's nearly unimaginable today, but in the mid-1970s, very few Northeastern law students left Boston for co-op. While a few iconoclastic souls might venture all the way to New York City, most co-ops were local, and nearly everyone wanted to practice in Boston after graduation.

But Jeff Lowenfels '75 had a unique idea: leverage the co-op program to travel more than any previous Northeastern law student. In all, he logged more than 36,000 miles, but his second stop — Anchorage — turned out to be his favorite. "At the time, nobody at the university could believe it. Alaska! That was weird," recalls Lowenfels. But after returning to Boston, he showed slides to the law school community and so impressed his classmates with the state's natural beauty — and the unparalleled opportunities for young lawyers — that, almost immediately, a significant number began traveling the 4,500 miles from Boston to Anchorage and other Alaskan communities.

Then, after being shot in the neck during a holdup in Boston (and nearly dying), Lowenfels felt compelled to do something

extraordinary with his life and — with his new bride — took off for the frontier state where they knew no one, ready for adventure.

The rest is history. Over the past four decades, hundreds of Northeastern law students have trekked to Alaska for co-ops, clerkships and jobs, many staying to make it their home. Currently, more than 80 graduates actively practice in Alaska, with many more having already retired. So many have cycled through the state's public defender agencies, attorney general's office and other key legal organizations that you could say Northeastern has a transcontinental pipeline to the Land of the Midnight Sun. Lowenfels agrees. With a wide smile and only slight exaggeration, he says, "We own the bar up here."



Many graduates came up as couples, including Superior Court Judge Sen Tan '82 and his wife, Averil Lerman '82, a former state and federal public defender now working on a book about the last state-sanctioned executions in Alaska. "Alaska at that time was booming, things were growing, there was a lot of opportunity," recalls Tan, who was appointed to the bench in 1996. "The word of mouth came back to Boston: 'You should come up here. This is a great place!'" Tan completed a co-op in Alaska in 1981, and then moved there in 1982 with his then-girlfriend Lerman, who also landed a clerkship, both excited about the open legal horizon.



Superior Court Judge Sen Tan '82 and his wife, Averil Lerman '82, a former state and federal public defender.

"The state was still quite new, and there were lots of things happening in law," he recalls. "Alaska was in the forefront of a lot of legal developments." And, adds Tan, whose previous stints include the public defender's office and the AG's office, "there was this sense that the legal community was open in Alaska. We don't have a law school here, so all the lawyers came from somewhere else."

That new ground freed the Alaskan legal scene from the trappings of well-established cities like Boston. "I think the thing that was distinct about Alaska when I got here was there were no 'old boys,'" says Lerman. "In the co-ops in Boston, there were all these old guys in suits, who had these big offices, who controlled all the money. It wasn't a good environment for women." In contrast, "When I got to Alaska, the 'old guys' were in their 40s. It's a much more horizontal society. There's very little stratification as to who holds the power and who can get it." To this day, she adds, "Most of the law here has never been written. For that reason, you can have a huge impact on law — which is exciting."

Breaking New Ground

One of the most influential members of the Northeastern contingent — not to mention within Alaskan jurisprudence — is Dana Fabe '76, now serving her third non-consecutive term as chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. Fabe, looking for a yearlong adventure when she graduated from law school, took a clerkship for a justice on the state high court in 1976 — and, like so many others, never left.

"It's fair to say I doubt anyone from Northeastern has had a bigger impact in Alaska than Dana," Feldman says. Fabe was only 30 years old when the governor appointed her as the first woman to head the statewide Public Defender Agency, which had 13 branch offices and a \$6 million budget. Seven years later, she was appointed to the superior court bench and seven years after that, as the first woman to serve on the state supreme court, where she was elected by her colleagues as the first woman chief justice.

“There was this sense that the legal community was open in Alaska. We don't have a law school here, so all the lawyers came from somewhere else.”

— Sen Tan '82

"Northeastern gave me the confidence to try new things," says Fabe. "I think the culture at the law school promotes confidence and self-esteem in the students, which is perhaps one of the reasons Alaska is such a good fit for Northeastern graduates." Adds Fabe, who's hired many Northeastern graduates as law clerks, "The supportive and collegial culture we grew up with in law school — of aspiring for one another's success — is mirrored here in Alaska."

According to those law school graduates knowledgeable about Alaska's jurisprudence, Fabe has presided over many cases of first impression over the course of her career. In particular, she has authored or was in the majority in several decisions dealing with the scope and extent of tribal court jurisdiction in Alaska, given the absence of reservations or Indian country (due to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act). In *John v. Baker*, Fabe wrote the Supreme Court's 3-2 decision ruling that tribal courts in Alaska have jurisdiction in custody matters when tribal children are involved, even when Indian country does not exist. In *In the Matter of C.R.H.*, Fabe again authored the majority opinion, this time holding that jurisdiction over Indian Welfare Child Act cases can be transferred from state court to tribal courts.

That ability to forge new legal ground makes Alaska distinct among US states — and serves as a siren call for Northeastern graduates. Thousands of legal issues already established everywhere else had never been litigated in Alaska, says Feldman,

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1

A TRYING MATTER

Course gives students an as-real-as-it-gets deposition experience

By Dave Denison | Photos by Aynsley Floyd

The official name of the course adjunct professor Neil Leifer '81 teaches at the law school is "Pre-Trial Practice and Advocacy." But on this afternoon in October it might just as well be called "Thinking on Your Feet."

Fourteen students, most of them third years, have gathered in the law school's moot courtroom in Dockser Hall. They're here to practice taking depositions — but it won't feel like a casual exercise. Leifer has gone to great lengths to simulate the experience of working on a real case. He's created a mock lawsuit involving claims of lead-paint poisoning of a child; he's enlisted people to portray the plaintiffs, defendants and witnesses; and he's signed up a professional court reporter to produce a transcript of the depositions.

While many law schools offer skills-based courses — and the chance to participate in moot court cases — Leifer says he knows of no other course that is "this comprehensive" in its re-creation of a real case unfolding over time.

Over the 12 weeks of the course, students move through the initial discovery of facts to depositions and eventually to a resolution with a mediator. Leifer, who litigated cases to promote children's environmental health and occupational health for nearly 27 years as a partner with Boston-based Thornton & Naumes, draws not only on his own practice experiences but also on a network of professionals who volunteer their time to ensure the mock depositions feel truly authentic.

TAKING SIDES

For this afternoon's session, Dr. Matt Karwowski is playing the role of the plaintiffs' expert — a witness who is experienced in treating lead paint exposure. He will be followed by Dr. Bruce Kalow, an expert witness for the defense team. Both volunteers have real-world knowledge of the issues: Karwowski is a



[1] Ashley McCormack '15 examines Dr. Karwowski, who is defended by Victor Perez '14, while Neil Leifer (center) observes

[2] Court reporter Ed Varallo (left) and Dr. Kalow (right) with Marie Duarte '14 and Brian O'Connor '14

[3] Eliza Lockhart-Jenks '14

[4] Ivan Ng '14 and Rebecca Wohl '14 with Dr. Karwowski

pediatric environmental fellow at Boston Children's Hospital, and Kalow is a pediatrician at Cambridge Health Alliance.

Ivan Ng '14 is the first student to question Karwowski. Ng's job as defense counsel is to call into question the doctor's belief that the child was subject to "an acute exposure" from ingestion of a paint chip containing lead. Sitting across from Ng is Rebecca Wohl '14 in the role of plaintiff's counsel, prepared to register an objection if Ng strays from the rules of evidence. (He didn't, in Wohl's judgment.)

The students have a 20-minute time limit to conduct the deposition. Then another team takes a turn. That's more time pressure, Leifer noted later, than a lawyer would usually have, since the typical deposition can run from three to six hours.

The depositions are being recorded by Ed Varallo, a professional court reporter who works for Boston-based Eppley Court Reporting. Varallo is using a steno machine, which is connected to a laptop. Technology allows immediate transliteration of the shorthand-like symbols produced by the steno machine. (The transcript is reviewed and corrected later by the court reporter and a proofreader.)

Court reporters need to type at 225 words a minute to be certified but Varallo records at a speed around 280 words a minute, according to Lorene Eppley Hunt, the owner of the reporting firm, who attended Leifer's class in October. "Ed happens to be a superstar," she says.

Still, there were a few times when Varallo had to ask a student to slow down or repeat a phrase. In discussion after the depositions, he advised students: "I always assume if I have

trouble understanding it, the witness must be having trouble. I can tell you from my experience as a court reporter, witnesses will go ahead and answer the question they think they heard. So if you want them to hear the question you actually asked, you need to slow down a little bit."

One of the students who used a rapid-fire style of questioning was Marie Duarte '14. "It was definitely an adrenaline rush, which is why it came out so quick-fire," she said after the class.

Ng said the presence of a court reporter made him initially nervous. "It definitely made it feel a lot more realistic," he said. "It made it seem like I was doing something much more important than just a classroom exercise. It was really different having someone almost official sitting in front of you instead of just your classmates."

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

Duarte was in the role of the plaintiff's attorney questioning the defense's witness, Kalow. She used a style of questioning that often began with "Would you agree with me then that ..." or "So then you agree that" Leifer said these depositions clarified the difference between examining a neutral witness and an adverse witness. In the latter case, when an opposing counsel is questioning a witness for the other side, a style of leading questions is acceptable.

But the key skill is to listen carefully enough to discover exactly what the witness is willing to say, and not say. Students

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Last Frontier

Continued from page 21

who went to Alaska upon graduation in 1975 for a one-year clerkship with the state supreme court. “Like a lot of people in that era who headed to Alaska, one year became 39,” recalls Feldman, who’s served on a number of influential state committees, including the Judicial Conduct Commission. He stayed because he quickly realized that the legal scene in Alaska “was kind of a clean slate. There was a sense that nothing was quite yet formed.” Since Alaska had been a state for only 16 years, he notes, the feeling was “if you were energetic and reasonably bright, you could maybe do some good stuff.”

In fact, there was so little reported law when Feldman arrived that he was able to sit down and read every single case ever decided since Alaska achieved statehood in 1959. That exercise, which would have been overwhelming in Massachusetts, took only a matter of months. “Alaska has a frontier spirit that infected the court system. There was a great sense of receptiveness of the judges to plough new ground and make decisions on the cutting edge,” he recalls. “For a young lawyer, it was a pretty neat place to practice law because you weren’t hemmed in by 200 years of *stare decisis*.”

Warm and Welcoming

Like Fabe and Feldman, few who ventured up there intended to stay. But Alaska’s unique charms, the close-knit and supportive legal community and the chance to do high-level, high-impact work right out of law school proved irresistible. “It was the finest place for a law graduate to go practice law, period,” insists Lowenfels, with a firm nod of his head. “It was a new country, with lawyers in very high demand. You learned on your feet quickly because you had to — because there was so much activity going on.”

As a brand-new lawyer in 1975, one of Lowenfels’ first cases for the state attorney general’s office was against four major oil companies. Walking into the courtroom to argue for an injunction, he recognized a college friend who’d gone to Harvard Law School, and was literally carrying the briefcase of one of the oil company lawyers. “He said, ‘What are you doing here? Let’s sit in the back and catch up while they argue the case,’” recalls Lowenfels. “I said, ‘I can’t. I’m arguing the case.’” He chuckles, and adds. “It was a lot of fun.”

While Anchorage has more than quadrupled in size since the 1970s, and the state is not quite as exotic as it was 40 years ago, it remains a wonderful place to practice law, says Fabe and others, who encourage Northeastern grads to continue the historical connection. “Our legal community is so warm and welcoming,” she says. “Whether as a co-op student or new lawyer, you’ll have more responsibility, more of your own cases and own clients, and fewer obligations to carry someone else’s briefcase than in any other legal community in America.”

And there’s also the fun of the place, the sense of adventure. Feldman, who’s done a lot of work for BP, has found himself walking through oil fields at minus 40 degrees, with the wind chill at minus 90, to talk to someone working on an oil rig. “That’s not the kind of thing you do working in most places,” he says. “The nature of the problems and nature of the work drag you to places, locations and situations that are fairly extreme.”

John Cashion ’97 completed a co-op for a federal judge in Anchorage that led to a clerkship in that court when he



Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court Dana Fabe '76

graduated. Next hired as a public defender, Cashion was sent to the remote outpost of Bethel — 400 miles west of Anchorage, 60 miles from the Bering Sea and one of the most impoverished parts of the state. With no roads or train service, the only way in to Bethel was via air. Cashion and his wife, a mental health clinician, “got off the plane, and it was a bit of a shock,” he recalls.

But six months later, they were hooked by the incredibly close-knit sense of community, and Cashion got right into trying serious criminal cases. The family also embraced the culture, and Cashion, who grew up in Rhode Island and had never handled a gun, took up caribou hunting and salmon fishing. They stayed another seven years before moving back to Anchorage, where he headed the agency’s trial department for several years and supervised numerous Northeastern co-op students. Now in private practice, Cashion says, “Alaska’s home, for sure.”

“It’s a fun place to practice law,” says Cynthia Strout ’81, who took a clerkship in Alaska, was then hired by Fabe at the public defender agency and has had her own criminal defense practice in Anchorage for years. “You could do things as a young lawyer you wouldn’t be able to do in places like Boston.” Continuing the tradition, Strout’s daughter, Devin Morse ’15, is on co-op this winter at the Office of Public Advocacy in Anchorage, another public defender agency which has a number of Northeastern graduates on staff, including Sharon Barr ’90 and her husband, John Bernitz ’90.

“It’s very unique, very, very different than the East Coast,” says Barr, who grew up in Maryland. “It’s a low-population state, there’s tons of natural beauty, and I think the legal culture is a little different here. You end up knowing everybody.” And then there’s the relaxing pace of life. “We live within walking distance of where we work,” she says. It’s been years, she says, since she’s honked her horn in traffic.

Elaine McArdle is a contributing writer and freelance journalist based in Portland, Oregon.

Hackney, Dyal-Chand and Lewis Appointed to Leadership Positions

Northeastern University School of Law announces the appointment of three faculty members to leadership positions.



Professor James Hackney

Associate Dean for Entrepreneurial Programs and Research Support

Well known for its innovations, collaborations and leadership in experiential legal education, the School of Law is spreading its wings with new programs that respond to the rapidly changing legal market.

Associate Dean James Hackney is leading the law school's ambitious efforts to pair our teaching and research missions with new markets and new partners. Building on our signature Cooperative Legal Education Program, Hackney is developing online, hybrid and executive education programs. He is also expanding opportunities for faculty research funding through innovative interdisciplinary collaborations across the university.



Professor Rashmi Dyal-Chand '94

Research Director

With Northeastern's law students bringing unrivaled work experience to classroom discussions, and faculty who plumb both the theoretical and practical questions facing law and the academy, rich dialogues are contributing to cutting-edge scholarship.

With support and leadership from Professor Rashmi Dyal-Chand, our newly appointed research director, Northeastern law faculty are asking and answering many of the complex questions facing the profession and society — from examining the ethical, legal and policy issues related to health care incentives to understanding the uneasy relationship between law and development in an ever-changing global community.



Professor Hope Lewis

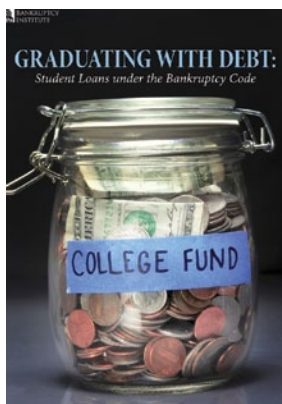
Director of Global Legal Studies

Northeastern is committed to offering a rich global curriculum while also welcoming international students to our JD and LLM programs.

Professor Hope Lewis is ideally suited to spearhead these initiatives in this new position. She will move forward efforts to expand the School of Law's international co-ops while building new partnerships and enhancing curricular and exchange program opportunities.

Lewis has served on the American Society of International Law (ASIL) executive council and is founding co-chair of the ASIL International Disability Rights Interest Group. She also received the ABA's 2012 Mayre Rasmussen Award for Mentorship of Women in International Law.

Graduating with Debt: Student Loans Under the Bankruptcy Code



Student loan debt in the United States exceeds \$1.1 trillion — more than any other type of consumer debt except for mortgage loans — while new education lending continues at an explosive pace. In a forward-thinking book, Professor Daniel Austin and co-author Susan Hauser offer expert knowledge to enable bankruptcy and consumer credit professionals to assist clients in dealing with student

loan debt. *Graduating with Debt: Student Loans Under the Bankruptcy Code* introduces readers to the basics of student loan debt, including different types of loans and

loan-forgiveness programs, delinquency and default, and administrative and non-judicial remedies for borrowers having trouble repaying their loans.

"Some 37 million Americans owe a total of approximately \$1 trillion in student loans. Some will eventually pay their loans, others will obtain full or partial loan forgiveness, and many will default or die before completing payments," says Austin. "Those in particularly dire circumstances will look to consumer bankruptcy for relief, but with very few exceptions, student loan debt cannot be discharged in bankruptcy. In this book, we offer guidance for both borrowers and creditors."

Austin is the author of numerous articles on consumer and business bankruptcy as well as a book, *Reaffirmation Agreements in Consumer Bankruptcy Cases*. In addition, he served as a contributing editor to *Norton's Bankruptcy Law and Practice* (third edition) and as a contributing author to *Newberg on Class Action* (third edition).

FACULTY

What They Really Think



Think Again

"President Obama should have stuck with the easy stuff like the government shutdown, the debt ceiling or Syria. But getting into the quagmire of a two-year law school? What was he thinking?"

Associate Dean Luke Bierman

"Is a Two Year Law School A Bold Innovation or Just Plain Shorter?"
New York Law Journal
October 28, 2013

Gleeful No More

"Monteith's death is part of a nationwide epidemic that has quietly climbed the charts of America's top killers: drug overdoses now claim more lives than motor vehicle accidents."

Professor Leo Beletsky

"We Can Fight This Feeling: The Loss of Cory Monteith and How We Can Prevent Future Overdose Fatalities"
The Huffington Post
July 25, 2013

Rule of Law

"The reason to become a lawyer is because you love it. And one reason to love it is the thrill of solving problems, helping people work together and contributing to a society in which justice is of preeminent value."

Dean Jeremy Paul

"Why Young People Are Rejecting Law School"
The National Law Journal
November 18, 2013

Claws Off

"The aspiration to achieve the right to health in Brazil and South Africa, and in low- and middle-income countries more broadly, cannot be achieved under the yoke of IP fundamentalism and the continuing threat of longer, stronger and broader IP monopolies on medicine. Leading countries need to claw back their policy space"

Professor Brook Baker '76

"The Op-Ed: What Patent Reform in Brazil and South Africa Can Mean"
Pharmalot
November 11, 2013

The Naked Truth

"Alas, while the production presents the legal arguments of two knowledgeable advocates, it is replete with jargon and enough insider's free expression law that even many lawyers in the audience were grabbing smart phones to do some instant Googling. [The director] has chosen neither to dignify the ideas expressed by the lawyers nor use them as a take off point for a serious exploration of a culture that debates at the highest levels the constitutional value of public nudity before consenting adults."

Professor Michael Meltsner

"Arguendo" (play review)
The Huffington Post
September 26, 2013

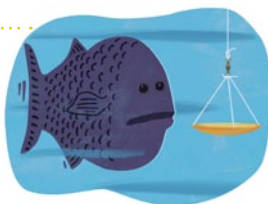
Fish Tale

"We were convinced this was a fishy case.

We just didn't have a legal hook."

Professor Daniel Medwed

"For 22 Years, Caught in a Murder Case's Tangled Web"
The New York Times
December 1, 2013



Sick System

"Public policies that deny legal immigrants equal access to public insurance programs leave lawful residents and their health care providers unnecessarily vulnerable when injuries and illness strike."

Professor Wendy Parmet

"Holes in the Safety Net — Legal Immigrants' Access to Health Insurance"
The New England Journal of Medicine
August 15, 2013

Fun and Games

"To some, sports are a frivolous diversion.

To others, they are the most important component in

their lives. To most people sports are an important part of a full life, along with family, friends and a job. Sports inspire us and outrage us, they entertain and, if we are fortunate, they can cause us to be very happy, if not content. Their potential for joy should be a matter of celebration."

Professor Roger Abrams

Playing Tough: The World of Sports and Politics
University Press of New England, 2013

Seeing Clearly

"Have you ever picked up an exciting book and found that pages are missing or damaged? ... For blind and print-disabled book lovers, it is even more frustrating to know that a helpful book on a topic of interest exists, but is closed to them because it is not available in an accessible format. This is a serious and life-altering issue for the estimated 314 million visually impaired people around the world."

Professor Hope Lewis

"The Marrakesh Treaty: Books for All"
IntLawGrrls (blog)
July 17, 2013

Abrams' Latest Book Provides Insider's Perspective on Arbitration

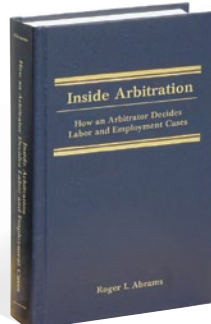


Professor Roger Abrams' latest book, *Inside Arbitration: How an Arbitrator Decides Labor and Employment Cases*, helps both lawyer and non-lawyer advocates with all levels of experience better understand the arbitration process from a seasoned arbitrator's viewpoint and improve their skills in using that process. It also provides insights that are useful for arbitrators in reviewing their own practices. Based in part on real questions

submitted by practicing advocates, this book offers answers based on Abrams' extensive experience as well as the experiences of fellow arbitrators.

"Parties who bring cases to arbitration must appreciate how neutrals actually decide disputes," says Abrams. "This book offers advocates insight into the actual process of arbitral decision making."

In addition to his membership on the Northeastern faculty, Abrams is a permanent arbitrator for Walt Disney World, the Internal Revenue Service and the US Customs Service. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Arbitrators and the American Law Institute, a life member of the American Bar Foundation and a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He also the author of six other books on the business and history of sports.



Judy Brown (left) with fellow honoree Susan Finegan of Mintz Levin

Brown Receives Prestigious Lelia Robinson Award

Professor Emerita Judith Olans Brown was honored in November with the Women's Bar Association's (WBA) Lelia J. Robinson Award. Named in memory of the first woman admitted to the Massachusetts bar, the award has been presented by the WBA since 1994 to recognize women who, like Robinson, have captured the spirit of pioneering in the legal profession and have made a difference in the community. The ceremony took place during the WBA's annual gala, held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place.

Ahmed Winner in AALS New Voices in Gender Studies Competition



Professor Aziza Ahmed won the prestigious American Association of Law Schools New Voices in Gender Studies competition in recognition of her paper, "'Rugged Vaginas' and 'Vulnerable Rectums': The Sexual Identity, Epidemiology and Law of the Global HIV Epidemic." Ahmed presented the paper at the "Facts and Futures: Expertise Between Science and Law" workshop, sponsored by the Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop at Harvard Law School in April.

Ahmed is an expert in health law, human rights, property law, international law and development. Her interdisciplinary scholarship focuses on issues of both domestic and international law.

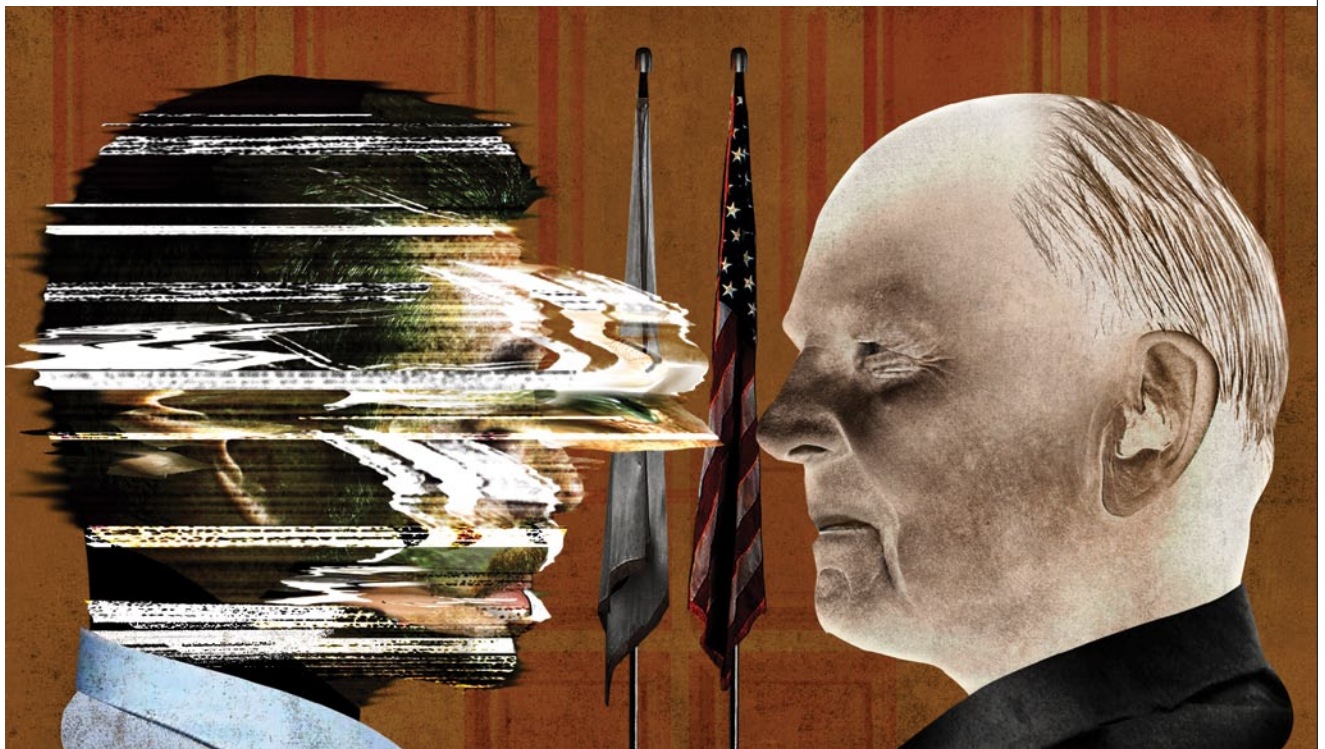
Ramirez Honored as "Top Woman of Law"

Professor Deborah Ramirez, a leading authority on implementing community-law enforcement partnership-based counter-terrorism programs, was honored in October by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly at the "Top Women of Law" event. The gala also recognized 12 outstanding Northeastern law graduates (see page 33). Ramirez's latest efforts are focused on launching a post-graduate incubator for lawyers planning solo careers.



Trial By Video

THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE OR TECHNOLOGY
GONE AWRY? THE JURY IS OUT.



FRESNO COUNTY got the bad news in May 2012: in an effort to deal with the state's looming fiscal crisis, California Governor Jerry Brown revised the budget, cutting \$11 million from the county court's \$51 million budget. Court Executive Officer Sheran Morton explains the county courts then faced the prospect of figuring out how to do less with less. The first step: close seven courthouses in the sprawling county, California's sixth largest. The second step: submitting a pilot proposal to video stream traffic court in Coalinga, a small town in the county's southwest corner.

It's not a perfect solution — after all, seven closed courts means fewer people have access to justice. But if the experiment succeeds, some of that access may be restored, albeit in a different form.

AT YOUR SERVICE

The two-year Fresno pilot went live March 1 and limits video conferencing to traffic court. According to Morton, it's carefully orchestrated so plaintiffs appearing in Coalinga can see the judge and the attorneys. A judicial assistant is also stationed at the remote site so evidence can be scanned and sent to the judge, if necessary.

To Morton, it's about serving constituents and maintaining access. Because of budget cuts, "it comes down to the question, do you want zero appearances or video appearances? In that case, I'll take video," she says. To date, Morton reports the process has been smooth, with the video system working consistently. "We've encountered no roadblocks," she says. There's also been very little pushback from the public. With the popularity of Skype

and other remote conferencing tools, “people are more accepting of video.”

In Massachusetts, Worcester County District Court Judge Paul McGill ’81 sees video conferencing’s benefits. “I’m a proponent,” he says. “If people can see the judge and the judge can see them, I don’t have a problem.” McGill even foresees its use beyond traffic court. “I used to work in the Worcester County sheriff’s office. I understand the security risk and the cost to transport prisoners — sometimes for just a five-minute hearing. If we had the capability to do video conferencing, it would mitigate those factors, making it safe and more cost-effective.”

McGill’s only question is whether or not video appearances fulfill the Confrontation Clause of the Sixth Amendment. “The Bill of Rights says you have the right to face your accusers. It’s unclear whether video conferencing meets that criteria,” he notes.

Only one person in Fresno has raised the issue so far, according to Morton.

“The judge dismissed it, saying, ‘That’s what the video is for,’” she says.

DEPERSONALIZING JUSTICE

But not everyone is so bullish on the practice. On a video monitor, “it’s easier to forget the person you’re watching on screen is a real person,” says Judge Ken King ’80 of the Cambridge (Mass.) juvenile court. “It depersonalizes the defendant and makes it easier to discount their humanity.”

King admits he has no direct experience with the appearance-by-video practice. “I’m sure judges in these cases try very hard not to be perceived as treating someone differently” because they appear via screen and not in person. “But video gives less ability for give-and-take or to engage directly with litigants,” he continues. “For example, in juvenile court, I like to talk directly to the adolescents. Sometimes, I’ll ask them to say things back to me so I’m sure they understand. There’s far less ability to do that by video conference.”

In addition to Sixth Amendment concerns, King notes that video court limits defendants’ ability to consult with counsel. “If the defense attorney is not at the remote site, how does that happen?” he asks. “There’s supposed to be a dedicated phone line where the client and attorney can talk confidentially,” but recent revelations of wide-spread NSA surveillance “brings privacy like that into question. I don’t trust that the phone line would not be monitored.”

And though in the perfect world King could see video’s benefit, “it’s an imperfect technology,” he says. “We had a case where one parent was in Morocco and couldn’t travel. We had video facilities set up so that the parent could be part of the proceedings, but they couldn’t get through the firewall in the juvenile court.”

Soudabeh Tahmassebpour ’99, one of three state-wide managing directors of the Massachusetts Committee for Public Counsel Services, worries about the practice’s impact on the disenfranchised. “The people most affected are the

“I’m sure judges in these cases try very hard not to be perceived as treating someone differently [because they appear via screen and not in person]. But video gives less ability for give-and-take or to engage directly with litigants.”

— KEN KING ’80

indigent, the poor, those without financial means to post bail and walk into court on their own volition and defend themselves,” she says. “It’s important to make sure we don’t compromise the rights of the most vulnerable in our society.”

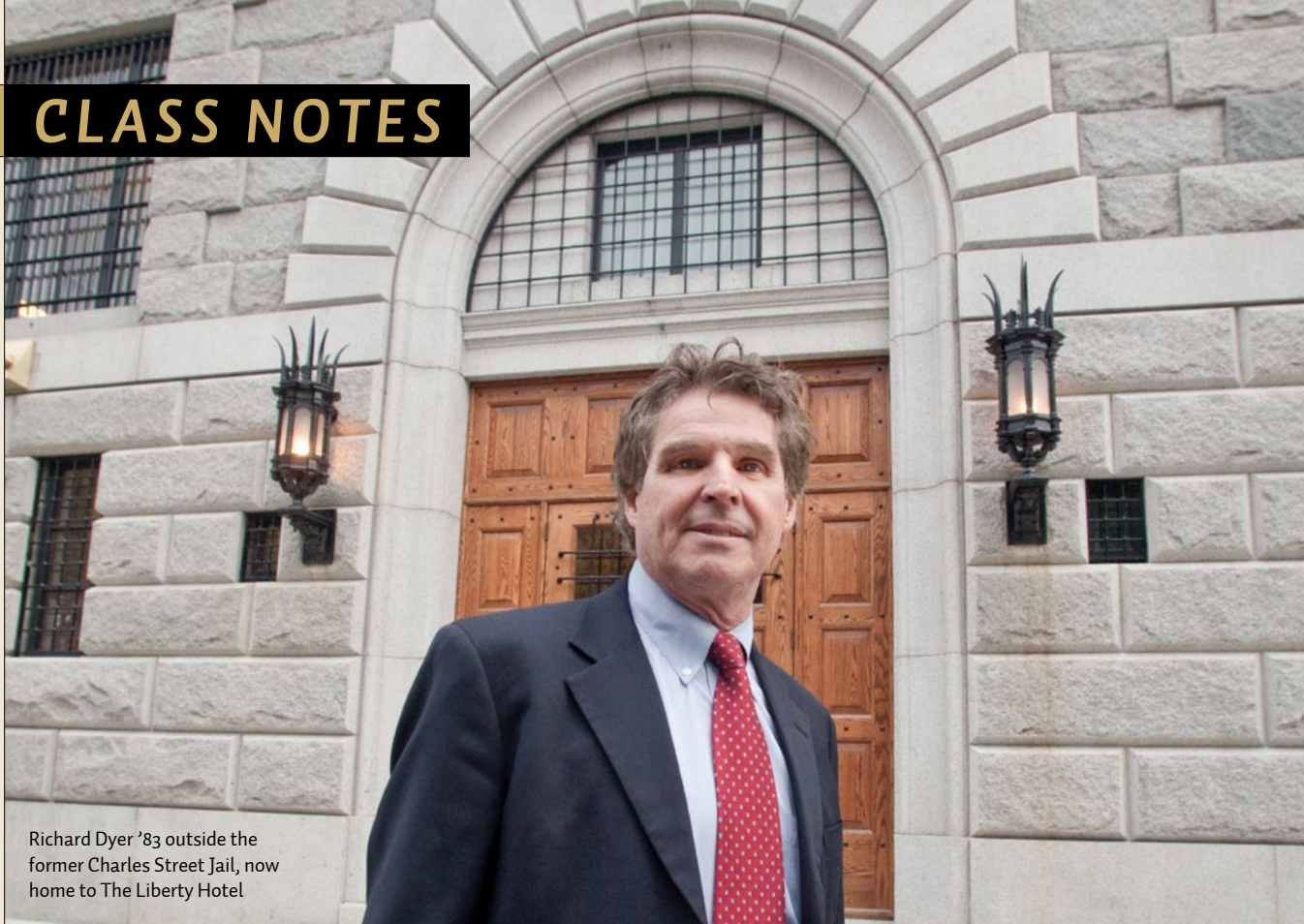
Nor is she comforted by the fact that the experiment is limited to traffic court. “People forget that there are collateral consequences. If you lose your license, you may lose your job. Which means you can’t pay your rent, and then you may be evicted,” she explains. “This comes down to honoring every person’s due process and confrontation rights at a fundamental level. Do we really want to say that for this group of people, in this circumstance, that they’ll be heard in court over a TV monitor? Where there are consequences involved, we need to be careful about which hearings we deem as important and unimportant. Tomorrow, what will we take away when we have even less money and resources?”

STAY TUNED

Is video court the wave of the future or a flash in the pan? The jury is still out. Morton predicts the practice will increase as technology advances. Looking ahead, “we’ll have to be sensitive to all kinds of issues,” she says. “But I encourage people to keep an open mind.” Fresno’s video pilot project has already had some good ripple effects: with remote video monitors, the court is now able to make American Sign Language and spoken language interpreting available.

For his part, King remains skeptical, calling video court “a slippery slope.” “We need to proceed cautiously. There may be an appropriate use, but every time we make an exception to the rule, we tend to forget the rule,” he concludes. “Our goal is to treat each person with dignity, and to me, that means an in-person hearing.”

Maura King Scully is associate editor of Northeastern Law Magazine.



Richard Dyer '83 outside the former Charles Street Jail, now home to The Liberty Hotel

PROFILE RICHARD DYER '83

Reduce Re-use and Recover

The 2013 edition of *Massachusetts Criminal Law*, published by LexisNexis, included for the first time a chapter addressing “Strategies for Diversion and Alternative Dispositions in Substance Use, Abuse and Addiction Cases,” co-authored by Richard Dyer '83. Dyer, who attended law school after overcoming struggles with heroin addiction, homelessness and incarceration, believes — based on his own experience — that the message of recovery must be more strongly embraced by both the courts and community.

Q: *In your solo law practice, you concentrate on cases involving substance abuse and addiction. What are the unique challenges in representing clients in this field?*

A: My focus — and the focus of most district court defense attorneys — is on cases involving substance abuse and addiction. This is borne out of necessity: nationally, approximately 80 percent of all court cases involve substance abuse and/or addiction, and in my personal experience with private and public defender cases, the reality is closer to 95 percent.

The challenges we face arise from the disease of addiction itself as well as the attitudes, accessibility, training, education and support issues vis-à-vis the court. Addiction is a disease of denial. And if left untreated, it never gets better — only worse. Some will deny they have a problem out of fear that this will be perceived as an admission of guilt. Even in light of court-mandated substance abuse treatment, I have to represent my clients zealously and effectively. They are still

innocent until proven guilty. However, in most cases, we want the client to recognize his or her need for treatment and to be a willing participant. That's why we desire to educate both the client and the court about addiction and treatment.

Q: *How do you balance your clients' legal needs with their medical treatment needs?*

A: In our chapter, we set forth strategies for diversion and alternative dispositions seeking rehabilitative approaches as a means to reduce recidivism and increase public safety. Attorneys have limited time to track down programs and set up intakes, and courts have yet to set aside time and resources for education about what's available in the recovery community. Having a recovery coach in my office who promotes and facilitates sustainable recovery is invaluable. We have been able to access more treatment for more people for longer periods of time because we cooperate and collaborate with judges, district attorneys' offices, probation officers and treatment providers.

Q: *What do you find most fulfilling about this work?*

A: My ability to practice law with passion and understanding as an advocate in the area of addiction recovery for individuals and for the community at large and to give back that which was so freely give to me by so many in my recovery.

— Deborah Feldman



Send Us Your News!

Don't let your accomplishments and life changes go unnoticed. **Write to us at lawalumni@neu.edu.**

1974

Stephen Samuels, a partner at Ice Miller in Ohio, was recently recognized by *Chambers USA* in the natural resources and environment practice area, and as a "Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers 2013*.

1980

Cynthia Reed, president, CEO and founder of LTR Holdings, has been appointed to the American Bar Association's Gender Equity Task Force. Prior to founding LTR, Cynthia was senior vice president and general counsel of Hasbro, Inc.

1984

Margaret Klaw's *Keeping it Civil: The Case of the Pre-Nup and the Porsche & Other True Accounts from the Files of a Family Lawyer* was published by Algonquin Books in September. She continues to practice family law in Philadelphia with her firm, Berner Klaw & Watson, and writes about family law issues for *The Huffington Post*, *DailyWorth* and her own blog, *Family Law Unraveled*.



1986

Lois Cornell, senior vice president of human resources and general counsel at Tufts Health Plan, has joined the board of directors of HomeStart, a Boston-based nonprofit dedicated to ending and preventing homelessness in the Greater Boston area. Lois is also president-elect of the board of directors of the American Health Lawyers Association.

1994

Margaret Paget and **Allyson Kurker '05** and are pleased to announce the formation of Kurker Paget, an employment law firm serving organizations throughout Greater Boston. The partners met during Allyson's co-op with Margaret's former firm.

1995

K. Matthew Dames has been appointed interim dean-designate of the Syracuse University Libraries. He was the university's first copyright and information policy adviser and has been on the senior leadership team of the library since 2008.



1996

John Rumpler, senior attorney for Environment America, recently

McCafferty Appointed to Federal Bench

In December, the US Senate confirmed President Obama's nomination of **Landya McCafferty '91** for a lifetime appointment as a federal judge on the US District Court for New Hampshire. A long-time Portsmouth resident and federal magistrate judge since 2010, McCafferty's previous positions include serving as a federal law clerk and staff attorney for the New Hampshire Public Defender Program.

"Landya is exceptionally qualified and experienced and will be a great addition to the federal bench for the District of New Hampshire," said US Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte in a joint statement. "We look forward to her service as the first woman to hold this position in our state now that the Senate has cleared her historic nomination."

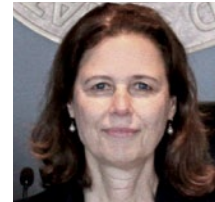


Griffin and Dichner Assume Top NLRB Posts

In October, the US Senate confirmed **Richard Griffin '81** as general counsel to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Previously, Griffin served as an NLRB board member from January 2012 through August 2013. Prior to that, he served as general counsel for the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE). In addition, NLRB Chairman Mark Pearce selected **Ellen Dichner '81** as his chief counsel. Dichner was previously a partner with the law firm Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss in New York City, where she had worked since 1986.



Richard Griffin '81



Ellen Dichner '81

Zakim Elected to Boston City Council

Josh Zakim '09 was elected in November to the Boston City Council, representing District 8, which includes the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Fenway-Kenmore, Mission Hill and West End neighborhoods. "This is a new time in the city," said Zakim. "With a new mayor for the first time in 20 years, this is a great opportunity to help shape the future of Boston." Zakim is the son of the late Leonard Zakim, a religious and civil rights leader who served as the director of the New England region of the Anti-Defamation League. The iconic Zakim Bridge is named for Leonard, who died of cancer in 1999.



Cowan Returns to Mintz Levin

Former US Senator **William “Mo” Cowan ’94** returned to Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo in November to serve as chief operating officer of ML Strategies, the firm’s government relations and strategic consulting affiliate. He is also of counsel to the law firm. Cowan previously served as Governor Deval Patrick’s chief legal counsel and, later, chief of staff and senior advisor. Prior to that, he was a member in the Boston office of Mintz Levin, where he represented commercial clients in complex matters involving corporate governance, financial malfeasance, money laundering, environmental claims, patent disputes and consumer protection issues, among others.



In September, the School of Law welcomed **Mo Cowan ’94** back to Boston with a reception at Jacob Wirth, hosted by Kevin Fitzgerald ’77, who owns the legendary restaurant. Dean Jeremy Paul (left) greeted more than 100 graduates and friends at the reception in honor of Cowan and his wife, **Stacy Cowan ’97**.



Kevin Fitzgerald ’77, owner of Jacob Wirth, with **Nonnie Burnes ’77-’78**, former commissioner of the Massachusetts Division of Insurance and currently a senior university fellow at Northeastern.

Jennifer Stark ’00 Named Marlboro District Court Judge

In July, the Massachusetts Governor’s Council approved the appointment of **Jennifer Stark ’00** (right) as an associate judge of the Marlboro District Court. Previously chief of the Business and Labor Bureau of the state attorney general’s office, Stark handled energy, labor, Medicaid and public charities cases. She joined the office in 2007 after four years as an assistant district attorney in Middlesex County.



co-authored a groundbreaking report, “Fracking by the Numbers,” which quantifies key impacts of dirty drilling on the environment and health. In October, he testified at the Massachusetts Legislature’s first-ever hearing on fracking, which resulted in the approval of a bill to stop fracking in the Bay State. He is also featured in a short documentary about fracking, narrated by Martin Sheen.

1997

Rachael Rollins has been named chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts Port Authority. She now oversees legal activity in areas including real estate, construction, litigation, employment and ethics, maritime, aviation, security and public finance.

1998

Lennox Chase recently joined the board of directors of Newton-based Top Banana Education Foundation, a nonprofit focused on development of brain-based learning curricula in mathematics, English, science and information technology for school-aged children.

2000

Melissa Gleespen has been promoted to vice president and corporate secretary for CMS Energy and its principal subsidiary, Consumers Energy. She joined the Michigan-based company earlier this year as supervisory assistant general counsel after serving as law director and assistant secretary at Owens Corning in Ohio.

2001

Alexandra Aguirre, a shareholder in the corporate and securities practice group of Greenberg Taurig, has been awarded the Global Education Network Advanced Certificate in Family Business Advising by the Family Firm Institute. The certificate is presented to individuals who have achieved comprehensive professional knowledge and gained significant expertise that can be used to assist family business owners and family wealth clients.



Brian Birke, counsel at Adler Pollock & Sheehan, was recognized as a “Commercial Litigator of the Year” by *Finance Monthly* magazine as part of its 2013 Law Awards.



2002

Lisa Gramp is now a deputy city attorney in Portland, Oregon, focusing on public contracting and construction matters. She previously served as assistant general counsel for the Portland Development



Ordoñez Appointed State's First Hispanic Chief Justice

In June, **Judge Angela Ordoñez '89** was appointed chief justice of the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court, comprised of 14 divisions with 51 authorized judicial positions across the commonwealth. The state's first Hispanic chief justice, Ordoñez was appointed to the Probate and Family Court in 2000 after seven years as an assistant register of probate in Suffolk County and three years as an attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services. She was appointed the first justice of Norfolk County in 2011 and had previously served as first justice of Nantucket County.

O'Toole Honored for Protecting Clients

Karen O'Toole '86, assistant board counsel to the Massachusetts Clients' Security Board and associate general counsel to the Board of Bar Overseers since 1989, was honored in June with the National Client Protection Organization's Isaac Hecht Award. O'Toole was recognized for working to overcome barriers of language, culture and distance to champion the causes of law clients who are victims of lawyer dishonesty.



Healey Running for AG

In October, **Maura Healey '98** announced her candidacy for Massachusetts Attorney General. Formerly chief of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Civil Rights Division, Healey led victories to protect consumers and homeowners, and promote equal rights. She was also the architect of the office's efforts to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act, winning the first federal court decision striking down DOMA as unconstitutional.

ACLU-North Carolina Honors LGBT Advocate Vetter



Connie Vetter '93, a solo practitioner in Charlotte who focuses on the needs of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender individuals, will be honored in February with the ACLU-North Carolina Frank Porter Graham Award, which recognizes exemplary local civil rights leaders. Vetter, who has been described as Charlotte's leading LGBT rights lawyer, tirelessly lobbied the Charlotte City Council for nondiscrimination policies and domestic partner benefits and has organized CLE programs

on LGBT issues in addition to speaking on related topics before organizations, college classes and professional forums.

Twelve Grads and Ramirez Celebrated as Massachusetts "Top Women of Law"

Northeastern University School of Law topped *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's* "Top Women of Law" event this year with 12 honorees — more than any other law school in the commonwealth. The event, held in October, celebrated those who have made great professional strides and demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in private practice, the corporate arena and social advocacy.

The group of honorees was selected by a panel comprised of members of the community and representatives from *Lawyers Weekly's* editorial department. The women's accomplishments are varied. Some have spent years in the nonprofit sector, ensuring that underrepresented populations receive the legal help they need. Others have been instrumental in drafting and implementing legislative or regulatory reform. Still others shoulder significant pro bono or mentoring commitments in addition to their other responsibilities. All were deemed to have made significant contributions to the legal profession and to be role models for young women entering the law.

NORTHEASTERN HONOREES

- **Stephanie DeCandia '98**, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- **Kimberly Dougherty '03**, Janet Jenner & Suggs
- **Elaine Epstein '76**, Todd & Weld
- **Susan Grossberg '92**, Grossberg Law Offices
- **Monica Halas '78**, Greater Boston Legal Services
- **Melissa Hoffer '98**, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office
- **Joyce Kauffman '92**, Kauffman Crozier
- **Linda Landry '81**, Disability Law Center
- **Nnena Odum '97**, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School
- **Professor Deborah Ramirez**

and our inspiring *Circle of Excellence* inductees:

- **Navjeet Bal '89**, Nixon Peabody
- **Mary Bonauto '87**, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

Haiku by Hanson

Sports attorney and former Princeton University first baseman **Andrew Hanson '08** is the author of *Five Seven Five Sports: 2012 in Haiku — Language of the Games*. In celebration of the Red Sox World Series victory in October, he penned this original poem for the Northeastern law community:



October 30, 2013

*Shane drops the hammer,
Pummeling blow at Monster
As Fenway erupts;*

*With the bases cleared,
He claps his way into third,
Double-pounding chest ...*

*Koji pulls the string
Under helpless Cardinal's bat —
The game 6 clincher;*

*Ross welcomes his leap —
A champ pointing to heaven,
Above circling beards.*

So Close, So Far Away



Friends and classmates who live in the Bay Area warmly welcomed **Aneesha Gandhi '12**, who lives in Chicago, for a visit in December. From left: Gandhi, **Kate Richardson '12**, **Kaylie Simon '11**, **Nataniel Johnson-Gottlieb '12**, **Leslie Bauman '11** and **Elise McNamara '12**

Commission, where she had advised on urban renewal, real estate and construction matters since 2006.

Moirá Jabir has joined the New York firm Moritt Hock & Hamroff as an associate in its trusts & estates practice group.



Daniel Saval, a partner in the New York office of Brown Rudnick, was honored in October by the *M&A Advisor* with a "40 Under 40 Recognition Award" in the legal advisor category.

In July, **Micah Wissinger** was promoted to partner at Levy Ratner, a New York labor and employment firm that he joined in 2007.

2003

Alex Cleghorn is pleased to announce the formation of Cleghorn Legal in Ukiah, California, where he continues to represent Indian tribes. Earlier this year, Alex was recognized as a "Rising Star" in Native American law by *Super Lawyers*. His family also recently welcomed their first child.

2004

Brooke Thomson has been appointed regional vice president of external affairs for AT&T. Her duties include legislative and regulatory affairs in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

2005

Allyson Kurker and **Margaret Paget '94** are pleased to announce the formation of Kurker Paget, an employment law firm serving organizations throughout Greater Boston. The partners met during Allyson's co-op with Margaret's former firm.

2009

In November, **Jennifer Schlissel** joined Bay Area Legal Aid's Richmond office as a staff attorney. She was previously a staff attorney with Bread for the City and credits Professor Lucy Williams with inspiring her to work in the public benefits field.

2012

Maria Perez recently joined the Presidential Personnel Office as a staff assistant at the White House.

2013

Sari Long has joined the Washington, DC, office of Faegre Baker Daniels as an associate in the labor and employment group, where she is focusing on immigration and global mobility matters. Before attending the School of Law, Sari was an immigration and relocation specialist with Akamai Technologies.

In August, **Claire Marshall** married Michael Messinger at the Manor House on Bainbridge Island in Washington. She is a law clerk at the Massachusetts Superior Court.

Emily Rochon has been named the first public interest fellow with Boston Community Capital. She is working on state and federal public policy issues related to clean energy, and she is helping the organization develop a solar and energy business focused on low-income communities (see page 4).

Spencer Thibodeau has joined the Portland, Maine, office of Verrill Dana as an associate.

Thomas and Slavin Honored as Top LGBT Advocates

Wayne Thomas '99 and Terra Slavin '05

were honored in 2013 with the "Best LGBT Attorneys Under 40" award presented by the National LGBT Bar Association at the annual Lavender Law Conference and Career Fair in San Francisco. Thomas is managing attorney of the Boston-based GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project, and Slavin is lead staff attorney with the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, which provides a broad array of legal, cultural and educational services.



Wayne Thomas '99



Terra Slavin '05

IN MEMORIAM

1940S

John F. Dargin Jr. '41
Kenneth L. Lamb '42

Donald A. Cole '53
Albert H. Cullen '54

1970S

James A. Hunolt '73
Joyce L. Perkit '73

1950S

James S. Couzens '51
Aldo L. DiFlorio '51
Romeyn V. Lippman Jr. '51

1990S

Arlene M. Polvinen '93

A Trying Matter

Continued from page 23

need to improvise — "especially when you hear things you don't expect," he said.

"I think what I saw the students struggling with is that they had an outline of questions," Leifer said, "and they were not always engaging the witness in a dialogue. So instead of listening carefully to what the witness was saying, they would just take the answer and move on to the next question."

Leifer said the benefit of having a court reporter on hand is that in the following week all students will be able to review the full transcript and see where they missed opportunities for follow-up questions.

"What I tell my students is, I actually don't want them to write out questions," Leifer said. "I want them to write out answers. I want them to have a set of answers on the piece of paper and then look at that answer and then think, 'OK, what's the question I need to ask to get that answer?'"

Dave Denison, a former editor of CommonWealth magazine, writes about politics, law, government and sports.

Regrets Only

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how I would get in trouble because I always tied them to the left side of my chair because Hope Sperling sat to my left and that way our shoes could touch. And maybe he'd laugh and tell me about the time he was in fifth grade and he spent two hours hiding in the school bathroom making a bouquet of paper flowers for a girl named Tina, how he'd taken a marker and colored the buds of each paper flower, how he'd made the stalk green. How he presented the bouquet in gym class, how she laughed, her friends cackled, how a kid named Norm Funckle popped one of the flowers in his mouth and spit it out and laughed. And he looks at me and I say, yeah, I know how it goes, still I've got to kill you though, you understand, right. Look, I'm sorry Tina laughed

In one sense I'm struck by how goofy this sounds. I should probably have paid more attention to Professor Hugo's lecture. But in another, I'm intrigued by the naïve empathy, something I seem to have lost over the years. I remain a pretty good liberal, and I still care deeply about the issues I studied in law school, including the death penalty. But while I spend much of my life making up stories, I no longer have the sorts of imagined conversations like this one between myself — my real self — as executioner and a condemned person. Tying my shoes? Hope Sperling? A bouquet of paper flowers? A girl named Tina? I had love on my mind a lot in those days. Still do. But re-reading this journal entry brought something else back from my Northeastern time, an image that has haunted me for more than 20 years now.

I was on co-op in North Carolina, working in the prison system. At a century-old prison called Caledonia in Tillery, I was walking down a secure hallway, following a guard. I had a tape measure in my hand. That day I was measuring the width and height of cells to make certain that their size corresponded to the requirements set by state law. I enjoyed the practical nature of that work. We passed a set of doors with very small, dark windows. Glancing into one of these windows, beyond the smudged glass, I could just make out — not a face — only the whites of a man's eyes. "Don't ask," the guard told me. "A real hard case. Attacks us every time we open the door." It lasted maybe a couple of seconds, and yet I can conjure up those eyes right now, sitting at my kitchen table in California. He was back there in that darkness, a human being, a real one, not a theoretical one.

What's the use in remembering this man I'll never know? The beauty (and often frustration) of being a fiction writer is that tomorrow I will convince myself that I must try to imagine him, someone I saw for a few seconds in 1994. He's back now for good, in my mind anyway, no face, just eyes. And I'm beginning to wonder about him, about the whole long string of life events that led to that little window and that slot below it where they'd stuff some food three times a day.

Peter Orner is the award-winning author of three novels. His second collection of stories, Last Car Over the Sagamore Bridge, hit bookstores this fall.

Regrets Only

RECENTLY, I WAS ASKED to contribute to an anthology of writing with an odd twist. The book is to be a compilation of work that each contributing writer actually regrets having written. The new genre even has a name: regretature.

The editor of this anthology put it this way: "You must have something that embarrasses you when you read it now" I answered that I have this feeling everyday. Where would I even begin? But the editor was persistent. "Don't you have any old journals where you wrote some really ridiculous stuff?" I answered that I've never kept a journal, that one (ineffectual) way I try to prevent the embarrassment she spoke of is to avoid writing directly about myself at all costs. My fiction tends to be re-imagined and warped versions of things I've experienced, so warped that I mercifully never see me in the finished work.

But I lied. I remembered that I did keep a journal once, during my first year of law school at Northeastern. The other day I dug it out of a box in the deep recesses of the garage. I didn't have to look hard for some mortifying stuff.

February 22, 1993: Rough weekend. Permit me to be very journally here. L is seeing someone else. That's right. Write it here. Write it into your brain and read it. And if you can't sleep at night, read it till you drop I'm happy for her. I love her. Period. End of story. Recall what Lincoln said, "Who the hell would be blockheaded enough to marry me?"

Lincoln? In the next paragraph I wrote:

Contracts class: Levine v. Blumenthal. Interesting case. Partial performance can't be considered full performance. I'll say.

I was 27 that year. Confused, a bit lost, unsure of what I wanted to do not only with my life, but the next hour of my life. And frankly, I remain grateful to Northeastern for giving me a sense of purpose. And to *Levine v. Blumenthal* for helping me take my mind off L. Reading more of this painful diary I came across something different, a discussion of the death penalty that made me less embarrassed (though I remain so) than curious about my younger self.

In room 10 at a death penalty lecture — an expert named Hugo, a philosophy professor who is a little too theoretical



for me. I want stories, Mr. Hugo. I want the gore and the blood and the details, the eyeballs frying as a person is executed in a dark and clean and empty Texas death chamber. I want to see the chair; its wiring. Who thought up the idea that a man or woman sentenced to death should be required to sit. Here, take a chair; now I'm going to kill you There's that book I haven't read, Mailer's Executioner's Song. What does the executioner sing about as he flicks the switch? What does the switch sound like? Is it like turning out a light, or does it take more effort? Does he speak to the guy in the chair? What do they talk about, perhaps their common childhoods? Their second grade teachers? Yes, the second grade. We've all got second grade in common. If I were the executioner, I would tell the story about how in the second grade Mrs. Gerstadt made us tie our shoes on the right side of our chairs, and

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**"A planned gift can achieve many goals,
both for the donor and the school."**

—Stephen Whetstone '92

Building Better Futures

After earning an undergraduate degree at Bates College, Stephen Whetstone '92 was drawn to Northeastern University School of Law for its collaborative environment and its emphasis on lawyers who make a difference.

Having built and led industry-leading legal discovery and data management businesses at Iron Mountain and Pitney Bowes, Whetstone has helped organizations innovate how they communicate with customers, employees and communities around the world. He knows firsthand that experience is the best educator, and credits Northeastern with providing the foundation that put him on a path to success.

"My best work and evaluations came from my co-op experiences. I felt equipped to succeed," says Whetstone, who launched his career as a litigator with two global law firms and then found his niche in the corporate world.

Making a difference once again, Whetstone and his family have established a charitable remainder trust at the law school. His investment will help students benefit from the Cooperative Legal Education Program that makes Northeastern a leader in experiential legal education. "We wanted to give back to a school and community that has given us so much," he says.

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