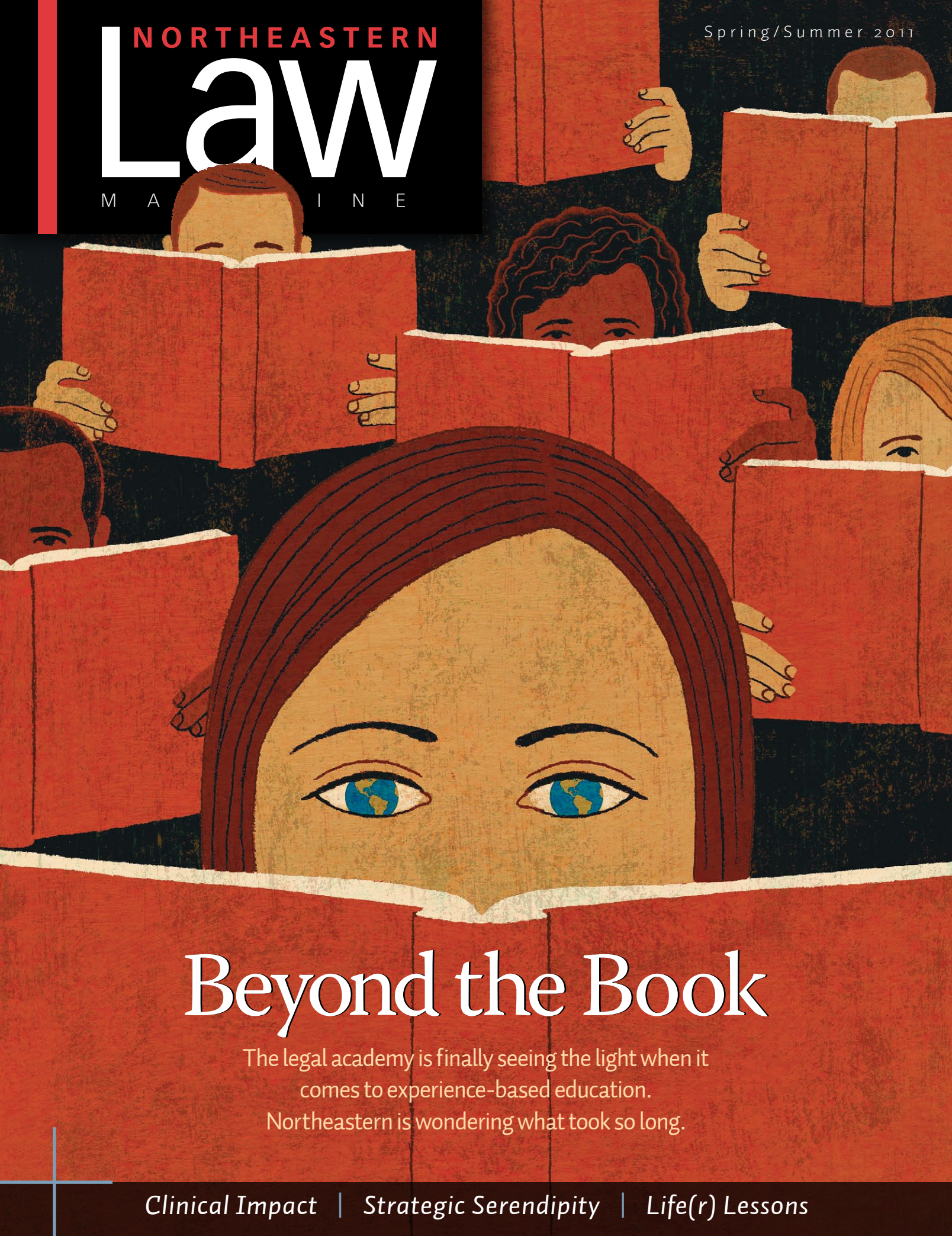


NORTHEASTERN Law

M A G A Z I N E

Spring/Summer 2011



Beyond the Book

The legal academy is finally seeing the light when it
comes to experience-based education.
Northeastern is wondering what took so long.

Clinical Impact | Strategic Serendipity | Life(r) Lessons

Head Start

This issue of our magazine focuses on the world of experiential education in law schools.

Not surprisingly, Northeastern University School of Law continues to stand out as a leader in what has become an increasingly crowded field. Although many law schools are now trying to push traditional boundaries, placing more students in clinics and externships, no program's depth or breadth compares to the program we launched more than 40 years ago.

Here, we focus resources and attention — as well as excitement and creativity — on the critical role of



hands-on experience in educating lawyers. Unlike other law schools, we have created a permeable membrane between the academy and the places where lawyers work. At Northeastern, we — our faculty, our students and our staff — are able to shake off the iconic cultural trappings of academia in order to meet the “real world” more than halfway.

All Northeastern law students work in four different placements, full time, for about three months each — a total of almost a year of full-time work. Outside the academic walls, they explore their fields of interest and develop their professional identities. Graduates tell me, again and again, that it is the opportunities for growth provided by these co-ops, when combined with rigorous in-school training — in both classrooms and clinics — that made them great lawyers.

But we cannot simply bask in our success.

We must be prepared to answer three critical questions. First, can we prove that our model of legal education is the best way to train lawyers? Second, what are we giving up to achieve superiority in the world of experiential teaching? And third, what are our next steps?

We have long asserted that our system works very well. Anecdotally, our students and graduates tell us this is true. Can we prove it? Careful evaluation of our pedagogical practices is on our agenda. We are

consulting with social scientists and lawyers who study the legal profession. In the coming months, we will hone our hypotheses, develop our methodological approach and embark on a rigorous study to ensure our program's continued success.

What do we give up? Certainly, we have the most complex and demanding calendar of any law school in the nation — as our students race back and forth between classes and co-ops, our staff manage six different registration and exam periods, and everyone forgoes the long summer and mid-winter academic lulls that characterize other law schools. Yes, the pace is demanding. Nevertheless, our faculty continue to be both committed classroom teachers and productive scholars, while at the same time helping students develop their passions and launch meaningful and fulfilling careers. In our community, there is a remarkable sense of shared mission.

What next? Co-op has gone global. Clinics are expanding. New pathways through law school are being defined. We are launching an LLM program — the first in the nation to require an experiential component. A new intensive one-week course now prepares students for their first co-ops. While staying true to our mission, we engage in continuous self-examination and improvement.

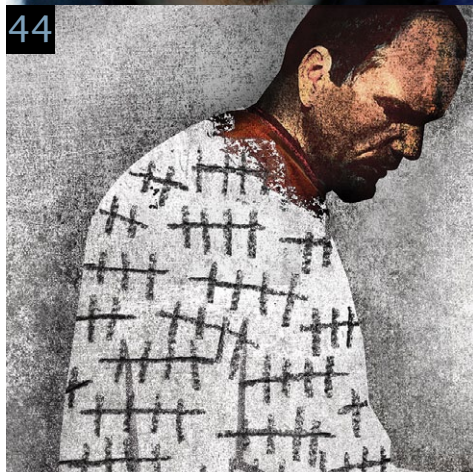
As I wrote in an opinion piece in *The National Law Journal* last year, law schools nationwide are now pushing the boundaries of legal education into what many consider to be the experiential frontier. At Northeastern University School of Law, we're enjoying our 40-year head start.

Best regards,

Emily A. Spieler
Dean and Hadley Professor of Law



20



44



35

36

27

PHOTOS: (TOP) JESSICA SCRANTON; (BOTTOM LEFT) DENNIS DRENNER; (BOTTOM RIGHT) DAVID LEIFER; ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY TREMMAGLIA

FEATURES

12 Follow the (Quiet) Leader

ONE BY ONE, LAW SCHOOLS ARE DISCOVERING THE ADVANTAGES OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.

By Elaine McArdle

16 Clinical Impact

ACROSS THE NATION, NORTHEASTERN LAW GRADUATES ARE LEADING THE WAY IN CLINICAL EDUCATION. *By Gail Friedman*

20 Strategic Serendipity

SIX STORIES OF PROFESSIONAL DISCOVERY — AND HOW NORTHEASTERN'S SPECIAL BLEND OF ACADEMIC AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MADE THEM POSSIBLE. *By Jeri Zeder*

COLUMNS

FACULTY DELIBERATIONS *By James Rowan*

3 Confessions of a Committed Clinician

REFLECTIONS ON PEOPLE, PROGRAMS AND PROMISE.

TRENDS *By Tracey Palmer*

32 Work with Me

LEGAL EMPLOYERS NOW SAY EXPERIENCE IS A MUST.

AT LAST *By Liza Hirsch '11*

44 Life(r) Lessons

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING KICKS IN AS THE PRISON DOORS SLAM SHUT.

DEPARTMENTS

2 **LETTERS**

4 **NEWS BRIEFS**

26 **FACULTY NEWS**

34 **CLASS NOTES**

A Hit ...

I am writing to thank you for your excellent tribute in the magazine to Professor Clare Dalton. She wasn't there when I was, and I am sorry to have missed her wonderful perception and wisdom. Your experience and piece also remind me of the basis for restorative efforts; conflicts and wrongdoing, especially between loved ones, raise many complexities that our adversarial approach does not address well and sometimes even makes worse.

Thank you again for the good tribute and sharing your experience.

LORENN WALKER '83
Waialua, Hawaii

I loved the article about Clare Dalton. It really conveyed how quickly and fully perceptions can be changed with the right teaching, and it was a great lesson packed into a tiny space.

MAUREEN "MIKEY" HOWARD '01
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

... And a Miss

Thank you for publishing the article, "Transcending Civil Rights," in the summer/fall 2010 issue of *Northeastern Law Magazine*. In this exciting time for the transgender rights movement, it is gratifying that a number of Northeastern alumni/ae are serving as leaders of that movement. It is incredibly important that the Northeastern community become aware of the legal challenges faced by the transgender community and that we all commit to contributing to this work however we can.



I noticed the article failed to mention the great work being done by a committed group of unpaid law students and lawyers right here in Boston: Massachusetts Transgender Legal Advocates (MTLA), formed by law students in 2008, provides free legal services to low-income transgender people and is supported by the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition. The group is packed with Northeastern alumni/ae and law students, most notably Denise McWilliams '79, who has voluntarily served as MTLA's legal supervisor since its inception. Two Northeastern alumni, Sam Senft '08 and Adam Minsky '10, have served as junior supervisors, and 11 Northeastern law students have served as advocates. Anyone interested in volunteering at MTLA can visit transgenderlegaladvocates.org.

So, right here at home and all across the country, Northeastern law school graduates are making a significant difference in this underserved community — something we alumni/ae seem to be very good at!

JOYCE KAUFFMAN '92
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Inspired Reading

I have read with great interest the article about CRRJ and Professor Margaret Burnham's work on the Moore and Dee case in the *Northeastern Law Magazine*. While Professor Burnham clearly has no need for my expressions of "work well done," I must tell you that the existence and activities of CRRJ are quite inspirational.

I don't know whether there is an opportunity for assistance, but I offer myself and my students as a resource to join in your efforts, if that might be of interest. Perhaps we can add "manpower" to a truly worthwhile mission.

Thank you to CRRJ for the work that you have done and for the motivation that this article has provided to me personally.

CHERYL WATTLEY
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By James Rowan



Confessions of a Committed Clinician

When anybody asks, I tell them that I have the best job in the world. If they are patient, I tell them all the reasons why directing Northeastern's law clinics is great. It's the people, the program and the promise that make it so wonderful.

Clinical teaching allows students to do the things that lawyers do and employs clinicians to watch and coach as dedicated, capable students energetically try to provide counsel to stressed clients. It's pretty much an educational win-win. Students have powerful motive — clients in need — and structured opportunity. For a teacher, the only difficulty involves picking from among the wealth of exciting possibilities. Will it help most to focus on learning substantive law or discrete skills? How much more efficient can research become for this student? How much can be learned from one interview? Is it done better by playing back the event or building a conceptual construct? Can a focus on storytelling unveil meaning and value embedded in our clients' objectives?

When I arrived at the law school more than 30 years ago, Wally Holohan was already representing prisoners and, with Jonathan Shapiro, was headed to the US Supreme Court litigating *Ponte v. Real*. John Flym was running a criminal defense clinic. Lois Kanter joined shortly to do domestic violence cases with the added support and intellectual firepower of Clare Dalton. Dan Givelber started taking on death penalty appeals and offered a certiorari clinic as often as time allowed. For years, I taught clinics in league with the Harvard clinical program and its originator, Gary Bellow. With Dick Daynard at the helm, our Public Health Advocacy Institute launched a health law clinic

complementing its work on tobacco and obesity. Margaret Burnham brought her years of work in civil rights and restorative justice and launched our newest clinic. Rashmi Dyal-Chand continues to develop our hopes for a transactional clinic, and Libby Adler brought us an opportunity to represent LGBT youth.

Northeastern recruits law students with interesting life experiences and viewpoints; they make the job easy to love. We draw from labor organizers, domestic violence counselors, immigration reformers, political junkies, LGBT activists, military officers and entrepreneurs. Each brings special perspective and skills to the task of providing first-rate advocacy for our clients. They also

bring humor and commitment that renew the staff and make our days pass quickly and joyfully.

You have to love our clients. They are not all heroes and saints, but they offer us tales that enrich our lives and let us into worlds that would otherwise be opaque. We get to live little parts of their stories and learn from them the many meanings of justice and hope. They are gracious, and we are grateful.

The promise of the future draws us forward. We do not know what works educationally with any scientific rigor any more than we know what works in advocacy. Maybe the future will bring more science to our art. The failure to provide counsel affordably has left democracy exposed without the protection of the rule of law. Maybe

clinics will be the crucible for experiments with new modes of delivery. Northeastern provides repeated opportunities to interweave practice and the academy. Maybe we will find new ways to take advantage of our unique law program. I can hardly wait to see what comes next.

Professor James Rowan is director of the School of Law's clinical programs and heads the Poverty Law and Practice Clinic.



NU Law Journal Symposium Serves Up the Issues



Tony Maws



Marsha Echols

THE *NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY Law Journal's* January symposium, "From Seed to Stomach: Food and Agricultural Law," brought together students, agricultural and legal experts — not to mention plain old "foodies" — for a series of panels and

discussions on all things edible. Topics ranged from the intellectual property, ethical and health issues surrounding the patenting of seeds, farming methods and live animals, to issues concerning the labeling and marketing of food and organic

certification, the future of food safety and obesity litigation, and the social implications of food policies.

Speakers included Marsha Echols, director of the World Food Law Institute at Howard University, and Tony Maws, executive chef of Craigie on Main in Cambridge, who focused on food and sustainability. Maws warned against mass production foodstuffs, encouraging participants instead to make thoughtful decisions about where to find quality food. "Ultimately, food is about relationships and where you get it," he said.

Christian Lander, author of the book *Stuff White People Like* and a blog by the same title, encouraged "honest" discussions about the risk of social judgments relating to patterns of food consumption. He passionately advocated taking action against the tendency to harangue, berate and preach about healthy eating habits, calling obesity, ultimately, a "class issue." Lander argued for bringing quality food to all people, not just "white" people.

— Catherine Cushing



In March, PHRGE invited Balakrishnan Rajagopal, associate professor of law and development and director of the Program on Human Rights and Justice at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to deliver the 2011 Gordon Human Rights Lecture. His topic was "Legalizing Social Rights: Experience from the Global South."

PHRGE Hosts Institute, Ramps up ESCR Efforts

ON THE HEELS OF ITS IMPRESSIVE fall institute, "Beyond National Security: Immigrant Communities and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights" (see page 8), the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) drafted a set of principles on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) of noncitizens, a proactive response to negative trends in the treatment of noncitizens in the United States. Known as the "Boston Principles," it is being circulated for endorsement by a variety of state and local government entities and civil society organizations.

PHRGE also co-convened a new ESCR Working Group, part of the Bringing Human Rights Home Lawyers Network, a

PHOTOS: (TOP) MICHAEL MANNING(2); (BOTTOM) DAVID LEIFER



Ethics Lessons at Auschwitz



THE ATROCITIES OF THE HOLOCAUST and contemporary ethical issues blended for Benny Meshoulam '11 last summer when he participated in the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE), a two-week program in New York, Berlin and Poland for law and medical school students.

Nationwide, 30 students were selected to examine contemporary ethical issues in their chosen professions through the historical lens of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. The law fellows explored such topics as the rule of law versus lawlessness and the role of the lawyer in a bureaucratic state, and discussed contemporary case studies such as the "Torture Memos," documents drafted in 2002 outlining US policy related to the "War on Terror."

"It was fascinating to learn about the central role that lawyers played in implementing the Holocaust and Hitler's agenda," said Meshoulam. "In order to carry out such a massive and well-organized undertaking, professionals from many fields had to be involved. But the number of senior officials within the Nazi party who were attorneys was striking."

Fellows, selected annually by FASPE, are funded under the auspices of the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. The program's goal is to provide tomorrow's professional leaders with opportunities to increase their awareness and preparedness for the ethical issues they will confront throughout their careers. "FASPE raises the question of what roles the professionals played in the Holocaust and what can be derived from them for future professional leaders," said FASPE founder C. David Goldman.

"My mother's parents were both Polish. They were fortunate to have left before the war, but most of my grandmother's relatives perished in the Holocaust," said Meshoulam. "This program re-emphasized to me the tremendous power that lawyers wield. It also made me realize how important it is for lawyers to continually ask questions, not only about legal doctrine, but about the values and assumptions that are at the root of that doctrine."

390-member group that encourages US compliance with international human rights law. Members of the working group advocate before the UN and Inter-American human rights systems and develop strategies to use human rights law in US courts and domestic policy-making. The ESCR Working Group met for the first time in December and will hold an institute, "Framing Domestic ESCR Legal Advocacy," this fall at the law school.

"PHRGE is growing," said Associate Dean Martha Davis, one of PHRGE's faculty directors. "We are active both domestically and internationally, with a new co-op fellowship with the Human Rights Law Network in India, an international working group on economic and social rights, and a global project on state obligations to address violence against women. Increasingly, we are at the center of efforts to translate human rights norms into action."



The Gordon Lecture honors the late Valerie Gordon '93, a lawyer and advocate for human rights in the US and internationally. Members of the Gordon family, including her son, Foluke (center), attended the event, recalling Gordon's commitment to social justice. In conjunction with the Gordon Lecture, the law school's chapter of the Black Law Students Association annually sponsors a human rights essay contest for first-year law students. Bomopregha Julius '13 (far left) received "The Spirit of Valerie Gordon Award" this year.

CO-OP MATTERS

Keeping It Real

TOM COMBS '10 CONFRONTS WAR CRIMES IN THE HAGUE



TOM COMBS '10 WAS A KID in Rochester, New York, when ethnic conflict erupted in Bosnia in the early 1990s. Like any child, if he was aware of it at all, the Balkans was a name on the news — a land far, far away. Little did he imagine that more than 15 years later, he'd become intimately familiar with the region by way of a co-op with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), a United Nations court of law in the Netherlands.

There, in The Hague, Combs spent three months immersed in international criminal law, researching incidents that took place in the Balkans in the early 1990s. Assigned to ICTY Judge Carmel Agius, Combs poured through transcripts recounting the testimony of defendants charged with some of the most heinous war crimes imaginable. "It was horrifying and sad," he says, "but you got used to it in a way because you didn't have time to dwell."

He kept his feelings in check by focusing on his mission to fit the often emotionally numbing facts into legal rulings, distilling the elements of conspiracy or genocide and determining whether they had been satisfied.

Some of his research and writing, mainly relying on UN tribunal case law and databases, were included in the final 900-page

**"It was horrifying and sad, but
you got used to it in a way
because you didn't have time
to dwell."**

TOM COMBS '10

trial judgment against seven co-defendants charged with crimes growing out of the 1995 escalation of Bosnian ethnic conflicts. Varying degrees of culpability were assessed, including two verdicts of genocide.

Combs, who also worked on other matters, including cases on appeal from the Rwandan Tribunal, was present at the judgment reading. He remains fascinated by the scope of work at the ICTY, and his experience helped solidify his plans to practice criminal law in the states. "I don't find any other area of the law as engaging or real," he says.

— Tricia Elam '79

PHOTO: MICHAEL MANNING



More than 40 years ago, two teenage boys, Charles Moore and Henry Dee, were brutalized and murdered in Meadville, Mississippi. With the assistance of CRRJ, the victims' families received a landmark civil settlement in 2010. Family members of Moore and Dee discussed the case during a visit to the School of Law in November.

CRRJ Expands Cold Case Docket

THE LAW SCHOOL'S CIVIL RIGHTS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (CRRJ) Project, headed by Professor Margaret Burnham, is significantly expanding its cold case docket, rendering legal assistance to victims of civil rights-era violence in Arkansas, Texas, California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Mississippi, and New York.

Following CRRJ's landmark 2010 settlement in *Moore v. Franklin County* (see *Northeastern Law Magazine*, summer/fall 2010), Burnham and her team of students moved on to cases involving Isadore Banks, a landowner

and businessman in Marion, Arkansas, who was brutally murdered in 1954, and Rubén Salazar, a columnist with the *Los Angeles Times* who was killed in 1970 at a Los Angeles demonstration protesting the Vietnam War. The Banks case was featured on CNN's "AndersonCooper360" in March.

"A better match would be hard to find," said Burnham, who was interviewed about CRRJ's work by NPR, nationally, and WBUR, locally, this fall, among other news outlets. "Our students render extraordinary legal services while mastering civil rights history and the elusive art of community organizing. The communities we serve reconnect with lost narratives, and thereby recover personal dignity, recompense and truth."

CRRJ faculty and students also continue work on the case of John Earl Reese, who was 16 when he was murdered in 1955, the victim of a race-based drive-by shooting in Texas. CRRJ's efforts culminated in a correction to Reese's death certificate, a plaque created in a local library and money raised for a proper gravestone.



PHOTOS: DAVID LEIFER

PHAI Focuses Efforts on Combatting Tobacco Exposure and Junk Food

SMOKE-FREE HOMES and ending deceptive food marketing to children are two of the Public Health Advocacy Institute's (PHAI) top priorities this year.

"Our work to reduce tobacco smoke exposure in the home has progressed on several fronts," said Mark Gottlieb '93, PHAI's executive director. "Our staff are meeting with real estate stakeholders throughout Massachusetts to explain the legal and policy considerations of implementing smoke-free policies under a state-wide project through the Department of Public Health. We are also working with the Boston Public Health Commission to provide legal and technical support for implementing Mayor Menino's initiative to make public housing smoke-free throughout the city." Gottlieb was co-author of a study published in 2010 in the journal *Pediatrics*, which demonstrated that children living in multi-unit housing had significantly higher exposure to tobacco smoke than those living in detached structures.

"Our work to reduce tobacco smoke exposure in the home has progressed on several fronts."

MARK GOTTLIEB '93

Gottlieb and staff attorney Cara Wilking '05 are also exploring how to bridge the regulatory gap in reducing junk food marketing targeting children through the use of state consumer protection laws under a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. They presented their research at an Institute of Medicine workshop, "Legal Strategies in Childhood Obesity Prevention," held last October in Washington, DC, and also at the *Northeastern University Law Journal's* symposium, "From Seed to Stomach," in January. "State consumer protection laws are an underutilized legal tool for stopping unfair and deceptive practices that seek to sell junk foods and beverages to kids," he said. "We're trying to change that."

You Heard it Here First!

Conferences and Symposia Bring National Experts and Leaders to the School of Law

Feminist Theory – Feminist Practice – Women’s Experience Challenging Boundaries in Legal Education: A Symposium Honoring Clare Dalton’s Contributions as a Scholar and Advocate

Professor Clare Dalton’s life and work represent a commitment to feminist theory and practice, and to women’s experiences. This November 2010 symposium, co-sponsored with the *Harvard Journal of Law and Gender*, explored the ways in which feminist theory has enriched feminist practice and both shaped and reflected women’s experiences.

Martha Minow, dean of Harvard Law School (right), was among those who paid tribute to Clare Dalton. In addition to panel discussions, the Honorable Nancy Gertner, of the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts, delivered the keynote speech.



Professor Clare Dalton



Beyond National Security: Immigrant Communities and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The School of Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) brought together leading immigration and human rights advocates, scholars, jurists and activists for a two-day intensive institute in October. Two plenary sessions as well as a student-organized workshop were open to the public.



The PHRGE institute was co-sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Human Rights Interest Group of the American Society of International Law.

Navigating the Wage and Hour Deluge — Overtime, Tips and Employee/Contractor Classification Panel



In December, labor and employment practitioners joined School of Law students and faculty for a discussion focused on wage, hour and employee misclassifications.

Panelists included (from left) Bryan Decker '92, a partner with Sandulli Grace Shapiro and Horwitz; Joseph McConnell '93, with Morgan Brown & Joy; Jocelyn Jones '98, from the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General; and moderator and panel organizer Mark Irvings '75.

Domestic Violence Conference

The Domestic Violence Institute's annual conference focused this year on "Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence: A Conference for New Legal Advocates and Their Experienced Community Partners." A wide range of advocates, law enforcement officials and community members attended the event at the School of Law in September.



Domestic violence experts talked with students and other professionals about advanced family law subjects and housing issues.

Global Entrepreneurship Week

The School of Law joined the university's campus-wide Global Entrepreneurship Week activities, held in November. Events hosted at the law school included a reception, networking opportunities and three panels: "Entrepreneurship and Urban Development," "Challenges for Entrepreneurs in the Electronic Games Industry" and "The Impact of Changes in the Economy on Venture Capital." Professor Susan Barbieri Montgomery '86 organized the panels and served as a moderator.



Northeastern University's 2010 Global Entrepreneurship Week included more than 20 panels, networking events and bootcamps.



In October 2010, renowned civil rights lawyer and community advocate Fred Brewington '82 spoke about "Handling Damaged Goods: Realizing the Harm Done to Clients Who Have Already Been Victimized and Caring for Them While Looking for Justice."

Flor Bermudez, head of Lambda Legal's Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project, focused on "Lawyering Alongside LGBTQ Communities: The Key to Inclusive Social Change," in February 2011.



Daynard Fellows Focus on Civil Rights

ONCE AGAIN, the Daynard Distinguished Visiting Fellows Program brought two leading practitioners of public interest law to the Northeastern campus this academic year, each for a three-day visit.

The Daynard fellows serve as role models for students, demonstrating how legal skills can be used effectively and creatively to make the world a better place. The fellows each deliver a major address that focuses on the strategic use of law to promote public interest goals. They also participate in roundtables and classes, consult about professional opportunities for students and graduates, and meet individually with interested faculty, administrators and students.

This vibrant program was established in 2004 through the generosity of Professor Richard Daynard and his wife, Carol Iskols Daynard. Professor Daynard, president of the law school's Public Health Advocacy Institute, is an expert on legal approaches to dealing with the epidemics of tobacco- and obesity-related disease. He has spoken in almost 50 countries and has chaired 25 national and international conferences on these subjects.

Northeastern Makes the Grade When it Comes to Diversity

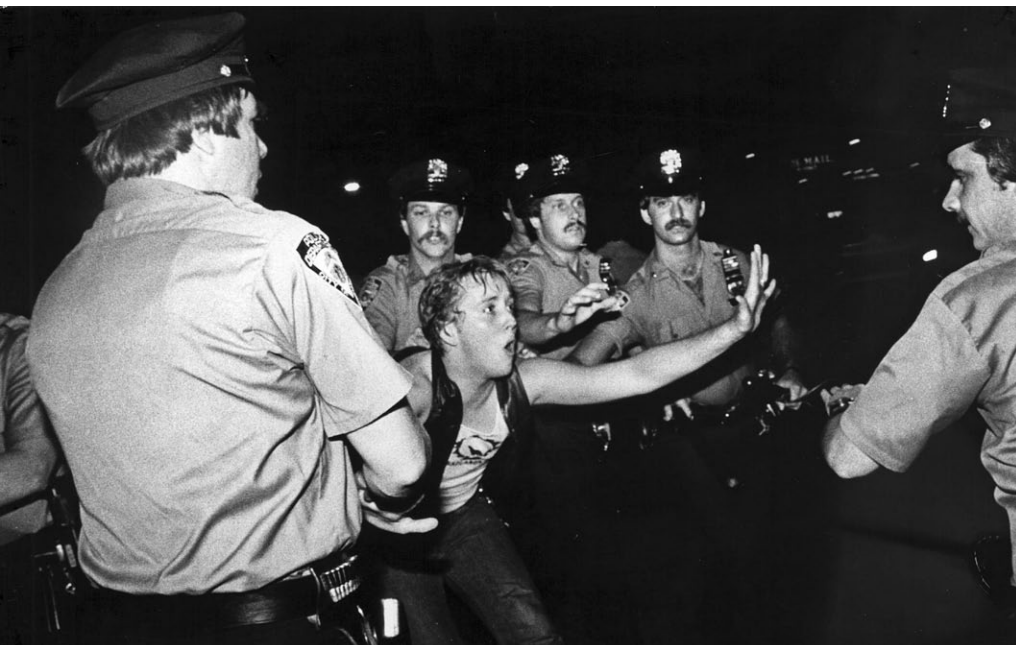
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW is the "most diverse law school" in New England, according to rankings compiled by *The National Jurist*, a magazine covering law schools throughout the country.

In a March 2011 cover story on diversity in law schools, *The National Jurist* awarded an "A" to the School of Law. Northeastern was one of only 13 law schools nationwide to receive an A or A+ ranking. The story covered data for the 2009 school year, in which 31.5 percent of Northeastern's law school students and 22.2 percent of the faculty were people of color. Students of color constitute 32 percent of the Northeastern law student body today.

In the 2010 edition of "The Best 172 Law Schools," *The Princeton Review* ranked the School of Law number two in the country for providing the "best environment for minority students." The law school was cited for its "commitment to progressive lawyering," emphasis on experiential learning and its "unique grading system (that) provides for (an) extremely cooperative atmosphere."

NUSL Named Top Green Law School

IN ITS FALL 2010 "back to school" issue, *preLaw* magazine named NUSL to a list of the top 20 "greenest law schools" in the nation. The ranking was based on information about law school curriculum, campus environment and building trends. Additional weight was given to those schools with a strong green focus in their classes, faculty and other academic offerings, such as externships, legal journals and summer programs.



Award-Winning Movie Maker David Heilbroner '84 Headlines The Northeastern Law Forum



DAVID HEILBRONER '84, WHO HAS PRODUCED award-winning documentaries for more than 15 years, visited the law school this fall to screen and talk about his new film, "Stonewall Uprising," the first non-fiction film to tell the story of participants in the 1969 Stonewall riots, spontaneous demonstrations by homosexuals at a club in New York's Greenwich Village — often cited as the start of the gay rights movement.

Heilbroner, with his wife and filmmaking partner Kate Davis, co-directed the film. Told by Stonewall patrons, reporters and the police officer who led the raid, "Stonewall Uprising" recalls the days when psychoanalysts equated homosexuality with mental illness and advised aversion therapy; public service announcements warned youngsters against predatory homosexuals; and police entrapment was rampant. At the height of this oppression, the police raided a bar called the Stonewall Inn, triggering nights of pandemonium with tear gas, billy clubs and a small army of tactical police.

"One of the lovely, subversive pleasures I had in making 'Stonewall Uprising,' was in showing the limits of the law," said Heilbroner. "Because, at its core, the film points out that there are times when you can no longer take your complaints to the courts or the legislature. You need to take them to the streets."

Heilbroner came to the law school as part of the The Northeastern Law Forum: Discussions on Contemporary Legal Issues. Other forums in the fall included "Sudanese Refugees in Egypt and Israel: A Crisis of Protection and Realpolitik," featuring Professor Susan Akram of Boston University School of Law, and a panel discussion, "Missing the Transition from Emergency Relief to Systemic Development in Haiti: How Countries Become Trapped in Refugee-Land."

Follow the (Quiet)



SOMETIMES, IT TAKES A CRISIS TO SPUR A REVOLUTION.

For decades, critics warned that American law schools were falling down on the job. Far too heavy on theory and doctrine and much too light on practical application, they graduated students who simply weren't ready to practice law. As Vanderbilt law professor and former dean Edward Rubin likes to point out, most law students spent a year in contracts class but never saw an actual contract or tried their hands at drafting one, let alone worked with a real client. As for trial advocacy, the most exposure they got was through watching re-runs of "Law and Order."

"Law schools exist to prepare students to be lawyers, and you can't learn to be a lawyer just by sitting in a classroom," insists Erwin Chemerinsky, founding dean of the new law school at the University of California at Irvine, which opened in fall 2009. "Can you imagine if medical school students had never seen a patient?" he asks. Yet that was the model law schools clung to.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX NABAUM

Leader

ONE BY ONE, LAW SCHOOLS
ARE DISCOVERING THE
ADVANTAGES OF EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING. | By Elaine McArdle



A string of studies agreed with the critics, from the American Bar Association's 1992 MacCrate Report to a 2007 report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching called "Educating Lawyers: Preparation for the Profession of Law," and "Best Practices for Legal Education," published the same year by the Clinical Legal Education Association. Despite some minor differences in their recommendations, they agreed that legal education was overdue for a major shift toward experiential training to ensure students were better prepared to enter the profession.

But resistance was strong. Law school had been taught one way for nearly 150 years, through a standard regimen of doctrinal classroom courses led by professors who, for the most part, had never practiced law. Beginning in the 1980s (earlier, in some places), most schools added experiential options, including clinical courses, which combined classroom study with students working on real cases under the guidance of clinical faculty; or externships, where students worked part time in law offices or for legal services organizations. Some schools took the lead in clinical education and developed very strong programs, including Northeastern (of course), Georgetown, NYU, Washington University in St. Louis and the University of New Mexico. Vanderbilt, under Rubin's lead, underwent a major curricular reform, including emphasizing a more real-world focus. But at most schools, experiential education remained a sidebar, a small and mostly marginalized aspect of the curriculum, and certainly not required.

The persuasive arguments in the Carnegie report — including that experiential courses provide not only training in concrete skills but also education around professional values and ethics — provoked conversation but failed to stimulate the widespread transformation of legal education many hoped for. The entrenched academy fretted about morphing into vocational schools, although reformers were suggesting no such thing. Tens of thousands of law students continued to graduate each year, many with no practical training in the work they soon would begin. While big law firms usually provided formal training programs, more than 75 percent of new graduates landed in solo practice or small firms where they were forced to learn on their own, by trial and error.

Then the economy crashed. And suddenly, the movement toward experiential training gained real traction.

Total Immersion

"All of a sudden, long-time critics of experience-based legal education want to know how we do it," says Dean Emily Spieler, describing conversations she has had with law school colleagues across the nation about Northeastern University School of Law's Cooperative Legal Education Program. "In the second and third years combined, we have about 400 students, all of them busy going out on what others call externships, and we call co-ops, then rotating back into classes. So the entire culture of the school is different from anywhere else."

At Northeastern, where experiential education has been the core program for more than 40 years, the faculty and curriculum focus on the experience of learning to be a practicing lawyer, including thinking like a lawyer (which law schools have done

well for so long, as the Carnegie report and others note); learning to interact with clients, opposing counsel, judges and more; dealing with real-life ethical issues as they arise — all the intangibles that help shape a great lawyer. By alternating each quarter of academic study with a quarter working for a law firm, judge, government agency or advocacy organization, students have real experiences to share with their classmates and professors — the difficult client, the thorny ethical dilemma, how court really works versus how the books say it should. The dichotomy between the legal academy and the world of practice simply doesn't exist at Northeastern.

"The bridges are down over the moat, and people go back and forth all the time," explains Spieler; that includes not only students as they move between co-ops and classes, but the faculty too, she says, since most have significant practice experience and continue to keep their hands in action through pro bono work.

Phyllis Crocker '85, interim dean at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Cleveland, Ohio, agrees. "I'm biased because I went to Northeastern," she says, "but in many ways it has the best model because students are totally immersed in law practice for 11 weeks." Some law schools have externships where students work only a few hours a week in a practical setting, but Crocker believes it's better for students to work two or three days each week, at least. "Students really get to be part of the organization and to see how it works," she says. "And the offices and supervisors understand that they are there for an educational purpose and not just to file paper."

Supply and Demand

For at least the past 20 years, critics have been increasingly vocal, warning that American law schools aren't giving students — and by extension, the clients they would represent — what they need to be good lawyers. Legal education reformers have insisted on the importance of giving law students practical education, like other graduate schools — medicine, nursing, dentistry — require.

"There are new approaches to developing experiential learning because of the efforts of clinical legal educators and the [Carnegie] report," says Judith Welch Wegner, a professor and former dean at the University of North Carolina School of Law, and one of the authors of the Carnegie report. "But," she adds, "I'd say the fall-off in the economy is much more of a driver."

Law firms want new lawyers who arrive with significant practical experience under their belts and don't need hand-holding. This change has been spurred, in large part, by budget-conscious clients who are refusing to foot the bill for the practical training young associates missed in law school. "There are more and more businesses that won't pay for first-year associate time," Chemerinsky notes. Law graduates with practical training find themselves at an advantage in the extremely tight legal market; a candidate who has taken depositions in a trial advocacy clinic or argued at a parole hearing is a lot more attractive than a neophyte, no matter how bright.

Creating Change

What's clear now is that legal education has finally accepted the value of practical training, in whatever form it takes. The key consideration, says Karen Tokarz, Charles Nagel Professor of Public Interest Law and Public Service at Washington University in St. Louis School of Law and a national leader in experiential legal education, is how it's done. "It's an issue for all law schools to figure out how they will responsibly develop a curriculum that provides integrated theoretical and doctrinal learning with

enough experiential opportunities for all students, both for enhancing their education and enhancing their career opportunities," says Tokarz.

"There are a few things about the Northeastern model that I've always thought — long before I was dean — make it exceptional and, frankly, hard to imitate," says Spieler, who last year authored an article about the value of experiential education in *The National Law Journal* called, "Making Legal Education More Practical." While many law schools are now highlighting their experiential programs, and Spieler admires the innovative efforts, at the same time, she notes, "I think the majority don't offer the same kind of universal experience we have, and it's extremely difficult to start a program like ours."

Different schools have opted for different models, based, in large part, on what they can afford. Harvard Law School has the most extensive in-house clinical program in the country, with clinics in more than 28 areas of the law, ranging from cyberlaw to international human rights to transactional law, and more than 60 clinical faculty and instructors who teach clinical courses and mentor students on their cases. Stanford has a number of in-house clinics, including criminal prosecution and youth and education law, as well as one in which students represent prisoners serving life sentences under California's "three-strikes" law. While the concept of law school clinics was born in the 1960s as a means of providing free legal services to low-income clients, many today are not public-interest oriented. And some focus on policy work, like Yale Law School's clinic on capital markets and financial instrument regulation, rather than direct client representation.

But in-house clinics, with their low professor-student ratio, are a very expensive model that many schools simply cannot afford. Increasingly, institutions are relying heavily on the externship model, where students work for a law firm or legal organization while taking a reduced course load at school. Tokarz says the biggest growth in experiential education in the past year is in the area of externships.

"I think we're a long way from most law schools requiring clinicals of all students or even providing it for most students," Chemerinsky says, "but I think clinical education is here to stay and will grow."

Tokarz foresees a complete paradigm shift. "If you want a big-ticket prediction, I would say that within five years, legal education will have moved to mandatory clinical/empirical learning for all graduates, like other professional schools," she says, "and I think it won't be long before the typical law student



graduates with what would be the equivalent of a full year of lawyering skills courses and clinical/empirical education courses." In reaction to the Carnegie, "Best Practices" and other reports, and due to the economy, "almost every law school has expanded its externship program in the past 12 months, including externships outside their home city and home country," she says.

Washington University in St. Louis and Northeastern have long-standing externship programs in Washington, DC. But in the last three or four years, at least a dozen law schools have added full-time externships there, including Harvard, Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Vermont. "Law students and law schools see full semester externships in DC as great experiential learning opportunities and great access to future government employment," Tokarz explains. The same growth has occurred in international externship programs, as schools have created semester and summer externships in places ranging from South Africa to The Hague to Cambodia, in placements ranging from war crime tribunals to human rights and legal aid organizations, she notes.

Crocker reports that Cleveland-Marshall has significantly expanded its number of externship opportunities. She wishes the school had the funds for an in-house criminal law clinic, but in the alternative, she says, "we have made sure the externship program is very robust" by developing strong relationships with local practitioners; students may work with the US attorney, the federal public defender, the county prosecutor and public defender. "I think both clinics and externships will continue to develop because the experience is just unmatched by anything else a student can get in law school," Crocker says. "I think it complements the podium courses [traditional classroom courses], so I don't think the faculty should be threatened by it."

Schools are also experimenting with other means of non-traditional education, including simulations, an inexpensive model in which students do mock client interviews, mock trials and other exercises. Third-year students at Washington and Lee, for example, can choose to spend the year doing legal simulations, mostly involving mock cases.

But Chemerinsky, among others, is critical of simulation, at least as a stand-in for live clinics. "I think there is no substitute for live client representation," he says, and he would like to see every student of UC Irvine law school graduate with clinical or other practical experience dealing with real clients and real cases. "Simulations are too neat. There's a degree of messiness in real cases that you can't get otherwise. And there's also the issue of engagement: you work a lot harder when you have a real client." UC Irvine has instituted a required 1L course, "The Legal Profession," that includes practitioners talking with students about actual ethical dilemmas, career choices and other issues they'll encounter once they graduate.

Experience and More

At Northeastern, the nuances of experiential education have long been at the heart of the school's approach. It's not just one clinic or one co-op that provides the critical experience new lawyers need, but the interweaving of hands-on work with classroom and hallway discussions and a focus on professional ethics, experiences that have the significant benefit of helping students develop professional identities. The Carnegie report emphasized the importance of teaching values, Spieler notes, "and we take the notion of teaching about values pretty seriously,"

including the school's public interest requirement, which most students fulfill through one of their co-ops. "That means the vast majority of our students have had experience working in a setting where they are challenged to think about access to justice. In other schools, people don't cross paths with those issues."

Yet Northeastern's unique model is sometimes misunderstood. When the ABA was devising standards for externships, it included a requirement that students keep reflective journals about their experiences, among other things. Since Northeastern did not require journals, the co-op program was not considered to be a true externship program.

Whatever the label — externship, internship or co-op — legal employers give glowing reviews of Northeastern co-op students and regularly hire them once they graduate. "Northeastern consistently produces students with the longest list of legal

“NORTHEASTERN CONSISTENTLY PRODUCES STUDENTS WITH THE LONGEST LIST OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE AS COMPARED TO OTHER STUDENTS. THEY'RE ATTRACTIVE BECAUSE THEY HAVE SO MUCH EXPERIENCE.”

—Trace Rakestraw, US Department of Labor

experience as compared to other students," says Trace Rakestraw, law clerk for the administrative law judges in the US Department of Labor in Boston, which hires several Northeastern law students in each co-op term. "They're attractive because they have so much experience." The legal department of Ocean Spray Cranberries has hired a Northeastern student each co-op term for the past five or so years, and has just hired its first former co-op student, Sarah Greenfield '10, as a full-time lawyer. "It was a huge influence that she'd both worked here and that she had other practical applications" in three more co-ops, says Alana Sharenow, senior corporate counsel for Ocean Spray. "Northeastern students have significantly more experience than students from any other law school." And the Environmental Enforcement Section of the US Department of Justice in Washington, DC, is so pleased with NUSL co-op students that it hires a number of them every term, says Joe Hurley, senior attorney in the Environmental Enforcement Section.

"I've heard from a lot of employers who say that Northeastern students are way more prepared to practice than other students," says Liza Hirsch '11, who has received a prestigious post-graduate Skadden Fellowship to work at the Boston Medical-Legal Partnership, where she did a co-op. "At first I was shocked to hear them say it, but it makes sense. You have to practice. I've done four co-ops and multiple clinics. I just think it's the best way to learn."

More Change Coming

As legal experiential education continues to develop, Wegner is witnessing two interesting trends. First, more schools are offering increased skills-oriented training starting in the 1L

Continued on page 31

Clinical Impact

ACROSS THE NATION, NORTHEASTERN LAW
GRADUATES ARE LEADING THE WAY IN
CLINICAL EDUCATION. | By Gail Friedman



Before entering academia, Deena Hurwitz '96 held a number of human rights-related posts, including service with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and positions in Ramallah as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina.



B

ASHE YOUSUF ENDURED MORE THAN SIX YEARS of solitary confinement, beatings, electric shock and waterboarding at the hands of Somali officials and their henchmen. Following the end of Somali dictator Siad Barre's regime, he found refuge in the United States.

Mohamed Ali Samantar, the defense minister and prime minister of Somalia in the 1980s, also fled to the United States. Last year, the two men's destinies, long entwined, came to a head in a landmark human rights case that reached the US Supreme Court, which considered whether Samantar was immune from prosecution for human rights atrocities under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA).

Deena Hurwitz '96 was in the courtroom the day arguments were made. A faculty member at the University of Virginia School of Law, she heads its International Human Rights Law Clinic and Human

PHOTOGRAPH BY ASHLEY TWIGGS

Rights Program. Her students, one of whom was with her at the Supreme Court, had written an amicus brief, under her supervision, for *Yousuf v. Samantar*.

When the Supreme Court ruled that the FSIA did not protect Samantar, it was a highly personal victory for Yousuf and the four other plaintiffs, all of whom had endured torture or lost family members to it. But it was an affirming day too for Hurwitz, for her students — and for clinical legal education.

More than two dozen Northeastern law graduates, like Hurwitz, are running clinical programs in law schools around the country. Having experienced a legal education that combined doctrinal analysis with real-client practice, they are passing down the experiential pedagogy, taking the impact of

“Students would do whatever was needed,” Blum says. “They worked with me on the discovery plan. As we were approached by the US to settle, they helped with talking points for settlement negotiations. It was a pretty heady time for all of us.”

Blum was on the ground floor of clinical legal education at Berkeley. Boalt Hall had no clinics when she arrived to teach there in 1980. A few years later, an immigration clinic informally evolved around a practitioner-supervised clinical course she had started. It grew into a well-established asylum clinic, working on administrative cases and appeals, then became part of the International Human Rights Law Clinic, founded by Blum in 1998. Since retiring from Boalt, Blum has taught at Columbia and currently works for organizations including the Center for

Justice and Accountability. Throughout her work with students, one of her goals remained consistent: to make sure lawyers-in-training noticed the humanity of their clients. “People who are survivors of torture, people who are refugees — their lives are filled with a lot of pain. I wanted to mentor my students to really fully appreciate and value and honor the people they were working with,” she says.

Blum’s Berkeley students helped on *Romagoza et al. v. Garcia and Vides*, a case in which a jury in West Palm Beach, Florida, awarded millions to three Salvadorans who sued military generals for their torture. Students were involved with witness preparation, discovery review and in-depth research, says Blum, who took a student with her to the hearing.

Years later, at Columbia University, she was co-counsel in a federal district court trial, *Chavez v. Carranza*, representing Salvadorans who successfully sued a military commander for crimes against humanity. Three students from Columbia’s international human rights law clinic accompanied Blum to court at various times during the proceedings. “Students did invaluable work in helping prepare our proposals. They also helped me and my co-counsel with witness prep, evidentiary objections and other issues throughout trial,” she says.

Of course, not every student works on a landmark case. “There are the big dramatic cases that had huge impact,” she says, “and the really day-to-day work representing asylum-seekers.” High-profile or low, to Blum, clinical education is about “putting abstract concepts together with the real lives of people.”

Overcoming Resistance

That description is apt at Northeastern, which currently runs clinics in public health, domestic violence, poverty law and practice, prisoners’ rights, and criminal advocacy (the school’s pioneer clinic, founded in 1974) and just launched a new civil rights and restorative justice clinic. At Northeastern and the vast majority of law schools nationwide, clinics are considered mainstream, their value unquestioned. But it wasn’t always that way.

When Northeastern professor Michael Meltsner, a former dean, cofounded a legal services clinic for the poor while on the



Daniel Kanstroom '83 is founder and director of the Boston College Immigration and Asylum Clinic, in which students represent indigent noncitizens and asylum-seekers. Together with his students, he has won many high-profile cases and has provided counsel for hundreds of clients.

their own career-shaping co-op and clinical experiences and paying it forward.

For example, Deborah Anker '75, director of Harvard's Immigration and Refugee Clinic, is providing students with firsthand experience handling asylum and human rights cases. “Scholarship and advocacy should go hand in hand,” she says.

At Boston College, students in the Center for Human Rights and International Justice, cofounded by Daniel Kanstroom '83, are exploring a relatively new facet of immigration law — defending the rights of those who already have been deported.

And over the years, Carolyn Patty Blum '76, clinical professor of law emerita at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, has guided her students through work on several landmark cases, including *American Baptist Churches v. Thornburgh*, which, through settlement, required the US government to readjudicate the cases of Salvadorans and Guatemalans who fled political repression but were denied asylum in the United States.



In addition to her clinical work, Deborah Anker '75 is the author of *Law of Asylum in the United States*. She is considered one of the nation's leading experts on refugee and asylum law.

Columbia University law faculty in the mid-'70s, it was not a popular idea. "The climate was hostile until my colleague Philip Schrag and I started getting rave reviews from our students and wrote books and articles about the practice of law and how to teach it," Meltsner recalls.

At the time, some institutions doubted that clinics could fit their intellectual model. "In the beginning — the late '60s and early '70s — many law schools were skeptical of the value of clinics, fearful that they were not sufficiently academically rigorous and might bring less able legal thinkers to faculties," Meltsner says. "That attitude is largely if not totally gone. Legal clinics are today an integral part of law school life. In the early '70s we had to prove that putting students in the lawyer's role was a sound educational strategy."

Professor James Rowan, director of Northeastern's clinical programs for the past 30 years, agrees that, during that era, clinical education was still a hard sell: "Between that early missionary period of clinical education and the present, the resistance to clinical education was largely that it was anti-intellectual — too much mechanics and not enough theory, insufficiently intellectually grounded — and that it was the business of the profession after graduation to equip people for the nuts and bolts, and the job of the academy to equip them intellectually," he says.

The Ford Foundation sparked much of the early interest in law school clinics with a grant to the Council on Legal Education for Professional Responsibility, Rowan says. "That was the impetus that got them off the ground," he notes. Those early clinics, almost exclusively litigation-focused, have evolved. "Now clinics are much more likely to do transactional work, policy work or economic development and other non-courtroom projects," says Meltsner.

Hurwitz's Virginia law clinic, for example, is not client-based. Students research, write and develop advocacy and legal human rights strategy. "Their work gets published, or submitted in regional and national courts with their names on it," Hurwitz explains. "They work directly with human rights advocates and their organizations; they get a feel for the diversity of human rights lawyering."

Filling a Need

Signaling that an institution cares about public service and considers it part of the legal profession is itself a significant rationale for clinical education, in Rowan's opinion.

"It signifies institutionally that service may be part of the institution's obligation to its community, obligation to its trade, obligation to itself," he says, adding that Northeastern's dedication to clinical education is mission-driven. "It has to do with the commitment to justice. It has to do with everyone doing their share."

Northeastern's clinics fulfill unmet needs in the community — the need to represent prisoners in parole hearings, to assist battered women in the lower level courts, and to represent individuals in administrative law hearings. Rowan says about half of Northeastern law students participate in at least one clinic.

Many legal clients around the country would be without representation if not for law school clinics. "There's been such a cutback in legal services to the poor that few individuals we represent would have legal representation," says Lois Kanter, who directs Northeastern's Domestic Violence Institute and Domestic Violence Clinic. "Traditionally, lawyers won't do the restraining orders; they are overloaded enough trying to do the family law cases. Nor do lawyers usually represent prisoners at parole hearings, unless they can afford to pay. Community advocates may provide legal advocacy, but few are being trained or supervised by lawyers."

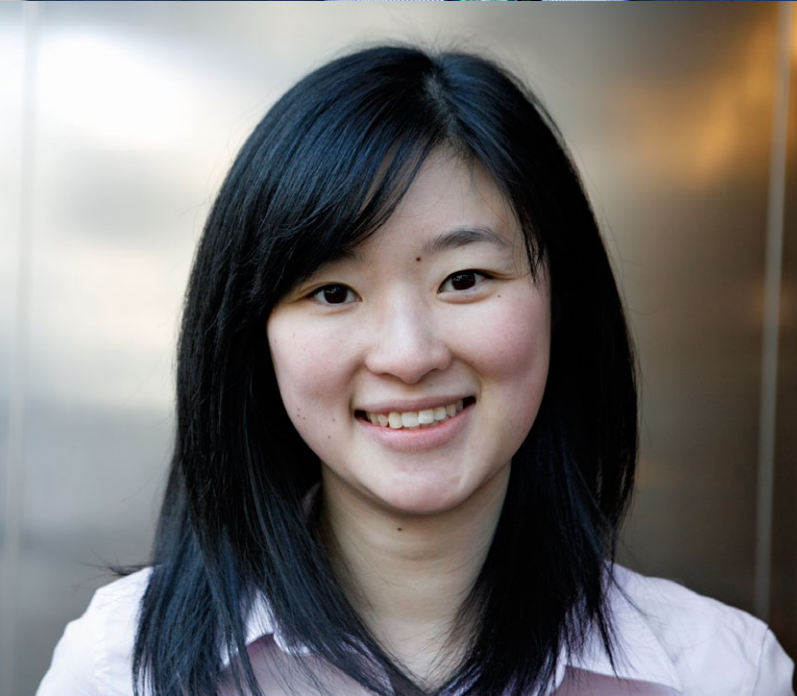
Anker, at Harvard, also says that her clinic's clients would be unserved without students' legal counsel. "Every single person we represent would be without representation," she says. "There have been dramatic decreases in resources. We can only represent so many people, but every one of those people is in a very difficult situation."

At Boston College, Kanstroom's students are helping clients that weren't merely underserved a few years back, but practically overlooked. Through research for his history of the US deportation system, *Deportation Nation: Outsiders in American History* (Harvard University Press, 2007), and his practice representing noncitizens facing deportation, Kanstroom realized there were opportunities for students to work in an emerging field. "Deportation had become a fast, efficient and harsh system," he says. "Nobody was really thinking about the post-deportation scenario as a major, interesting and important area of legal practice." Most recently, Kanstroom has developed a human rights semester-in-practice that puts Boston College law students to work in China, Guatemala, Peru, South Africa and elsewhere around the world.

"I credit Northeastern a lot with helping me develop ideas about the nexus between theory and practice — the importance of excellent theory being merged with excellent practice in the service of marginalized populations," says Kanstroom.

He points specifically to classes with professors Karl Klare, Daniel Givelber and Jonathan Shapiro, and work in the Prisoners'

Continued on page 25



STRATEGIC SERENDIPITY

SIX STORIES OF PROFESSIONAL DISCOVERY — AND HOW
NORTHEASTERN'S SPECIAL BLEND OF ACADEMIC AND
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MADE THEM POSSIBLE. | By Jeri Zeder

THE LAW IS NOT AN ABSTRACTION. To understand it, you have to live it.

That's the philosophy guiding a Northeastern law school education. That's why the curriculum couples coursework with hands-on learning, and why, since 1968, the Cooperative Legal Education Program has guaranteed that every student graduates with a solid academic grounding and the equivalent of almost one full year of legal work experience.

Today, the co-op program is accompanied by an array of options for experiential and academic learning. These options — law clinics, Legal Skills in Social Context (LSSC) projects, teaching assistantships and fellowships, research, independent studies and studies abroad — are deliberately woven into the fabric of the curriculum. They are enabled by a law school calendar that allows students to seize total immersion co-op opportunities, not only in summer, but all year round.

The result is a system that strategically fosters serendipity. Students can't help but experiment and discover. They develop a network of mentors — professors, co-op counselors, employers, supervisors and colleagues — who help them make sense of their experiences and plan their next steps. Students bring their practical knowledge into the classroom for serious reflection, and their academic knowledge out to the field, where it deepens. Ultimately, every student is just one co-op, one law clinic, one LSSC project, one independent study away from gaining a fresh insight, finding a new direction, discovering a new passion.

Here are the stories of five students and one alumna who expertly took advantage of what Northeastern has to offer.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JESSICA SCRANTON

SOWANDE BROWN-LAWSON '11: "I like the idea of neutrality."



IF SOWANDE BROWN-LAWSON WERE A COUNTRY, he'd be Switzerland.

"I like the idea of neutrality," he says. "I've always been drawn to courts and the way they operate. I'm not a fan of arguing one side or the other." So, Brown-Lawson gravitated toward co-ops in the courts. Those co-ops, in turn, brought him to a deeper understanding of the law.

Brown-Lawson admits that he struggled with his first-year podium courses. For example, in Property, the concepts felt alien to him: his parents had never owned a house and he was

introduced to social ideas that were outside his experience. But he was intrigued when his professor, Mary O'Connell '75, covered the mortgage crisis, and he realized he could learn more about real estate ownership and finance in, of all places, a bankruptcy course. He enrolled at the first opportunity.

"I loved it," he says, recalling how the course focused on problem solving and discussion that explored bankruptcy law and policy. He then went on co-op with US Bankruptcy Court judges in California and Massachusetts, where he encountered questions like: "Can property where a radio tower stands be sold in bankruptcy, and if so, what rules govern the sale?" He read the briefs of attorneys whose duties included simply and clearly explaining how principles of law applied to the cases at hand.

Suddenly, those first-year courses were making a lot more sense. "Bankruptcy courts generally apply state law to issues that arise in bankruptcy cases, and a lot of the state law issues were those that I was introduced to in first-year classes. On co-op, I could see how all of the classroom theory worked in reality," Brown-Lawson says.

Brown-Lawson rounded-out his exploration of the courts with a co-op last fall at the Council for Court Excellence, a nonprofit court reform, public education and civil education organization in Washington, DC. This spring he is back in Washington, DC, on co-op with the Federal Communications Commission International Bureau (Strategic Analysis and Negotiations Division). He's hoping for a post-grad clerkship with a federal or bankruptcy judge.

H. SHIRLEY HUANG '10: "I decided to see what I'm saying 'no' to."

SHIRLEY HUANG STARTED IN ONE PLACE and wound up in another.

She had been a legal aid paralegal in Los Angeles and went off to law school thinking she'd make her career in public interest work. Her first two co-ops, with the Suffolk County DA's Office and the US Attorney's Office, both in Boston, were consistent with that aim. While the experiences were engaging and interesting, she wanted to try something new. "I decided to see what I'm saying 'no' to," Huang recalls.

So off she went for an 11-week corporate and litigation co-op with Davis, Malm & D'Agostine, a medium-sized Boston firm. "That co-op experience allowed me to reconsider what I wanted to do with my career," Huang says. While working in the public sector was demanding, intense and fulfilling, she found herself drawn to the private firm culture. Most of all, Huang wanted to learn, learn, learn, and after three co-ops offering diverse experiences, she decided that the private sector best suited her long-term career interests.

With that in mind, Huang continued her explorations by going global for her final co-op: she headed to K&L Gates in Taipei, a corporate firm of 2,000 lawyers in 36 offices around the world. There, she participated in international transactions and got to use her fluent Mandarin.

Today, Huang practices corporate and securities law as an associate with Burns & Levinson in Boston. She credits professors Hope Lewis and Dan Givelber with helping her to rethink her career path, and she's grateful for her co-op experiences. "I would not have come to this without the co-op program," she says.





CHRISTOPHER LOGUE '11: "I learned I deal well with crisis."

CHRISTOPHER LOGUE CAME TO LAW SCHOOL to further his career as an activist. He initially thought he'd work for animal rights. But after a co-op with the Farm Sanctuary in New Orleans, he discovered the sedentary nature of that work and changed his mind. "Research and writing all day is not for me," Logue says. "I'm a low-attention-span, high-energy, social person."

He's also a self-described feminist. To put his feminist values into practice, Logue enrolled in the law school's Domestic Violence Clinic, where he assisted women seeking restraining orders and helped them with safety planning and referrals. Eventually, he became a teaching assistant, supervising student advocates and meeting weekly with individual students. The pace of this work suited him. "Working in domestic violence brings you face-to-face with clients in crisis situations," Logue says. "I learned I deal well with crisis in an instinctual way."

When he enrolled in Northeastern's Prisoners' Rights Clinic, Logue faced the challenge of representing a man who was guilty of domestic violence, including the murder of his son. Logue worried that he might feel conflicted about representing such a person. Instead, he discovered his professional capacity to adopt a lawyer's stance. "It's not my judgment who is right or wrong, but that everyone has rights," Logue says. "I was motivated to help protect those rights. I didn't foresee that before this clinic."

After graduation, as an Equal Justice Works Fellow, Logue will be developing an interdisciplinary model of collaborative medical and legal services for domestic violence victims.

MELISSA JOYCE '11: "You can make it happen as long as you're persistent."

BEFORE SHE EVEN APPLIED TO NORTHEASTERN, Melissa Joyce made an appointment with Jeff Smith '77 in the co-op office to see, among other things, if it would be possible to land internships with the United Nations. "He said, 'It will be hard, but you can do it,'" she recalls.

Once at Northeastern, Joyce networked heavily with professors and the career and co-op offices to piece together her plans. Her co-ops took her to Tanzania with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, to London with REDRESS, an advocacy group for torture victims, and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Washington, DC. She helped immigrants seeking protection and researched issues in international women's rights. This spring she is on co-op with Kaplan, Friedman and Associates, one of Boston's leading immigration firms.



So she could pursue advanced coursework in human rights law, Northeastern allowed Joyce to study abroad at Oxford and American University. She took a course on the regional human rights system, and saw the power of co-op: she was the only student in her class with a hands-on background. "Having already had the practical experience of working on international human rights litigation at the regional level while on co-op at REDRESS, I was much better able to put my classroom learning into context," she says.

With the knowledge Joyce has gained from her courses and experiences, she is now able to plot a realistic career path in an intensely competitive field. She'll start as an immigration attorney doing refugee asylum work, then try to find a position at the UNHCR, and eventually hopes to return to the United States to become an international human rights litigator. "What I have learned," Joyce says, "is that if you want to do something special, something different, you can make it happen as long as you're persistent."

MICHELE SCAVONGELLI '12:

“If I can’t get a course, I can get the knowledge through a co-op.”



DURING HER 30-YEAR CAREER IN INSURANCE, Michele Scavongelli was always involved in community service projects, many focused on child welfare. In the process, she set the stage for her second act as an advocate for children. Says this retired executive and mother of seven children, “Helping other families with their kids is why I went to law school.”

Last year, Scavongelli interned for the Massachusetts Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) as a winner of the highly selective Rappaport Fellowship. She parlayed her experience there into a Legal Skills in Social Context (LSSC) project for the first-year law students she supervised as a lawyering fellow. Her “law office” of LSSC students helped OCA develop recommendations for obtaining informed consent for the use of psychoactive medications by children in foster care. The students interviewed more than 100 stakeholders for the project.

In February, OCA head Gail Garinger referenced the LSSC project in her keynote address before a conference of the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC). Coming full circle, Scavongelli will be on co-op as a Hennessey Fellow with MHLAC in Boston this summer.

Scavongelli methodically works the system to make sure she gets the right mix of black-letter, experiential and practice learning. “If I can’t get a course, I can get the knowledge through a co-op,” she says. Case in point: she couldn’t work a juvenile law class into her schedule so she set up a co-op with juvenile court judge Jay Blitzman, the adjunct professor who teaches the class.

CHETHAN SRINIVASA '11: “I wanted to develop the character of an attorney and be able to move in that world.”

CHETHAN SRINIVASA ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN INVENTOR. “MacGyver’ was my favorite show growing up,” he confides. After a summer stint in college trying to patent an invention, Srinivasa knew that he wanted to help others build businesses around their inventions.

To hone his technical skills, Srinivasa spent four years at Raytheon, where he won awards as an electrical engineer. He picked Northeastern when applying to law school largely because of the co-op program. “Engineers are very different from lawyers,” Srinivasa says. “I wanted to develop the character of an attorney and be able to move in that world.”

Srinivasa first went on co-op with a federal district court magistrate judge to learn how judges think. Next, he worked in the legal department of Ocean Spray to learn what corporate clients want from outside counsel. As a summer associate with Foley & Lardner in Boston, he learned about large law firms. His final co-op, with the Business, Technology and Economic Development Unit of the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, showed him how laws can help or hinder business growth.

In his business and intellectual property courses, Srinivasa says, “I could bring my co-op experience to every discussion we had in class. I got more out of class, and brought more to class, because of that.”

Launching his career, Srinivasa is already well plugged in: the judge he interned for, Marianne Bowler, sponsored him for membership in the exclusive Boston Intellectual Property American Inn of Court. “I’ve met a lot of people through that,” Srinivasa says. “It’s an incredible opportunity.”



Jeri Zeder’s last feature for the magazine explored models for transgender activism.

Clinical Impact

Continued from page 19

Rights Clinic as pivotal. In addition, Rowan, whom he assisted in the writing program, “was a very important role model in terms of being grounded in high-quality legal education ideas but also demonstrating a commitment to serving the poor. All of those experiences coalesced in giving me a strong grounding in this relationship between legal education and practice.”

Equally Valuable, Not Equal

That relationship doesn’t generate much controversy today. Indeed, clinics have become more valuable as the legal profession has decreased its mentoring. “The increased demand for profitability has reduced the amount of post-graduate training that’s actually happening in law firms,” says Rowan.

Still, some do question the role of clinics in a school where a well-regarded co-op program provides hands-on experience. But Rowan and others insist that clinics do not equal co-ops. “Our clinics offer students the opportunity to be primary counsel on cases that are deliberately chosen to allow them to start and complete a case, an opportunity they would rarely get on co-op,” Rowan says.

Professor Thomas Kelley ’91, faculty supervisor of the Community Development Law Clinic and director of clinical programs at the University of North Carolina School of Law, participated in a housing clinic while he was at Northeastern as well as a formative co-op for a legal services group on an Arizona Navajo reservation. “There is an essential difference between a clinical program and a co-op,” he says. “They blend at the margins. Basically, doing a live-client clinical program is truly an apprenticeship.”

He recalls being supervised in his Northeastern housing clinic by Rowan, who coached, encouraged and corrected him. “But basically the clients I had were mine,” Kelley says. “I had to look at big complex issues, lots of facts that had to be established, lots of law that had to be applied. I had to prioritize. When I am doing co-op, in most circumstances I am getting benefits, but I am not first chair.”

Kelley sees how his own students deepen their education through clinics. “Through their clinical experience they develop a much more profound understanding of the legal doctrines,” he emphasizes. “They have to puzzle their own way through and apply them in real-life circumstances.”

He also has noticed a marked difference between how students learn legal ethics in the classroom and how they develop a sense of ethics through practice. “Ethical issues come up all the time in the clinic,” he says. “For them to be faced with the shades of gray that happen in the real world and have to basically struggle with being ethical and zealously defend the interests of their clients — I think there is absolutely no substitute for actually having concrete legal problems and clients.”

Clinics Coming of Age

Clinics were not entrenched in the Northeastern experience when Anker, the Harvard professor, attended. When Meltsner became dean in 1979, “the school viewed co-op as a form of clinical legal education, and in-school time for students was

Continued on page 43

Northeastern’s Practical People

Deborah Anker ’75, Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic, Harvard Law School

Susan Apel ’77, Professor of Law and Director of the General Practice Program, Vermont Law School

Carolyn Patty Blum ’76, Professor of Law Emeritus, International Human Rights Law Clinic, Boalt Hall School of Law, UC Berkeley

Lauren Carasik ’91, Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Legal Services Clinic, Western New England College School of Law

Lisa Dealy ’95, Assistant Dean, Clinical and Pro Bono Programs, Harvard Law School

Claude d’Estree ’89, Director, Human Rights Degree Program, Center on Rights Development and Human Trafficking Clinic, Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver

Margaret Drew ’80, Professor of Clinical Law and Director, Domestic Violence and Civil Protection Order Clinic, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Robert Greenwald ’86, Managing Director, Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Director, Health Law and Policy Clinic and Senior Clinical Instructor and Lecturer on Law, Harvard Law School

Barbara Hines ’75, Clinical Professor and Co-Director, Immigration Clinic, The University of Texas at Austin School of Law

Deena Hurwitz ’96, Associate Professor of Law and General Faculty Director, International Human Rights Law Clinic and Human Rights Program, University of Virginia School of Law

Daniel Kanstroom ’83, Professor of Law, Director of the International Human Rights Program and Associate Director of the Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Boston College Law School

Thomas Kelley III ’91, Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs, University of North Carolina School of Law

Tamara Kuennen ’96, Associate Professor, Law School Clinical Program, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Michael McGonnigal ’78, Clinical Assistant Professor, Advocacy for the Elderly Program, Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law

Kate Mewhinney ’78, Clinical Professor of Law and Managing Attorney, The Elder Law Clinic, Wake Forest University School of Law

Laurie Morin ’83, Professor of Law, Community Development Law Clinic, University of the District of Columbia Clarke School of Law

Linda Morton ’81, Professor of Law, Community Law Project, California Western School of Law

Ellen Musinsky ’75, Professor of Law and Externship Director, University of New Hampshire School of Law

Kathleen Noonan ’95, Clinical Associate Professor of Law, University of Wisconsin Law School

Jonathan Oberman ’82, Clinical Professor of Law, Criminal Defense Clinic, Cardozo School of Law

Kimberly O’Leary ’82, Professor of Law, Sixty Plus, Inc., Elderlaw Clinic, Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Barbara Oro ’87, Clinical Law Professor, New England Law

Jeffrey Pokorak ’84, Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs, Suffolk University Law School

Jon Romberg ’92, Associate Professor and Director, Impact Litigation Clinic, Seton Hall Law School

Ragini Shah ’99, Associate Clinical Professor of Law, Immigration Law Clinic, Suffolk University Law School

Liz Solar ’88, Assistant Director of Externships and Administration and Clinical Instructor, Harvard Law School

Amy Vorenberg ’84, Professor of Law and Founder, Criminal Practice Clinic, University of New Hampshire School of Law

FACULTY PROFILE

A Healthy Approach

HEALTH AND ECONOMICS EXPERT
KRISTIN MADISON JOINS THE FACULTY

TALK ABOUT A LONG COMMUTE. Stanford, on the West Coast, for a PhD in economics. Yale, on the East Coast, for a JD. Simultaneous degrees. Why? Because Kristin Madison, who joins the faculty this summer, wanted to merge her passion for law and economics through the two programs she felt best suited her interests.

"It was exhausting, but it allowed me to integrate my educational goals and research interests," says Madison, who will be shuttling back and forth once again at Northeastern, but this time the distance is much shorter: between the School of Law and Bouvé College of Health Sciences, where she will hold a joint appointment.

"I'm interested in health care, health law and health policy," says Madison, who has spent the past 10 years as a faculty member of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. "I'm very excited about this joint appointment," she continues, reflecting on Northeastern's interdisciplinary approach to meeting inter-related health and law challenges. "I'll be able to teach classes that involve students from different schools and draw on different areas of health law and policy."

Madison's primary research focus is on health care quality measures and their implications for patients, providers and health care regulation. "There are a lot of federal and state initiatives that involve public reporting of health care quality," she notes. "The interesting question is what this will mean for health care quality improvement and regulation. Will people choose doctors based on this type of reporting? Could we incorporate quality measures into the physician licensure process?"



In the wake of the federal health care reform act, Madison is also finding that old ideas are gaining new traction. Health care provider integration was a big trend in the 1990s, but Madison says "the movement petered out." Now, however, there is a resurgence of interest in forming affiliations. Madison's dissertation, in which she used Medicare data to assess the relationships between the presence of health provider affiliations and patient treatment and outcomes, is riding a new wave of interest.

"In the 1990s, hospitals bought up physician practices, but they didn't really change what people were doing," she explains. "There was very limited quality improvement. Now, the idea is that with our improved ability to tie payment to costs and quality, stronger relationships among providers might mean better care for patients."

And so, Madison finds herself in the midst of yet another journey, albeit this time purely a voyage of the mind. "It's a really great moment to be someone who studies health law and health policy," she says.

— Deborah Feldman

FACULTY NOTES

Richardson Professor of Law **Roger I. Abrams** co-authored the fourth edition of *Sports and the Law*, the leading law school casebook in the field, published by West Publishing Company in November 2010. Over the past few months, Abrams was quoted in *The New York Times*, *New York Newsday*, *The Boston Globe* and other media outlets. Five of Abrams' arbitration opinions were published by the Bureau of National Affairs, and 12 of his blogs appeared in his regular column for *The Huffington Post*.

The *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* hosted a colloquium featuring Professor **Libby Adler**'s article, "Gay Rights and Lefts: Rights Critique and Distributive

Analysis for Real Law Reform." This article revisits the debate over the utility of equal rights, situates the discussion in the context of sexuality and gender identity, and proposes a shift in law reform priorities from a rights-orientation to a distributive orientation. In Adler's vision, private law and administrative law would be examined more closely and the costs of focusing on constitutional law and anti-discrimination law would be better appreciated. Adler's article was published in the law review and has been followed by responses from scholars and practitioners with specialties in gender and/or sexuality. In addition, Adler presented her work at a forum in March at Harvard Law School.

Adler presented her work-in-progress, "Just the Facts: The Perils of Expert

Testimony and Findings of Fact in Gay Rights Litigation," at a faculty colloquium at Northeastern in January and then again as part of the "Queer Morphologies" lecture series at Columbia University in February. In this paper, Adler critically assesses *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, the federal district court decision that struck down the anti-gay marriage Proposition 8 in California as unconstitutional, highlighting the way in which the case produced facts about gay people with which gay people might not always want to live.

Adler's article, "T: Appending Transgender Equal Rights to Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Equal Rights," was published in December 2010 in the *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law*, and her essay, "Teaching Sexuality and Gender as Distributional Issues," was published in

Vulnerable Populations and Transformative Law Teaching: A Critical Reader (Raquel Aldana, et al. eds.). Adler gave a talk on the same topic as part of the Law and Society lecture series at Suffolk Law School in October 2010.

In the summer and fall, Assistant Professor **Aziza Ahmed** attended, as a member, the Technical Advisory Group to the Global Commission for HIV/AIDS, hosted by the United Nations Development Programme, and the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria. There, she presented at a satellite session organized by the AIDS2031 Social Drivers Working Group on criminal law and HIV and gave several poster presentations, which she co-authored. Ahmed continues to work with the Harvard Law School Human Rights Program on a project supporting the Namibia Women's Health Network.

In February, Ahmed presented at a conference, "Feminisms of Discontent," at the O.P. Jindal School of Law in India. Ahmed is also participating in a grants review process for the National AIDS Fund and was a member of the Expert Working Group on HIV and the Law for the American Bar Association. Her recent articles on criminal law and HIV/AIDS are "Feminism, Sex Work, Power, and HIV/AIDS: Consequences for Women's Health" in the *Harvard Journal of Law and Gender* and "HIV and Women: Incongruent Laws, Criminal Consequences" in the *Yale Journal of International Affairs*.

Professor **Daniel A. Austin** was invited by the American Bankruptcy Institute to participate in a January podcast to inform members and the press about *Ransom v. FIA Card Services*, a recent Supreme Court decision dealing with consumer bankruptcy. His article, "State Law, Court Splits, Local Practice Make Consumer Bankruptcy Anything But 'Uniform,'" appeared on page one of the December/January 2011 issue of the *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Journal*.

Professor **Brook K. Baker** '76 continues to be active on global AIDS and access-to-medicine issues. He co-authored "Background Paper: Laws and Practices that Facilitate or Impede HIV-Related Treatment Access" for the UNDP/UNAIDS Global Commission on HIV and the Law and a "Joint Expert Letter to the Government of Thailand." He submitted "Comments to the Government of India on the Compulsory License Policy of India." He published a separate paper on the new IP enforcement agenda, "ACTA: Risks of Third-Party Enforcement to Access to Medicines," PIJIP Research Paper No. 1 (Oct. 1, 2010) and engaged in a related

Parmet Leads Triumphant Legal Team



Matthews Distinguished University Professor Wendy Parmet won a decisive victory in May in *Finch v. Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority*, a case that she argued before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC). The case was brought by Health Law Advocates (HLA) on behalf of a class of approximately 40,000

legal immigrants who were denied access to Commonwealth Care, the state's program that provides subsidized health insurance for low- and moderate-income individuals who otherwise lack access to health insurance, by virtue of a 2009 state law.

"The SJC's opinion marks an important reaffirmation that the constitution of the commonwealth protects the rights of all legal residents," said Parmet, a former president of HLA's board of directors. "In ruling that the Legislature's decision to deny legal immigrants access to Commonwealth Care must be subject to strict scrutiny, the court reaffirmed that equal protection must be respected even in times of fiscal distress."

Lorianne Sainsbury-Wong served as lead HLA lawyer for the case, and many Northeastern law graduate fellows and co-op students were involved, including Tom Combs '10, Alyssa Vangelis '11, Jack Cushman '08, An Duong '12, Jessica Gustin '12 and Audrey Ramirez '10.

Klare and Williams Collaborate with Japanese Scholars

PROFESSORS LUCY WILLIAMS AND KARL KLARE met with Professor Mutsuko Asakura, Japan's leading feminist legal theorist, at the Hase Buddha in Kamakura, near Tokyo, in January. Klare and Williams are collaborating with Asakura and other colleagues in Japan on a comparative research project on the relationship between labor law and welfare law. Both School of Law faculty presented at a symposium, "Poverty, Unstable Working Conditions and Social Law — The Interplay of Labor Law and Poverty Law," held at Waseda University in Tokyo. Klare presented a paper, "Precarious Work and the Role of Labor and Poverty Law in the Era of Postindustrial Transition," and spoke about "The Malfunctioning of US Labor Law and the Future of Reform." Williams delivered a paper, "Precarious Work, Single Mothers and the 'Social Contract,'" and spoke about "The Development and Current Situation of Poverty Law in the US."



Dan Squires Visits

DAN SQUIRES, AN ENGLISH BARRISTER who specializes in public law and human rights, is visiting the law school this spring to teach Terrorism and the Law in International and Comparative Perspective. Squires has been involved in a number of leading cases in the United Kingdom concerning prison law, privacy, terrorism and issues related to fair trial rights.



Meltsner Honored

Massachusetts Citizens Against the Death Penalty (MCADP) presented the Hugo Adam Bedau Award for outstanding contributions to death penalty scholarship to Matthews Distinguished University Professor Michael Meltsner during a celebration in December.

As first assistant counsel to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the 1960s, Meltsner was a member of the team that designed the anti-capital punishment litigation that led to *Furman v. Georgia*, the 1972 case in which the Supreme Court

decided that capital sentencing laws in force in 39 states amounted to cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments. More than 600 lives were saved, and Meltsner went on to serve as a key member of a team of lawyers who represented hundreds of men on death row. He argued his first capital case before the Supreme Court when he was 26 years old.

Founded in 1928, MCADP is the oldest active anti-death penalty organization in the United States.

panel on "Third Party Liability Under the Anti-Countering Trade Agreement and its Impact on Access to Medicines," in a consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Health, held at American University Law School in Washington, DC, in October.

Baker published "Flat Funding for Global AIDS: What Are the Facts; What is the Human Cost," in *Achieve* (fall 2010), a topic he also covered at a Northeastern faculty discussion in September. On World AIDS Day, he spoke on a panel at the law school, "Recent Successes, the Crisis in Global AIDS Funding and Treatment Activism."

In January, Baker attended the second Global Forum on Human Resource for Health held in Bangkok, Thailand. At a Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative side event, he presented "HWAI Platform on Setting Targets and Strategies to Close the Global Health Worker Gap." He also moderated the Global Health Workforce Alliance Members' Post-Session Forum.

Baker was a co-facilitator for a Northeastern panel, "Immigrant Communities and Well-being: The Right to Health, the Right to Health Care and the Rights of Immigrants with Disabilities," at the PHRGE Institute, "Beyond National Security: Immigrants and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights," held at the law school in October. He was also on a PHRGE panel launching the draft "Boston Principles on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Noncitizens," held in December.

Baker has been active presenting to students groups both at Northeastern and elsewhere. He gave a presentation, "International Intellectual Property Regime

and Access to HIV Medicines," to Northeastern's International Law Society in October and another, "Grounded Advocacy – Making Treatment Advocacy Real," at the HealthRoots Political Economy of Health Seminar Series at the Harvard School of Public Health in December. At a Partners In Health global health student conference, "If Not Now, When? Mobilizing for the Right to Health," he presented "A Case Study in Influencing Policy on a Global Health Level: Driving Down the Price of HIV and TB Drugs."

Baker attended the Clinical Theory Workshop 25th Anniversary Conference at New York Law School in October, where he participated in a panel, "Organizing and Delivering Clinical Legal Education." His conference paper, "Practice-Based Learning: Emphasizing Practice and Offering Critical Perspectives on the Dangers of 'Co-optation,'" will be published in the *New York Law School Law Review*.

Now on sabbatical, Baker is at the University of KwaZulu Natal in Durban, South Africa, where he is co-teaching courses on Teaching Legal Skills and HIV and the Law as well as working on curriculum and faculty development programs. He attended an OSF Public Health Program's seminar, "A Taste of Their Own Medicine! Campaigning on Intellectual Property Rights and Access to Essential Medicines" in March in Livingstone, Zambia.

Associate Professor **Michael G. Bennett's** co-authored article, "Vogue Juridique and the Theory Choice Problem in the Debate

Over Copyright Protection for Fashion Designs," was published in *Maryland Law Review Endnotes* (September 2010), and listed as an SSRN Top 10 Download in December 2010. Bennett's chapter, "Critically Embracing the Digital Lawyer," will be published in *Educating the Digital Lawyer* under the auspices of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University.

Bennett presented two papers in Darmstadt, Germany, at the second annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Nanoscience and Emerging Technologies: "Super-Realism: Science Fiction and E.L.S.I. Studies," and "Sibling Trajectories: Reflections on Four Decades of Growth in Intellectual Property Rights and Nanotechnology." Bennett also accepted invitations to join the boards of directors of The Young People's Project and the Art Gallery at the Piano Factory in Boston.

Over the summer, Professor **Dan Danielsen** was a faculty participant and session leader for the International Economic Law section convened by the Institute on Global Law and Policy Summer Workshop at Harvard Law School. He was a workshop faculty lecturer, teaching a mini-course, "Introduction to Law and Economics," at the Vienna University of Economics and Business/Institute for Global Law and Policy Workshop held in Seggau, Austria. He presented "Local Rules and a Global Economy: An Economic Policy Perspective" for a mini conference, "Evolutionary Regulation: Rethinking the Role of Regulation in Economy and Society," at the annual meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), held at Temple University.

At the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law, Danielsen was a guest lecturer on "Local Rules and a Global Economy," for the Globalization, Law and Justice Workshop Series, held in September. That same month, he presented "Power, Politics and Welfare in a Global Economy Governed by Local Rules" for the "The Fragmentation of International Law and Institutions" panel at the Section 32-International Institutions, Global Politics and Law, Standing Group on International Relations (SGIR) Seventh Pan-European International Relations Conference, held in Stockholm, Sweden. In November, he served as a faculty commentator for the "Renewing Latin American Studies Workshop," held by the Institute for Global Law and Policy at Harvard Law School.

Associate Dean **Martha F. Davis** conducted a February continuing legal education program at the Center for Constitutional

Rights on the domestic applications of human rights law. Later that month, she contributed remarks and moderated a plenary panel at the Gender Justice in the Americas Conference at the University of Miami Law School. Her summary and analysis of pending Supreme Court case *Flores-Villar v. United States* appeared in the November issue of the *ABA Preview*. With Professor Johanna Kalb of Loyola University New Orleans, Davis co-authored an American Constitution Society (ACS) Issue brief, "Oklahoma State Question 755 and An Analysis of Anti-International Law Initiatives." Her further commentary on the topic appeared in the ACS blog in February. Davis' recent publications include: "The Child Exclusion in a Global Context" in 60 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 1 (2010); "Not So Foreign After All: Alice Paul and International Women's Rights" in 16 *New England Journal of International and Comparative Law* 1 (2010); and "Human Rights and the Model Rules of Professional Conduct: Intersection and Integration" in 42 *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* 157 (2010).

Professor **Richard A. Daynard**'s recent travels brought him to the fourth Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in late November. While in the vicinity, he spoke at a meeting of tobacco control and human rights activists organized by Argentinian congresswomen in Buenos Aires. Then, he jetted off to a similar meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in January, followed, of course, by safaris in Samburu National Park and the Masai Mara Game Reserve. In March, he was honored to participate in South Africa's annual celebration of human rights in Cape Town. Back in Boston, he helped out with the high-profile *Evans v. Lorillard Tobacco Co.*, where the estate and son of a woman who was given free samples of Newport cigarettes at the Orchard Park Housing Project in Roxbury from age 9 on, started smoking them at 13, and died of lung cancer at 54, were awarded \$71 million in compensatory damages and \$81 million in punitive damages.

This fall, Lawyering Skills Professor **Melinda F. Drew** '87 received a Governor's Citation in recognition of her "dedicated service as an arbitrator for the Lemon Law Arbitration Program." This program is a free service to commonwealth citizens who have purchased defective new or used motor vehicles.

In December, Drew helped organize the New England Consortium of Academic Support Professionals' second annual conference, held at UNH Law School. The conference featured bar exam experts,

including Dr. Susan Case of the National Conference of Bar Examiners and Northeastern Adjunct Professor Alfred Zappala, and was attended by academic support professionals from New England and New York as well as from several other states. Drew is a founding member and current treasurer of the consortium.

Matthews Distinguished University Professor **Karl E. Klare** was one of four leaders of a national protest against the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) decision to convene its 2011 annual meeting at the Hilton Hotel in San Francisco, which is under boycott by UNITE HERE Local 2, a labor union with a long and honored history of commitment to grassroots organizing and social justice. The effort, which involved thousands of e-mails and telephone calls, succeeded in encouraging the vast majority of panelists and speakers to boycott the Hilton, although AALS conducted some programs there. Law professors and union members conducted a picket line and rally outside the hotel.

Klare recently chaired a panel discussion on the Supreme Court's notorious *Pyett* decision concerning labor arbitration. The program was organized by a student group, the Northeastern Employment and Labor Law Association (NELLA), which has been very active in recent years. The program brought together a distinguished panel of academics and practitioners — several of whom are NUSL graduates. Klare was also invited to give a seminar on his labor law scholarship at Yale Law School in February. His article on the South African constitution is in production with the *South African Journal on Human Rights*. An old essay of his on the legal theory of Jürgen Habermas and Ulrich Preuss appeared in a 25th anniversary republication of "Critical Legal Thought: An American-German Debate" in the online *German Law Journal*.

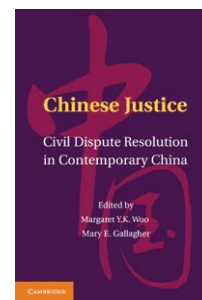
Professor **Hope Lewis** has been elected to the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and serves on its Honors and Awards Committee. She was also elected to the board of governors of the Society of American Law Teachers and serves on its Pipeline to Teaching Committee. In September, Lewis gave a talk on the human rights of migrant domestic workers at the invitation of the Italian Cultural Institute during the United Nations Week review of the Millennium Development Goals in New York. She co-organized "Beyond National Security: Immigrant Communities and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights," an October conference sponsored by the law school's Program on



Woo's New Book Examines Chinese Justice

Chinese Justice, a new co-edited volume by Professor Margaret Woo, analyzes whether China's 30 years of legal reform have taken root in Chinese society by examining how ordinary citizens are using the legal system in contemporary China. It's an interdisciplinary look at law in action and at legal institutions from the bottom up — beginning with those at the ground level who are using and working in the legal system. It explores the emergent Chinese concept of justice — one that seeks to balance Chinese tradition, socialist legacies and the needs of the global market.

"This book evolved out of a workshop I organized at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University in the fall of 2007," explains Woo. "The workshop brought together leading legal scholars and social scientists from China, Taiwan and the United States who gained unusual access to mainland Chinese courts and other legal institutions. Rather than talking across disciplines, this volume encourages conversations among disciplines to add to our current understanding of these Chinese legal reforms."

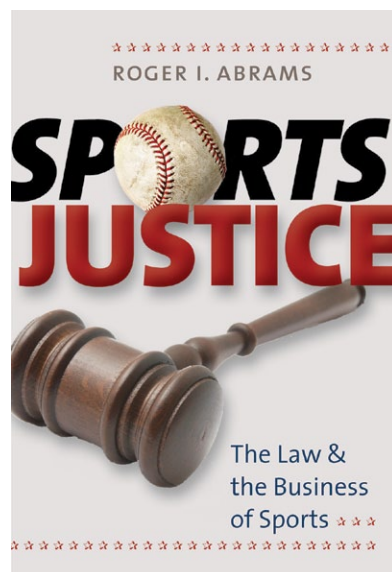


Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE), the Human Rights Interest Group of ASIL and the Ford Foundation. She is a drafter of PHRGE's "Boston Principles on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of Noncitizens" and spoke at the launch event on International Human Rights Day, December 10. Also in December, Lewis participated in the UN Forum on Minority Issues meeting, "Effective Participation in Economic Life," in Geneva, Switzerland, convened by Independent Expert Gay McDougall. She was also profiled in the "Lawyer Spotlight: Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law" section of the December 2010 issue of the *ABA Lawyer*.

Lewis spoke about the "Boston Principles" at a Notre Dame Law School symposium in February and at a Boston College Law School colloquium in April. She also presented on "Human Rights, Critical Race Feminism, and Harmful Traditions" at Harvard Law School in March. Lewis posted blogs on "Egypt: From Social Networks to Social Movements," "Libya: Global Condemnations of Human Rights Violations," and "Violence Against Women: UN Fact-finding Visit to US" at <http://intlwgrrls.blogspot.com/search/label/HL>.

Matthews Distinguished University Professor **Michael Meltsner's** *Cruel and Unusual: The Supreme Court and Capital Punishment* will be republished this year by Quid Pro Books. An authoritative history of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's (LDF) anti-capital punishment litigation campaign that led the Supreme Court to quash more than 600 death sentences in 1972, the new edition will feature a forward by legal scholar and novelist Evan Mandery. Meltsner has also been assisting scholars researching the history of racial discrimination in health care allocation. While first assistant counsel at LDF, Meltsner argued a key federal case, *Simkins v. Moses Cone Hospital*, which paved the way for federal anti-bias regulation of hospital and clinics.

Matthews Distinguished University Professor **Wendy E. Parmet's** most recent article is "Beyond Privacy: A Population Approach to Reproductive Rights" in *Reconsidering Law and Policy Debates: A Public Health Perspective* (John Culhane ed., Cambridge University Press, 2010). Parmet participated in the plenary "Year in Review" panel and spoke on a panel about health care reform at a conference, "Using Law, Policy and Research to Improve the Public's Health," sponsored by the Public Health Law Association and American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics, in Atlanta in September. At the conference, she received the Public Health Law



Abrams Scores Again

Professor Roger I. Abrams' fifth book, *Sports Justice: The Law and the Business of Sports*, was published in October 2010. He was interviewed about the book by more than 25 radio stations, from Seattle to Miami, and San Diego to Bangor, Maine. The book was also the topic at talks Abrams gave during Northeastern University's Parents and Family Weekend and to the law school's Sports and Entertainment Law Society.



Association's Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement in Public Health Law, Research and Policy.

Professor **Deborah Ramirez's** expertise regarding community policing and counterterrorism continues to be in demand. Most notably, she was asked to present at two international conferences in December. In Barcelona, Spain, she presented her current counterterrorism research to academics and law enforcement professionals from around the globe at a joint State Department and UNESCO-funded conference. Ramirez also spoke at a police-community engagement and counterterrorism conference held in Birmingham, England. As part of the international team that organized the conference, she presented her research on the American experience with community policing in a counterterrorism context, and also organized

an American delegation of academics and law enforcement officials to attend the Birmingham conference. The team of international researchers has also received funding from the British government to write a book about community engagement in the development of counterterrorism policies. As part of that project, Ramirez will write a chapter documenting how community tips can thwart terrorism.

Finally, Ramirez and her international research partners, working with British funding, are developing a virtual resource and research center. This platform will serve as an international clearinghouse and location for research and development for members of law enforcement, community members and academics in their efforts to develop the most effective community-based counterterrorism strategies and protocols. As an offshoot of this project, Ramirez is developing a proposal for a Counterterrorism Institute and Training Center in Boston. The institute would provide training and information to community members and law enforcement in the furtherance of effective counterterrorism, as well as provide a neutral forum for police-community interaction.

Ramirez and Tara Lai Quinlan '04 have published two recent articles in *The Huffington Post*: "Muslim-Police Community Partnerships Will Thwart Homegrown Terrorism" and "Partnerships, Not Islamophobia, Must Dictate US Counterterrorism Policy." The first article attracted the attention of the Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson, senior staff writer for the council, cited Ramirez and Lai Quinlan in her article, "Threat of Homegrown Islamist Terrorism," on December 10, 2010.

Assistant Professor of Law **Sonia Elise Rolland** organized the law school's May 2010 conference, "Global Regulation of Nanotechnologies," which brought together speakers from eight countries to discuss initiatives for the governance of nanotechnologies in Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. Practitioners, industry executives, scholars and regulators shared thoughts on the needs of public and private stakeholders and the ways to manage uncertainty in relation to nanotechnologies. For the first time at the law school, a conference was accredited for Continuing Legal Education in a number of local and national bars. Within the Northeastern community, the conference was an opportunity for interdisciplinary contributions from the College of Business Administration, the College of Engineering, the Nanotechnology and Society Research Group (NSRG) and the School of Law. The conference was sponsored by the law school, vice provost

for research, the NSF Center for Microcontamination Control and the Center for High-Rate Nanomanufacturing (Northeastern University). The recording of the conference proceedings and the speakers' slides are available on the law school's website. As a result of this interdisciplinary gathering, Rolland was invited to participate in the May and October 2010 workshops of the NSRG, which explored domestic and international aspects of risk regulation. She reported on nanotech regulatory developments in Massachusetts at the recent October workshop.

During the summer, Rolland was invited to speak at international conferences. She presented a paper, "The Role of General Principles of Law at the WTO" at the University of Nice, France, in June. The conference was the second installment of a three-year project exploring the World Trade Organization's institutions and law. This research project brings together an international network of francophone scholars. The first year (2009) focused on the actors at the WTO; papers based on the proceedings (including a contribution by Rolland on the role of coalitions of states at the WTO) will be released this year (Bruylant, Paris). The 2010 conference focused on the sources of law at the WTO and will be published as a book. Rolland will participate in the final phase of the project in June. She presented a paper at the second International Economic Law Society in July 2010 in Barcelona, based on her article, "Redesigning the Negotiation Process at the

WTO," published in March 2010 by the *Journal of International Economic Law*. She is also co-vice chair of the Teaching International Law Interest Group of the American Society of International Law.

Rolland is currently working on a book on developing countries at the World Trade Organization, under contract with Oxford University Press.

In November, Dean and Hadley Professor of Law **Emily A. Spieler** testified before the Workforce Protections Subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee regarding state workers' compensations systems. Also in November, she joined the Deputy Secretary of Labor and the general counsel to the AFL-CIO on a panel in Chicago at the ABA Labor and Employment Law Conference, "What Is Going On in the Obama Department of Labor?"

In October, Spieler traveled to George Washington University to speak at "Regulation of Unpaid Internships: The Uncertain Future," a conference featuring legal and policy experts, regional and national employers, and students discussing both challenges and possibilities for the Fair Labor Standards Act in the 21st century. Also in October, she spoke at a Harvard Law School conference, "FutureEd 2: Making Lawyers for the 21st Century."

Spieler is an advisor for the workers' rights project of the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative. She provided a background paper and participated in a

workshop, "Rethinking Workers' Compensation," in the fall.

Associate Professor of Law **Kara W.**

Swanson presented her paper, "Getting a Grip on the Corset: A Feminist Analysis of Patent Law," for the "New Voices in Gender Studies" panel at the Association of American Law School's meeting in San Francisco in January. The panel, sponsored by the Women in Legal Education section, highlighted work by faculty in their first seven years of teaching; Swanson was invited to present the paper, forthcoming in the *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*, as a result of a competitive process.

Swanson's PhD dissertation on the history of body banking in the United States was selected by the Business History Conference as a finalist for the Kroos Prize for the best dissertation in business history. Swanson traveled to St. Louis in March to present her dissertation at the group's annual meeting.

Professor **Lucy A. Williams** traveled to England in September to deliver a paper, "Gender, Poverty and Labour Regulation," at a conference, "Welfare to Work: Critical Interventions," at the University of Kent, Canterbury. *International Poverty Law: An Emerging Discourse*, a book edited by Williams in 2006, has been republished in Portuguese, *O Direito Internacional da Pobreza*, with a new foreword by Alfredo Bruto da Costa, president of the Portuguese Economic and Social Council.

Experiential Education

Continued from page 15

year, not only in research and writing programs but also in the areas of drafting contracts and other documents, client counseling, mediation and more. Second, many so-called podium faculty — who teach traditional classroom courses — are starting to partner with practitioners as a way to bridge academic study with real-world law practice, in a kind of hybrid model where students get the benefit of two teachers, each with a particular expertise. Wegner finds this kind of innovation "very gratifying."

At Northeastern, where first-year skills training has long been in place with the Legal Skills in Social Context (LSSC) Program, the experience-based curriculum continues to develop and grow. Several years ago, the position of associate dean for clinical and experiential education was created, with professors Jim Rowan and then Martha Davis filling the position as it evolved. "I think one of the things this position has done is make more concrete the connection between all the aspects of experiential education that we offer — our clinics, co-ops and the LSSC Program," says Davis. A new clinic has recently been launched on racial

justice in connection with Professor Margaret Burnham's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project. And the school has made an effort to have faculty participate in national conferences and professional meetings on experiential education in order to raise the school's profile, she says.

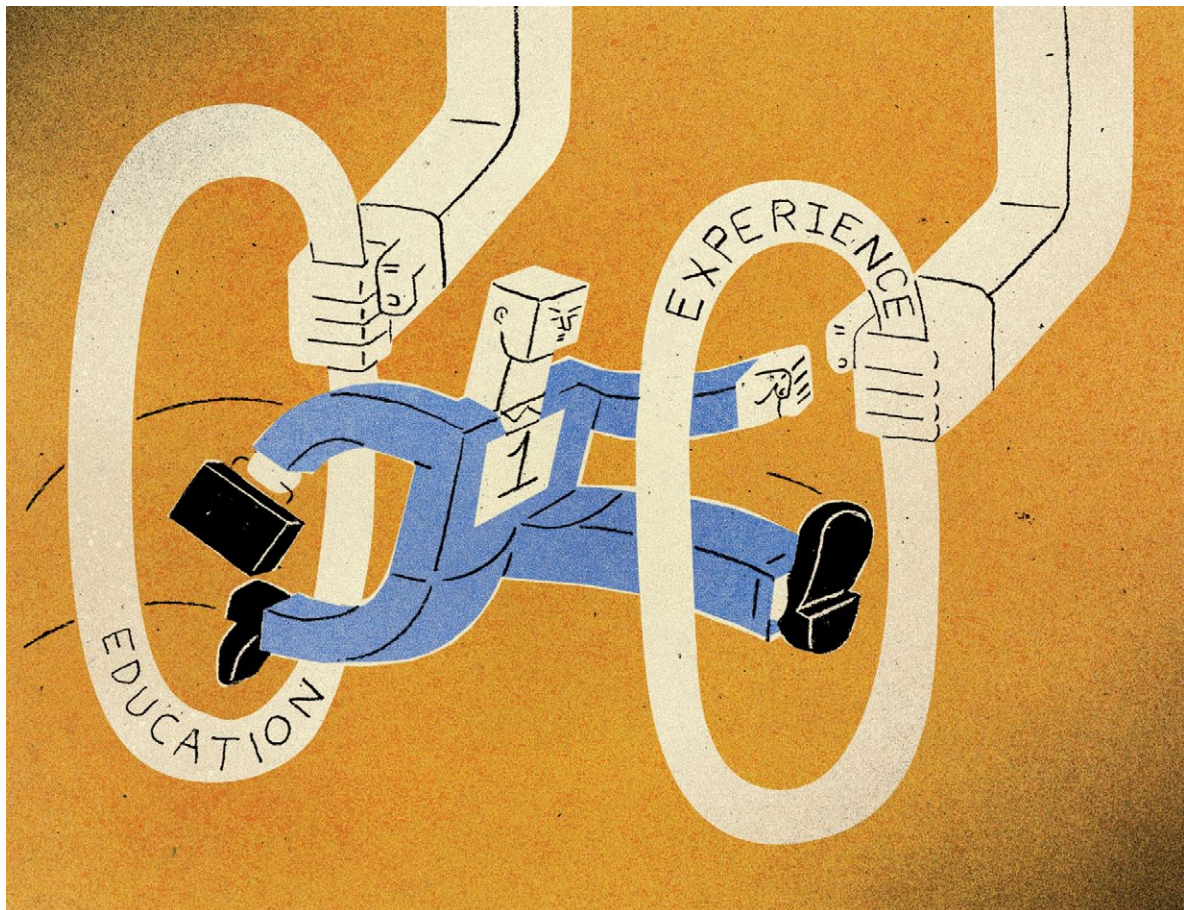
Davis is stepping out of the deanship to resume her teaching and research interests, and a national search is underway for a new associate dean to continue to grow and highlight the school's experiential programs. Spieler and others are certain Northeastern will be the go-to school as the experiential movement continues to grow.

"I think the bottom line is that people are really paying attention to this now, and that's a good thing because we'll have better lawyers and people who are more aware of the challenges of the profession," says Spieler. "And at the same time, Northeastern isn't just going to sit on its laurels. We're working very hard to think about the next steps to keep a great program great."

Elaine McArdle is a writer and lawyer, a strong proponent of experiential legal education and the communications director for the Clinical and Pro Bono Programs at Harvard Law School.

Work with Me

LEGAL EMPLOYERS NOW SAY EXPERIENCE IS A MUST. | By Tracey Palmer



The message is loud and clear — employers want first-year associates with more practical experience. Small and mid-sized firms and public sector employers have always recognized the benefits of new hires who come to the job with practical experience, but now even big firms are putting pressure on law schools to produce more experienced graduates.

Law schools should stop being “wannabe” research institutions and do a better job of training their students in the hands-on skills that prospective employers

demand, said speaker after speaker at the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) annual meeting in January.

“For decades, law schools have focused heavily on research in the hopes that it would make them appear more elite in the rankings,” said a January 2011 *National Jurist* article covering the AALS meeting. “Some deans, however, say it’s time to get back to law and start educating lawyers differently.”

Everyone agrees that one of the driving forces for this trend is the economy. Legal spending is flat, firms of all sizes are tightening their belts and many are trimming training budgets. Everyone in the firm is doing more with less. Even seasoned veterans are finding they don’t have as many opportunities to spend time with new hires as they

“For the last 15 years, when hiring younger associates, we’ve focused on people who have gotten training somewhere else, on someone else’s nickel.”

—TOM FITZPATRICK '90, PRESIDENT,
DAVIS, MALM & D'AGOSTINE

learn the ropes. At the same time, clients are demanding more efficient services and feeling less enthusiastic about inexperienced first-year associates on their cases. In fact, a 2010 survey of firms conducted by Ari Kaplan Advisors, a legal career and communications consulting group, found 85 percent of respondents had heard of instances where a corporate client would not pay for first-year attorneys' work on their projects.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

This isn't the case at Boston's Choate Hall & Stewart, says hiring partner Kathleen Cloherty Henry '00, however, it certainly helps candidates' chances if they can point to practical experience on their resumes. The qualities Choate looks for in new hires are strong academic achievement, creativity and good judgment. This last one, Henry says, is something law students can't really learn in the classroom.

“Good professional judgment is most easily developed in a work setting,” says Henry, who also appreciates first-year associates who have worked in a client service industry and therefore understand client needs, professional expectations and corporate culture.

“We hire from many different law schools,” says Henry, “but I do think that students at Northeastern have more professional experience, which positions them well to succeed.”

“Firms are saying they want more than theoretically trained professionals, more than just good thinkers,” says James Leipold, executive director of NALP, the Association for Legal Career Professionals. Some firms are finding that new associates who lack practical training, even though they have impressive academic credentials, are often not working out.

“They might not write well, interact with clients well or know how to hustle,” says Leipold.

This isn't news to Tom Fitzpatrick '90, president of the mid-size firm Davis, Malm & D'Agostine in Boston.

“It's a buyer's market right now,” says Fitzpatrick. Firms can be more selective about new hires in the current climate. So why not look for someone with a strong academic background and practical skills?

“For the last 15 years, when hiring younger associates, we've focused on people who have gotten training somewhere else, on someone else's nickel,” he explains, echoing the sentiments of other potential employers.

Fitzpatrick was the first and only Northeastern graduate at Davis Malm when he was hired, but that has changed. Today, Fitzpatrick says, his firm recognizes the value of Northeastern graduates, the co-op program and the legal and practical experience it offers.

“Perhaps what we expect of people has gotten a little more strenuous,” agrees Mindy Holmes, hiring partner at O'Donnell, Schwartz, and Anderson, a small firm that represents unions in Washington, DC. “Increasingly, when we hire, we find we want someone who can hit the ground running.”

At small firms, making sure a new associate is the right fit is especially important. There's less tolerance for taking a risk on an attorney who hasn't already proven himself. If a new hire doesn't work out, it means someone in the firm has to pick up the slack, work gets bogged down, and business could suffer.

“I can happily hire a great Northeastern graduate,” says Holmes, because she knows she'll get a candidate with a proven track record and ample practical skills.

“Lawyers just do not understand how business works, and law schools are not doing a great job of closing that gap,” said one respondent interviewed by Ari Kaplan Advisors. Other respondents to the survey echoed this sentiment, consistently describing a profession in which new lawyers are unfamiliar with how the business side of legal practice operates.

The Kaplan report predicts the current climate is a watershed moment of sorts — that once the new needs of the profession are met, it will positively impact client service, efficiency and an entire generation of practitioners.

As one respondent puts it: “I am hopeful that the economic pressure that the profession is feeling now will be a catalyst for positive change and will make a real difference in the way law serves society.”

Tracey Palmer is an award-winning freelance writer ... with years of experience.

PROFILE MICHAEL BARUCH '90

Beauty and Brains



WE ALL KNOW BEAUTY IS ONLY SKIN DEEP. But to corner the beauty market — worth billions of dollars worldwide — you need both an appreciation of surface beauty and business savvy to the core. And, that's where marketing expert Michael Baruch '90, co-founder of Fred Segal Beauty, comes in.

"We've been the go-to agency since the late '90s," says Baruch, who pioneered the idea of pairing Hollywood stars with hair and make-up artists.

The brainchild of Baruch and long-time friend Paul DéArmas, the former artistic director of Sebastian International, Fred Segal Beauty opened almost 20 years ago. Best known for its salon and spa in Los Angeles, the company also includes a product line, beauty school and an agency representing hair stylists, make-up artists, fashion stylists, costume designers, nail care specialists and body artists for events and productions, including television and films, commercials, print, music videos, celebrity appearances and fashion shows.

Last year, Baruch decided to take a break from his full-time job as CEO of Fred Segal Beauty to step into the world of consulting. Now working with businesses that range from beauty to banking, he's developing strategy plans that will net big results.

"The secret is to continually look for non-traditional marketing opportunities," explains Baruch, who has been launching companies since his youth. When he was 16, he used \$5,000 in bar mitzvah gift money to start a valet parking service that was so successful that it dominated the Los Angeles market within three years of its founding.

"My passion is coming up with new business ideas and strategizing," says Baruch. And that's a talent he's thinking about parleying to another arena: he's considering a run for Congress in 2012. The world of politics, in fact, may be the perfect next step for Baruch's expertise in combining business brilliance and beauty basics.

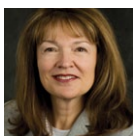
— Deborah Feldman

PHOTO: TRACY BOULIAN

1975

Galen Gilbert, of Boston-based Gilbert & O'Bryan, continues as general counsel to the Massachusetts Constables Association, dealing with service of process issues and evictions. He invites graduates to call him with questions in these areas.

1976



Susan Duprey, a shareholder with Devine Millimet in New Hampshire, was selected for inclusion in the 2011 edition of *The Best*

Lawyers in America in the field of land use and zoning and real estate law.

1978

Karen Meyers, an assistant attorney general in New Mexico, received the 2011 Justice Mary Walters Award from the University of New Mexico Women's Law Caucus. Karen serves as director of the Consumer Protection Division; she was previously in private practice and before that served as executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque.

1979

Patricia Elam has been a freelance writer and teacher for approximately 15 years, but, in this time of financial uncertainty, is contemplating a return to the practice of law. Currently, she teaches writing at Howard University and, now that her three children are launched, would love to find a way to combine both career paths either in Washington, DC, or Boston.

1984



Susan A. Hartnett, a partner in the Boston civil litigation firm Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, was selected for inclusion in the 2011 edition of *The*

Best Lawyers in America. She was recognized in the areas of appellate litigation and insurance law. Susan was also selected as a Massachusetts "Super Lawyer" in *Boston* magazine.

Two years ago, **Betsy Neisner** gave up her law practice after a recurrence of ovarian cancer. She is now executive director of the Cancer Connection in Northampton, Mass. Betsy recently served as a consumer reviewer for the Ovarian Cancer Research Program (OCRPR), sponsored by the Department of Defense. Working alongside top scientists from across the country and beyond, Betsy was one of seven consumer advocates who served as full voting members to determine how the FY10 Congressional appropriation of \$18.75 million would be spent on future ovarian



Williams Nominated to DC Superior Court

In February, President Obama nominated Yvonne Williams '97 to serve as associate justice of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Williams is counsel at Miller and Chevalier Chartered, where she practices in the litigation of employment, employee benefits and health care issues before federal and state trial and appellate courts,

as well as administrative agencies. Before joining private practice, she was a trial attorney at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia for five years. Prior to that, she was a staff attorney at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and a fellow with the National Association for Public Interest Law.

cancer research. Consumer reviewers represented the collective view of patients, family members and individuals at risk for ovarian cancer, reviewing and commenting upon the impact of research addressing disease prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and quality of life.

1985



Philadelphia employee benefits lawyer **Louise "Wendy" Pongracz** of Willig, Williams & Davidson recently

presented an overview of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) at the annual Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI) Labor Law Symposium. During the PBI program, "Health Care Reform: Answers to the Questions You Were Afraid to Ask," Wendy addressed many of the key questions that business clients have been asking their attorneys

regarding the PPACA. Wendy has nearly 25 years of experience in labor and benefits matters, counseling and representing public and private-sector single and multiemployer funds in a comprehensive range of employee benefits issues. She is also a consistent lecturer and frequent author on topics ranging from benefits in labor negotiations to compliance with federal benefits laws and regulations, including ERISA, IRC, HIPPA and COBRA matters.

1986

Kenneth Choy has joined Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge as a partner. He was previously chief legal officer of an international technology group in China and has considerable experience in licensing, distribution, agency, franchising and branding matters. He has also represented clients involved in cross-border transactions and investment matters related to intangible assets and IP rights.

1988

Anne Collins is now associate administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in Washington, DC. She writes, "After 21 years in Massachusetts state government it is time to make a federal case out of it! I look forward to seeing classmates **Jim Sweeney** and **Christie DiConcini** and anyone else in the metro-DC area."

1989

Amy (David) Beretta was appointed in February to the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education. In 1997, she formed a law office performing work exclusively for, and employed by, MetLife Auto & Home. Her office is responsible for litigating cases in state and federal courts in Rhode Island and interpreting insurance contract language. She manages and oversees office administration and acts as an arbitrator in personal injury litigation. Amy also serves on the Rhode Island Bar Association Ethics Committee, is a board member and treasurer for the Defense Counsel of Rhode Island, and served on the Rhode Island Supreme Court ADR Task Force. She previously served on the state's Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education.

Claude d'Estrée was recently named director of the Human Rights Program at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. This is in addition to his duties as director of both the Center on Rights Development and the Human Trafficking Clinic. The Human Trafficking Clinic is the only two-year, graduate-level training program on forced labor, human trafficking, modern slavery and international labor migration in the US. He also teaches International Law and Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict, Contemporary Slavery and Human Trafficking, and a seminar, Torture.

1990

Betsy Gutting is now practicing as a career counselor and life coach, specializing in helping attorneys navigate job and personal transitions: www.betsygutting.com.

1992

In January 2011, **Christine Nickerson** was appointed director of labor law for Ahold USA, the company that owns grocery store brands Stop & Shop and Giant.

John Ockerbloom has joined Jeffries, a global securities and investment banking firm, as managing director and US head of real estate investment banking. Based in New York, John brings to Jefferies more than 13 years of real estate investment banking experience.

Susan Tarnower has joined the Atlanta office of Thompson Hine as of counsel in the firm's real estate practice group. She was previously with McGuireWoods. Susan focuses on commercial real estate loans, servicing and special servicing issues and the resolution of non-performing or sub-performing loans. She also handles commercial leasing transactions.

Alexander Walker has been named to the 2011 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. Alex practices commercial litigation with Devine Millimet in New Hampshire.

1993

Joshua Greenberg has been promoted to vice president of government relations for Children's Hospital Boston. Josh has been with Children's for eight years, most recently serving as director of government relations. Prior to joining Children's, he served as manager of the Children's Division at Health Care For All, where he was the Massachusetts director for the national Covering Kids Program. His dedication to child advocacy has led him to involvement in numerous projects on health quality, teen health and mental health, including the founding of an innovative legal aid program, now known as the Medical-Legal Partnership at Boston City Hospital's Department of Pediatrics.

1995

Christine Alibrandi and her partner, Charlene, were married and adopted their 7-year-old daughter, Shyanne, in 2010. After a year of full-time parenting, Chris writes she is "eager to get back to work!"

Elizabeth Billowitz is now of counsel at Denner Pellegrino in Boston after several years of appellate practice. From 1999 to 2004, Lisa was a career clerk for the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

Paul Scapicchio is senior vice president of government relations for ML Strategies. His practice involves all areas of local and state governmental relations, with a particular focus on energy, real estate development and transportation. Paul is a leader in the firm's Energy and Clean Technology Practice Group, where he advises investors, traditional energy providers and clean tech entrepreneurs. From 1997 to 2006, he was a member of the Boston City Council. He also currently serves on a number of boards of directors. Last year, the Massachusetts High Technology Council asked Paul to serve on its newly formed Technology Transfer and Incubation team.

1997

David Connelly has been named a partner at Morgan Brown & Joy.



Ordoñez Appointed Head of Norfolk Probate and Family Court

The Honorable Angela Ordoñez '89 has been appointed first justice of Norfolk Probate and Family Court for a five-year term. An associate justice since 2003, Ordoñez was honored as last year's Distinguished Jurist by the Massachusetts Association of Women Lawyers.

Miller Appointed to Anchorage Bench

Gregory Miller '87 was appointed to the Anchorage Superior Court in January. He was previously a shareholder with the Anchorage law firm



Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot, where he litigated a broad range of cases involving civil, criminal and administrative law. He is a member of the Iditarod Air Force, president of the Gold Nugget Triathlon and a member of the Anchorage Triathlon Club.

Alaska's Superior Courts are trial courts for both civil and criminal cases. They also serve as appellate courts for cases from the district courts and some administrative agencies. Superior Courts hear cases involving children, domestic relations and property matters.

PROFILE WILLIAM “MO” COWAN ’94

Hail to the Chief (of Staff)

In December 2010, Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick named William “Mo” Cowan ’94 as his chief of staff. Cowan had served as the governor’s legal counsel since 2009, and before that was a partner with the Boston firm Mintz Levin. Relatively new to politics, and certainly to such a high-profile position, we asked Cowan a few questions about his foray into the political arena.

Q: Why do you think Governor Patrick picked you for this job?

A: The governor wanted a chief of staff who he knows and trusts to be his chief advisor and confidant. In many respects these are the roles I played professionally before I joined the administration. My experience as a lawyer and counselor is a great asset in my work for the governor. This job requires you to be a student of the political experience and take the time to understand the political process.

Q: What has surprised you the most about your new job?

A: The chief of staff serves many functions, including acting as the chief operating officer for the governor’s office. The hiring, management and supervision of a large staff of professionals, and dealing with budgetary matters related to the governor’s office, were not unexpected responsibilities, but you’re not trained for these tasks as a law firm partner. Nor was I trained for all the snow and ice emergencies!

Q: Chiefs of staff are often described as having hidden powers, acting as a governor’s enforcer or alter ego. How is that playing out for you?

A: I don’t know if that was in the job description I received. I do recognize that my job is to advise the governor on any number of issues that occur, expectedly or unexpectedly. I also act as a point of access, not just for those in political office, but also for the general public.

Q: This is a 24/7 job. How has this impacted your wife, Stacy (Miller) Cowan ’97, and your children?

A: All who serve in public life ask our families to make tremendous sacrifices. I made that request of Stacy and our two kids. Stacy has been a staunch supporter, and she recognizes the opportunity the governor granted me by asking me to serve. But let there be no doubt, these jobs are demanding on the many who support us. That said, I’m proud to say I didn’t miss any of my son’s basketball games this fall ... though I spent a few on the phone.

Q: What do you miss about private law practice?

A: I miss the day-to-day interactions with my colleagues and good friends at Mintz Levin. My time at the firm prepared me well for this position. I learned a great deal about politics from my colleagues in the law.



Q: What’s your favorite part of your new job?

A: That’s easy: working with the governor and on behalf of the people of the commonwealth. Governor Patrick is one of the premier political thought leaders. I also enjoy being around the many dedicated public employees serving in state government, working with them and learning from them. There is never a dull moment in this job and I love that!

— Deborah Feldman

Yvonne (Marciano) Hennessey recently welcomed her first child, Ella Maeve Hennessey, born on September 15, 2010.

1998

Lennox Chase has been appointed to Needham Bank's board of directors.

1999

Molly (Moore) Frankel recently joined the legal team at RBS Citizens, N.A. (Citizens Financial Group) as vice president, counsel. Her practice focuses largely on commercial transactions and intellectual property protection in the business services sector.

Melissa Shannon-Dakin has joined the Office of Government Relations at Children's Hospital Boston as director of government relations. Melissa joins Children's from the Office of Medicaid, where she served as director of intergovernmental affairs and managed the 1115 waiver negotiations and federal health care reform implementation. Additionally, she served as policy director for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, focusing on health care reform implementation and interagency projects.



Deborah (Bea) Swedlow has joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn as a litigation partner in the firm's Ann Arbor, Michigan, office. Bea

is also a member of the firm's IP practice group.

2000

Lana Gladstein has been elected to partnership at Pepper Hamilton in Boston. She practices intellectual property litigation, with a particular emphasis on life sciences and pharmaceutical patent litigation. She also provides counseling regarding patent and FDA regulatory strategy in the areas of Hatch-Waxman litigation and the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act of 2009.

In February, **Deborah Johnson** was appointed director of diversity at Roger Williams University School of Law. After law school, Deborah served as law clerk to the Hon. Napoleon Jones Jr., of the US District Court in San Diego, and then joined Mintz Levin in Boston as an associate. She is a member of the boards of directors for the Center for Collaborative Education and the Elizabeth Stone House, which assists women and families suffering the effects of domestic violence and other trauma.

2001

Catherine Wang has joined the international practice group at Baker & Daniels as an associate in the law firm's Beijing office. Catherine advises American multinational

Glincher and Mandragouras Named Managing Partners



Andrew Glincher '84 has been named chief executive officer and managing partner of Nixon Peabody. Glincher, who is based in the firm's Boston office, joined Nixon Peabody's predecessor firm, Peabody & Brown, in 1987. Since 2004, he has served as managing partner of the Boston office, which is the firm's largest office. His practice focuses on representation of special servicers, asset managers, lenders, owners and developers of real estate, business owners, professional service firms and various parties in the negotiation and resolution of business and real estate disputes. Glincher is immediate past chairman of the board at Hebrew SeniorLife. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

Amy Baker Mandragouras '92, an intellectual property lawyer with a focus on the biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and life sciences industries, has been named managing partner of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough's Boston office. Her appointment follows the recent merging of Nelson Mullins with Boston-based Lahive & Cockfield, where Mandragouras was chair of the executive committee. Nelson Mullins has more than 400 attorneys and government relations professionals practicing from 12 office locations.

Rollins Named Mass Lawyers Top Woman Lawyer

Rachael Splaine Rollins '97 was honored at Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's third annual "Top Women of Law" event in December. Rollins, an assistant US attorney in Boston, was among 40 legal educators, trailblazers and role models who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in social justice, advocacy and business. Rollins previously worked for the Boston Celtics, the National Basketball Association and National Football League Players Association as well as Bingham McCutchen.



Jackson Heads Hawaii's Office of Veteran Services



Gregory Jackson '02 has been appointed director of the Office of Veteran Services by the governor of Hawaii. A captain and a judge advocate in the US Air Force for six years, Jackson prosecuted all manner of military crimes and crafted legal opinions on civil law, including contracts and federal acquisition, ethics, environmental law, labor law and other issues affecting military operations. He deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007. Most recently, Jackson worked at the Law Offices of Paul Cunney in Honolulu, practicing criminal defense in state court and military courts-martial.

PROFILE MATTHEW KUMIN '86

Weeding Out the Real Issues



MATT KUMIN '86 CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GONE TO POT.

Medical cannabis law seemed frivolous compared to the prisoners' rights, police misconduct and free speech cases that were long his mainstay.

"With my civil rights background, the issue of medical cannabis didn't seem worthy of serious attention, and I deeply dreaded the prospect of being labeled a 'pot lawyer,'" says Kumin, a partner in the San Francisco-based firm Kumin Sommers, which he founded with Stephen Sommers '02.

But after California's 1996 decision to allow patients with AIDS, cancer, wasting disease, glaucoma and other ailments to use cannabis prescribed by a physician, this child of the '60s, who fondly recalls chanting, "power to the people," changed his tune. Though the statutes offered a measure of protection to medical marijuana users, access continues to be hobbled by vague and ambiguous laws, which create a difficult environment for medical marijuana collectives and those who are legally entitled to use the substance.

In May 2010, Kumin filed a state court class action challenging a Los Angeles ordinance so restrictive it would

Matt Kumin '86 (left) with his client, Charlie Pappas, chairman of the board of a patient cooperative represented by Kumin Sommers.

have effectively put most collectives out of business, ending access to medical cannabis for many patients. The judge in that case granted the injunction.

At the heart of the conflict is the idea that a "right" to medical cannabis has been created, only to be taken away through narrow interpretations of the law by enforcement agencies. "What we're saying is that if you create a right for patients to be exempt from prosecution, but then take away their access, that's an empty right."

Kumin's work to protect patient rights against an erosion of citizen power has him as fired up as he was in his early days, when the issues were different, but the goal was the same: making sure a right is protected by law. "I can feel the government's power weakening each time I step into a courtroom to explain to a judge why my clients need the courts to right the balance of power," he says. "If my work does nothing else, it raises the question of citizen's rights." — Susan Salk

Events, Events, Events!

September 2010



Boston Regional Alumni/ae Chapter More than 60 local graduates enjoyed an evening of networking at Vloro Restaurant, owned by Cindy Tsai '98.

February 2011



Connections The law school's annual networking event for students and graduates was hosted by Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo.

October 2010



Reunion and Alumni/ae Weekend Graduates from the classes of 1950, 1955, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005, as well as alumni/ae from other classes and friends, returned to campus for a wide variety of activities and festivities.

November 2010



Washington, DC, Alumni/ae Gathering A “capitol” time was had by all at Johnny’s Half Shell.

April 2011



Women in the Law Conference

“Trailblazing in a Changing Terrain” was a full day of dynamic presentations, networking and knowledge for NUSL alumnae and friends. Planned by women, for women, the conference covered a wide range of topical issues.



PHOTOS: (NOVEMBER 2010) DENNIS DRENNER; (DAVID LEIFER

companies expanding into China as well as Chinese companies extending business overseas. Before joining Baker & Daniels, she practiced at Baker Botts in Beijing, and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (formerly Coudert Brothers LLP) in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Kristine Brown Wilson and her husband are happy to announce the birth of their son, Timothy James Wilson, on October 5, 2010.

2002

Ryan Killman is assistant district counsel for the US Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Angela Martin has been elected as a shareholder



of Devine Millimet in New Hampshire. Her practice focuses on general corporate law and mergers and acquisitions. She is co-founder and chair of the firm’s small business team. In 2010, she was recognized by “Super Lawyers” as a “Rising Star” in the practice area of mergers and acquisitions. She is a member of the board of directors of the Amoskeag Business Incubator, and in 2010 she was chairperson of the American Heart Association Heart Ball and a 2011 recipient of the Gold Heart Award for her fundraising efforts.

Matthew Moschella was elected partner in the litigation department of Sherin and Lodgen in Boston. He is also a member of the employment law and professional liability groups



Michael Spadea has returned to the US. He is working for Microsoft in Seattle after living in London for four years, where he worked for Barclays, both in the Group and the Private Bank.

2003

Elena Hung has opened the Law Office of Elena Hung in Washington, DC, focusing on immigration law. Previously, she worked at a small DC immigration law firm for five years.

Ingrid Nava has left Greater Boston Legal Services and now serves as general counsel at the Service Employees International Union, Local 615, Boston.

2004

Brian Rice, an associate at McCarter & English in Stamford, Connecticut, received the National LGBT Bar Association’s inaugural “Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 Award.” Recipients were recognized at the Lavender Law Conference and Career Fair in Miami Beach in August. Over the past five years, Brian has been actively lobbying state and federal politicians to advance gay-rights legislation. He is a member of the Human Rights Campaign’s board of governors and an overseer of lobbying committees covering Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.

2005

Kate Schmeckpeper has joined Suffolk University as associate general counsel. She was previously an associate at Foley Hoag.

IN MEMORIAM

Mayre Burns Coulter '39

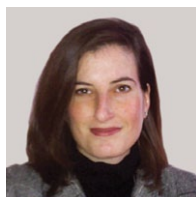


Mayre Burns Coulter '39, author of *Vermont Obsolete Notes and Scrip*, died January 15, 2011. A member of the New England Numismatic Association, the American Numismatic Association and the Society of Paper Money Collectors, Coulter was well known for her interest in currencies — both as a hobby and professionally, as an executive at Springfield Savings Bank early in her career. Her book, published in 1972, remains a valued resource for scholars and collectors.

Born in Dunfermline, Scotland, in 1913, Coulter was raised in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and spent much of her life in Shrewsbury. At the time of her death, she lived in Pennsylvania.

One of the first women to earn a degree from the School of Law, Coulter moved on from a career in banking to serve as the first registrar at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. An avid traveler, she had lived independently until recent years.

A Star in More Ways than One



Sarah (Roberts) Star '06, a solo practitioner in Middlebury, Vermont, received the David Curtis Civil Liberties Award from the ACLU-Vermont last fall. The award applauded Star's efforts representing Janet Jenkins, who sought custody of her non-biological child in a lesbian custody case. The case, covered in the national press, was a victory for Jenkins in court after several years of legal battles, but the child, Isabella, and her birth mother, Lisa Miller, have been missing since January 2010. Authorities believe Miller kidnapped Isabella and fled to South America.



Hard at Work! Members of the board of directors of the Alumni/ae Association. For the full list of our board members, visit www.northeastern.edu/law/alumni.



Medina Elected AATEELA President

Victor Medina '02, managing partner of the Medina Law Group in New Jersey, has been elected president of the American Association of Trust, Estate and Elder Law Attorneys (AATEELA), a national, by-invitation only, association of lawyers in the area of estate planning and elder law.

Ralph Martin '78 Now VP at NU

More than 30 years after earning his JD from the law school, Ralph Martin II '78 is back at Northeastern University as senior vice president and general counsel, leading a broad portfolio of legal, regulatory and non-legal responsibilities.

Martin, previously managing partner of the Boston office of Bingham McCutchen,



is also overseeing additional university priorities such as community affairs, master planning, risk management and

compliance as well as the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity.

Before joining Bingham McCutchen, Martin served as the first African-American district attorney in the history of Suffolk County. He is a former chair of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and serves on the boards of Children's Hospital Boston and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. He serves as chairman of the Supreme Judicial Court's Court Management Advisory Board, which advises the court's justices on administration and management.

2006

In January, **Kola Akindele** joined the University of Massachusetts Medical School as community relations associate in the Department of Community and Government Relations. He was previously counsel and senior zoning specialist for SBA Network Services. A member of Worcester's Zoning Board of Appeals, he is also a coordinator for the African Council and a board member of the Oak Hill Community Development Corp. and Holy Name High School.

2007



Alexis Kostun Clement has joined Couch White in Albany, New York. She focuses on corporate and commercial real estate law representing large commercial clients, middle-market companies, emerging growth companies, not-for-profit organizations, religious organizations and individuals.

2008

Anastasia Dubrovsky has joined Scott & Bush Ltd. in Providence, Rhode Island, where she is practicing complex business litigation, including intellectual property and construction litigation. Ana was previously an associate at Little Medeiros Kinder Bulman & Whitney, and a law clerk to Chief Judge Mary Lisi of the US District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

IN MEMORIAM

1930s

Goldie B. Smernoff '33
Herbert G. Barron '38
John H. Pransky '38
Mayre Burns Coulter '39
Samuel Reisner '39

1950s

Louis Sklar '51
Charles Dodson '52
Reverend Henry Huddleston '52
James G. Phillips '55
Calvin J. Weir '56

Correction: In our summer/fall issue, we indicated the wrong class year for Tristan Peters. He was a member of the class of 2004.

1970s

Margaret M. Francis '76
Charles B. Mead '76

1980s

Joan Charles '85

1990s

David J. Kiggins '97

2009

Olivier André joined the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution (CPR Institute) as special counsel and director of dispute resolution services in June 2010. Based in New York City, the CPR Institute is a primary multinational advocate and resource for avoidance, management and resolution of business-related disputes, both domestically and overseas.

2010

Sarah Greenfield and **Jeff Harris** are getting married in September. Jeff also partnered up with his Salsberg & Schneider law firm colleague **Margaret Fox** '03 for a US Supreme Court case that acquitted a Jamaica Plain man on a retrial of a cocaine-trafficking case that resulted in a landmark decision affecting evidence in criminal trials around the country.

Clinical Impact

Continued from page 25

for traditional classes. We were also poor and clinics are expensive," he says. "In time, we realized that Northeastern should provide in-house supervised practice opportunities as well as co-op placements, and we were able to fund the new clinics."

Still, Anker remembers helping with a group that began a community law practice and working on a school desegregation case that later was described in *Common Ground*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by J. Anthony Lukas. In the classroom, Anker points to civil procedure with Steve Subrin as "a very intellectually demanding class, and I loved it. I feel like Northeastern really nurtured these two parts of me: I love to think deeply about the law, and I love to engage with people and do a lot of direct representation."

Like many Northeastern students, Anker arrived at law school already committed to public service. "I came of age during the civil rights movement," she says. "I came from a public-spirited family." Her father was chancellor of New York City schools during desegregation. Her mother received a full scholarship to

Columbia's law school but was told by the dean, according to Anker, "You're a woman, and you're a Jew, and you're poor. Go into teaching." And she did. Anker admits "fulfilling a dream that that generation of women was not able to fulfill."

Today, from her post at Harvard, Anker muses about what kind of lawyer she might be if she hadn't gone to a school that so valued hands-on client experience, or that hadn't admitted a substantial number of women, which was rare at the time. At Northeastern she felt empowered.

"We were given freedom, support and opportunity," she says. "I don't know what would have happened to me at a different law school — if I would have been quashed and stultified and intimidated. Instead, the spirit of who I was, was really nurtured." That spirit of public service — a spirit fostered today in Anker's Harvard clinic — is echoed throughout the country in law school clinics led by other Northeastern graduates.

Boston-based freelance writer Gail Friedman frequently covers education.

Life(r) Lessons

By Liza Hirsch '11

What a strange experience to undergo a prison search. Removing my jewelry, shoes and belt, I was also asked to shake out my hair, open my mouth and lift my pant legs. I was struck by how the guard transformed such an awkward interaction into a neutral procedure. I found myself thinking, “Does he think it’s funny he’s looking in my mouth right now?” But he’s not smiling, and it’s certainly no time to crack a joke. Walking through the metal detector, “experiential learning” kicked in.

A student in the Prisoners’ Rights Clinic, I’m representing a man sentenced to life for murder in his parole hearing. My client’s crime was unthinkable, brutal and difficult to read about. My first meeting with my client was

four hours long. As he walked toward me in the attorney-client room, I thought he was another security guard before realizing that this guy, who looked kind of like my dad, was my client. I don’t know what my law-student mind was envisioning, but not this guy.

As we talked, I learned more about him — his childhood, relationships, internal struggles — than I know about many of my friends. We discussed, in intricate detail, the murder he committed when he was 19 and the factors that led him to such a horrendous act.

We often dehumanize those we imprison, reducing their complex lives to a single

category of “bad” people. As I came to know my client, I was struck by how easy it was to connect with him. It’s only by getting to know people and the context of their lives that their actions begin to carry meaning.

The Friday before my client’s parole hearing, I spent six hours at the prison with him. I drilled him with the

toughest cross-examination questions, and he responded with concise, powerful answers. This would be my client’s sixth parole hearing, but with hours of preparation and an expert psychologist testifying on his behalf, I felt this time he had an excellent shot.

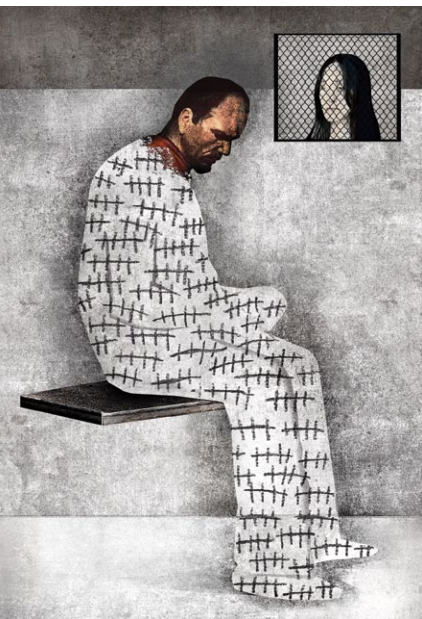
As I walked out of the prison that day, an e-mail popped up from my clinic professor: all January parole hearings had been “postponed indefinitely.”

A few weeks earlier, Dominic Cinelli, a parolee represented by our clinic in 2008, tragically killed a Woburn police officer. A political tidal wave followed, culminating with Governor Patrick asking five of the seven parole board members to step down, and the postponement of all lifer parole hearings. Legislation was proposed imposing stricter guidelines. Governor Patrick moved toward appointing law enforcement members to the new board, many of whom have an ideological slant against parole all together.

Throughout this turmoil, my perspective was unique: I represented one of the handful of clients serving life sentences whose life course was suddenly altered by this incident. What for most was a headline, dramatically transformed my learning experience and carried serious implications for my client. I testified before the Governor’s Council in February to share my client’s experience: more than 30 years in prison, working tirelessly to become a better person, preparing to present himself to the board, and losing that opportunity because of someone else’s act. When my client finally does have his hearing, the new board — acting under tremendous political pressure — likely won’t grant him parole, regardless of his case’s strength.

Experience often leads us down paths we don’t expect. As a result of the Prisoners’ Rights Clinic, I’ve discovered practicing law involves building strong attorney-client relationships, responding to unplanned events, navigating bureaucratic systems and advocating within complicated political landscapes. As I look toward graduation, I have a feeling this is just a taste of what’s in store for my career in public interest advocacy.

Liza Hirsch is a recipient of the prestigious Skadden Fellowship, which she will use after graduation to work with the Boston Medical-Legal Partnership at Boston Medical Center.



Let's Get Together in 2011



Reunion & Alumni/ae Weekend October 21 & 22

The classes of '51, '56, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01 and '06, surrounding class years and their families are invited to attend.

Catch up with friends, colleagues and faculty.

Make new connections at the following events:

- The State of the Law School address by Dean Emily Spieler
- Faculty reception in Dockser Hall Commons
- Reunion class dinner and cocktail reception at the Colonnade Hotel
- Additional special events for all alumni/ae and their families

Spread the word and share the excitement.

Contact Mielle Marquis, (617-373-3819, m.marquis@neu.edu) or Amelia Confalone '09 (617-373-5126, a.confalone@neu.edu) to volunteer for a reunion class committee. Check the website for updates about events.

Mark your calendar and make your reservations.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the nearby Colonnade Hotel. October is a popular time to visit Boston so we suggest you book now.



Together in 2011

Reunion & Alumni/ae Weekend

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Victor Medina '02 elected president of the American Association of Trust, Estate & Elder Law Attorneys.

NUSL & the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) will host Breaking into Law Teaching New England: The Pipeline to the Legal Academy.

Prof. Wendy Parmet triumphs at SJC on key issue in a case denying legal immigrants access to Commonwealth Care.

Rashida Manjoo, UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, will give commencement address.

Urvashi Vaid '83 Honored as Women's History Month Hero.

Prof. Deborah Ramirez in The Huffington Post on US counter-terrorism policy: <http://huff.to/ifOLPA>.

Diversity Reception for admitted students tonight!

Philadelphia friends join us for a regional alumni/ae event on April 7th. Special guest Professor Steve Subrin.

Don't forget! Our @NUSL prospective student chat is happening **RIGHT NOW!**