

CLINICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Where the Law Comes to Life

SUMMER 2010

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Capital Defender and Federal Habeas Clinic

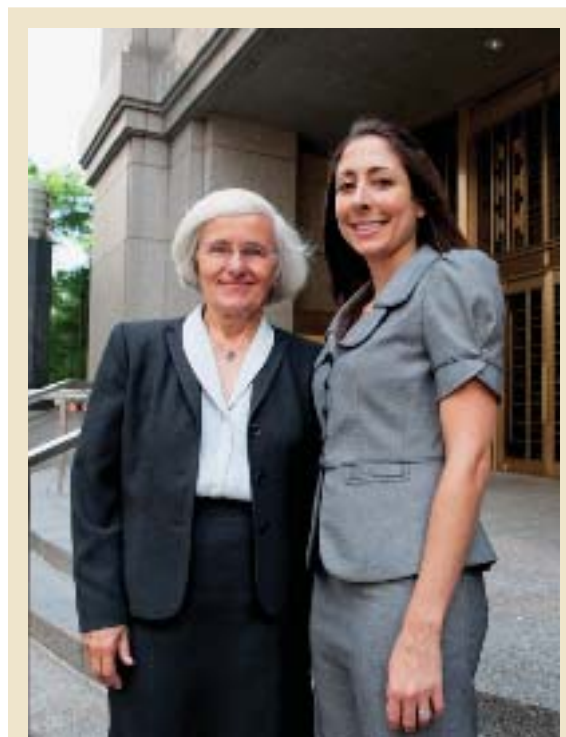
Student Argues Case Before Second Circuit Court of Appeals

Diane Mirabile Rafal '11, a student in Professor Ursula Bentele's Capital Defender and Federal Habeas Clinic, argued this summer before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on behalf of the clinic's client, Jerry McBee, who has been in prison for felony murder since 1999.

Rafal was clear, calm, confident, and deliberate in her argument before the three-judge panel. She is the third BLS student in four years to argue before the Second Circuit, and her experience is a perfect example of the opportunities for substantive, real-world practice offered by the BLS Clinical Program.

The Capital Defender and Federal Habeas Clinic represents death row inmates in other states and defendants in New York who have filed federal habeas corpus petitions. McBee, who has been a client of the clinic since 2006, is seeking federal habeas corpus relief based on constitutional errors committed at his trial.

(Continued on page 3)



Professor Ursula Bentele and Diane Mirabile Rafal '11

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Brooklyn Law School's clinical program is a source of enormous pride for the school and is greatly valued by students. Each year, hundreds of students act as legal representatives for clients in federal and state courts and before administrative agencies, making motions, conducting hearings, and arguing appeals.

This year, students appeared in the U.S. Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court, in Bankruptcy Court, Immigration Court, New York State Criminal Court, at the New York State Appellate Division, and the State Department of Labor.

Student activities are not limited to litigation. Students also represent community organizations, co-op boards of directors, and Internet start-ups in preparing business documents, drafting contracts, and forging deals.

The diversity of our clinical program is enhanced by extensive externship opportunities. With New York City as our extended campus, students by the hundreds spend one or more semesters gaining work experience in courts, agencies, law offices and companies. As their legal interests develop through coursework, they are deepened through work in the real world.

Our clinical program is continually expanding to incorporate more options. We recently added programs in collaboration with the Children's Law Center, the U.S. Attorney's Immigration Unit, and a litigation department in the New York City Law Department, as well as an international clinic where students worked at the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre.

This newsletter offers a glimpse of the breadth and depth of our programs, and of the exciting work that BLS students are doing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Caplow". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stacy Caplow
Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Education

CLINICS

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- Brooklyn Law Incubator & Policy Clinic (BLIP)
- Capital Defender and Federal Habeas Clinic
- Children's Law Center Clinic
- Community Development Clinic
- Consumer Counseling and Bankruptcy Clinic
- Corporate and Real Estate Clinic
- Criminal Appeals Clinic: Defense
- Criminal Appeals Clinic: Manhattan District Attorney
- Employment Law Clinic
- Federal Civil Litigation Clinic: U.S. Attorney, EDNY, Immigration Unit
- Federal Civil Litigation Clinic: NYC Law Department
- Investor Rights Clinic
- Mediation Clinic
- Municipal Litigation Clinic: NYC Law Department
- Prosecutors Clinic: Brooklyn District Attorney
- Prosecutors Clinic: U.S. Attorney, EDNY
- Safe Harbor Project
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Clinic

EXTERNSHIPS

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- Advanced Condominium and Cooperative Externship
- Civil Practice Externship
- Criminal Practice Externship
- Health Law Externship
- Judicial Clerkship Externship
- Transactional Law/Community Development Externship

BLIP Clinic Receives Grant to Help Build Tech Ecosystem

The Brooklyn Law Incubator & Policy (BLIP) Clinic was recently awarded a \$40,000 grant from the New York State Office for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NYSTAR), making BLS one of only two law schools in the state to receive this prestigious grant.

BLIP, directed by Professor Jonathan Askin, is one of the Law School's newest clinics. It functions as a law firm that represents entrepreneurs and innovators working on Internet, new media, and other ventures. The clinic provides an opportunity for BLS students to work in a field that evolves at a remarkable pace.

The NYSTAR grant allowed the clinic to hire three BLIP alumni to work as NYSTAR Fellows this summer on what Askin has dubbed "a sustainable ecosystem" for tech commercialization in New York City.

"We are trying to build a superstructure to ensure that tech entrepreneurship flourishes

in New York," he said. "This means the projects we take on are those that create templates that allow others to build on them and follow suit."

The NYSTAR Fellows are also working to develop a more viable process to commercialize university software applications. "For every Facebook," Askin said, "there are thousands of other world-changing applications that are never seen beyond

"We are trying to build a superstructure to ensure that tech entrepreneurship flourishes in New York."

—Prof. Jonathan Askin

the ivory tower. We want to increase public access to them."

In July, BLIP was tapped to assist in the Entertainment Consumers Association's amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in response to *Schwarzenegger v. EMA*. At issue is California's



Professor Jonathan Askin (third from right) and BLIP students at a meeting with designers, scientists, and other entrepreneurs.

restriction on the sale or rental of certain violent video games. BLIP's participation was prompted by concerns over the role of government in shaping, and potentially stifling, the growth, value, and expressive potential of the evolving medium of video games. "Many new forms of artistic expression meet with initial resistance and

confusion from society and government before they gain broader acceptance and fit comfortably into existing legal structures and strictures," Askin said. "It is important to ensure that the rights of both the producers and consumers of video games are guaranteed in this modern day challenge to the First Amendment." ■

Student Argues Case Before Second Circuit

(Continued from page 1)

Over his attorney's objection, three out-of-court hearsay statements directly implicating McBee in a fatal robbery were introduced through the testimony of two NYPD detectives, despite the fact that the two men who accused him never testified in court. In his habeas petition, clinic students argued that the admission of these statements violated McBee's right to confrontation.

The federal district court agreed that McBee's rights were violated, but declared that the error was harmless. In the clinic's appeal to the Second Circuit, Rafal argued that, in light of two previous trials ending in hung juries, the prosecution could not demonstrate that the erroneously admitted evidence did not have a substantial and injurious effect on the third jury's verdict.

"The clinic was a fantastic experience for me," said Rafal, who is interning this fall with U.S. District Court Judge Brian M. Cogan of the Eastern District. "I learned so much from this experience. I gained new respect for how much work judges do to decide a case; for appellate attorneys, because so much work goes into appealing a case; and for the legal system itself, because so many resources are needed to

ensure that defendants receive fair trials and that innocent people are not wrongfully convicted."

While Rafal argued the case before the Second Circuit, she acknowledges that her excellent preparation was the result of teamwork. Several students have assisted in other aspects of McBee's representation since the clinic took on his case in 2006. Rafal also participated in five Moot Court rounds judged by Professors Miriam Baer, Fred Bloom, Michael Cahill, Stacy Caplow, and Robert Pitler. ■

Partnership Clinics Pair Learning and Law in Real-world Settings

An important clinical model has evolved at Brooklyn Law School that depends upon close relationships with outside agencies or firms. These partnership clinics offer the same hands-on lawyering opportunities and direct professor-student supervision that in-house clinics do, but they take place in practice-based settings.

In discussing the value of the partnership clinics, Professor Stacy Caplow, director of the clinical program, said, “We have developed exclusive arrangements with outside agencies

“I wrote a brief and argued the appeal in the First Department. The experience shows you whether you love appellate work or not. For me, it solidified that love.”

—Will Page '09

to take a certain number of our students. These partnerships allow students to assume the actual responsibility for a client

or case while gaining a feel for the way a law office works through immersion in the actual office culture.”

One example is the Advanced Condominium and Cooperative Externship in which students often deal with cases that involve millions of dollars in disputed funds in escrow down payments. “The students get a sense of what it’s like to work in the real world,” said Adjunct Professor Ira Goldenberg, a partner at Hoffman, Wachtell, Koster & Maier, LLP, who is the teacher/supervisor of the externship. “They create superb writing samples and have the opportunity to be mentored by a number of Assistant Attorneys General who are quite accomplished. It’s great for their resumes, especially if they want to go into this area of law.”

Deborah Morse, BLS Class of 1980, who is an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan D.A.’s Appeals Bureau, said that students in her clinic “are given their own cases and learn to read the record, write the brief, and then argue the case. It really builds their appellate advocacy skills.” This year, students were assigned to three separate appeals: a gang-related shooting, the robbery of a man by attackers posing as police officers, and the sale of crack cocaine to an undercover police officer. All three convictions were upheld.

Will Page '09, a student in Morse’s clinic, said, “I wrote a

brief and argued the appeal in the First Department. The experience shows you whether you love appellate work or not. For me, it solidified that love.”

Legal cases that begin in clinic settings often last much longer than one or two semesters, and students may only be able to work on a portion of them while enrolled—but that

“These partnerships allow students to assume the actual responsibility for a client or case while gaining a feel for the way a law office works through immersion in the actual office culture.”

—Prof. Stacy Caplow

doesn’t mean their involvement ends at graduation. For example, Matt Modafferi '09 participated in the Federal Civil Litigation Clinic, which represents the City of New York and its employees in federal civil rights lawsuits against the Police Department and the Department of Correction. Modafferi took a plaintiff’s deposition while he was a clinic student; after graduation, as an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the New York City Law Department, he is working with current clinic students on the same case as it proceeds to trial. ■

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL’S NINE PARTNERSHIP CLINICS

- **Advanced Condominium and Cooperative Externship, New York State Attorney General’s Bureau of Real Estate Finance**
- **Children’s Law Center Clinic, Brooklyn Family Court**
- **Criminal Appeals Defense Clinic, Center for Appellate Litigation**
- **Criminal Appeals Prosecution Clinic, Manhattan District Attorney’s Office**
- **Federal Civil Litigation Clinic, Immigration Unit of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of New York**
- **Federal Civil Litigation Clinic, NYC Law Department**
- **Municipal Litigation Clinic, NYC Law Department**
- **Prosecutors Clinic, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of New York**
- **Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts Clinic**

Safe Harbor Project: Helping Asylum-seekers Build Secure Futures

Under the supervision of Professors Stacy Caplow and Dan Smulian, students of the Safe Harbor Project work in teams to represent individuals in applying for political asylum. Recently, three students were successful in securing a grant of asylum for their client who, as a pre-teen, survived the murder of her parents and brother during a period in which persons of her ethnicity were mass victims of genocide. The client later identified and testified against her family's persecutors and was forced to flee the country, having been threatened with death a second time because of her pursuit of justice. Another student served as the client's interpreter and helped draw out her tragic story.

Three other students successfully represented their client and spouse in their

application for asylum. The client, a journalist from a West African nation, strongly criticized government corruption and incompetence in the financial sector and in the development of his country's presence on the Internet. His criticism resulted in his imprisonment and torture, the invasion of his home, a police attack on his spouse, and her dismissal from work.

Another team of students helped obtain asylum for a woman who campaigned on behalf of a dissident candidate in her country's first free election in over a decade. For this, she was summarily thrown in jail for over a month under horrific conditions.

The clinic also successfully obtained asylum for a young gay man from Kenya, a country where homosexuality is

"My participation in the Safe Harbor Project was the highlight of my time at BLS," recalled Melissa Brennan '09, now a lawyer at Sanctuary for Families. "My team secured asylum for our client, who had suffered extreme abuse in her home country of Niger. I was also involved in an effort to secure derivative status for her daughter, who had been separated from her since the child was a toddler. I accompanied our client to JFK Airport, where they were reunited after nearly 15 years. It was incredibly gratifying to see how our work translated into such a positive and life-changing development for mother and daughter."

criminalized and condemned by the government and organized religion, and where a recent gay marriage caused violent rioting. The client struggled to overcome depression and homelessness before he could gather enough strength to file for asylum. Now, with stable housing, he is participating in a vocational training program and is beginning to build a new life.

Another happy development was the first naturalization of a

Safe Harbor client. A Colombian national, he had been a community organizer and, as a result of his work, was shot at and received multiple death threats from guerillas. He was represented more than seven years ago by two clinic students and he, in turn, now helps other refugees obtain benefits here in the U.S. He fondly remembers his student lawyers, and invited Professor Caplow to attend his naturalization ceremony. ■

Corporate and Real Estate Clinic Gives Tenants a Fresh Start

In a city with a dearth of affordable housing units, co-ops for low-income people are a critical resource. Every semester, the Corporate and Real Estate Clinic represents about 15 such co-ops facing complex legal challenges. The clinic is also involved in broader efforts to preserve affordability.

This year, for example, the clinic was asked to conduct a training session for boards of directors of several low-income co-ops by the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board.

At issue was the fact that income limits for these co-ops are dictated by statute and corporate documents, but there are no guidelines for sale prices. Not surprisingly, this lack of information creates a big problem for boards in approving shareholder requests to sell units.

With assistance from the clinic's director, Professor Debra Bechtel, two students conducted a seminar in Harlem that was attended by over 50 board members. Their PowerPoint presentation on how to develop

a resale policy and handle resale requests was very well-received, and the students fielded dozens of questions from participants.

Another matter, which was originally brought to the clinic in 2006, was finally resolved this year. It was the case of a Lower East Side building which owed over a million dollars in real estate taxes and mortgage payments to the City of New York. With the clinic's help, the building recently closed on a loan to finance payment of the remaining tax arrears. No less

than 11 clinic students worked on the case over the years.

Another 19-unit building ran into trouble because it never received the property tax exemption that New York usually grants to such buildings. The Urban Homesteading Assistance Board helped negotiate a real estate tax cap for future taxes, while clinic students sought to refinance the mortgage and amend corporate documents to qualify for a real estate tax forgiveness program. ■

David Reiss, Housing Finance Scholar, Leads Community Development Clinic

Professor David Reiss is an accomplished scholar in the areas of real estate finance and community development. He founded the Community Development Clinic, through which students represent community-based organizations, cultural institutions, and other not-for-profit entities. He also teaches Real Estate Practice, Property, and a Property Law Colloquium. “I enjoy teaching large lecture classes, like real estate and property,” said Reiss. “But the clinic keeps me in close touch with students and the practice of law, and the colloquium keeps me in touch with cutting edge issues in the law, so I couldn’t have a better teaching load than the one I have now.”

Before joining the Law School, Reiss was an associate in the New York office of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in its Real Estate Department, and an associate in the San Francisco office of Morrison & Foerster in its Land Use and Environmental Law Group. He was also a law clerk to Judge Timothy Lewis of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He received his B.A. from Williams College and his J.D. from the New York University School of Law.

Reiss is a sought-after speaker and is often quoted in the media. His scholarship has been at the cutting edge of the financial crisis. His article, “Subprime Standardization: How Rating Agencies Allow Predatory Lending to Flourish in the Secondary Mortgage

Market” in the *Florida State University Law Review* was named best article of 2006 on a topic dealing with consumer financial services law by the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers and is noted for being one of the first scholarly articles to identify unsustainable developments in the mortgage markets. Reiss’ scholarship continues to analyze the unsustainable business models of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. In addition to forthcoming journal articles, he has contributed two chapters to the recent book, *Lessons from the Financial Crisis—Causes, Consequences, and Our Economic Future*.

Prior to attending law school, Reiss worked for four years at Community Access, a not-for-profit that helps people with psychiatric disabilities make the transition from shelters and hospitals to independent living. ■



Professor David Reiss with students in the Community Development Clinic at Brooklyn Bridge Park. Students (L to R) are Robin Kraiterman '11, Richard Stein '11, and Erin Miller '11. The Clinic represented the Pratt Center for Community Development on matters relating to the development of the Brooklyn Bridge Park, one of New York City's most important park projects since the 19th Century's Central and Prospect Parks.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLINIC: SELECTED RECENT CLIENTS

4Marbles, Inc. promotes the development of science and math education in the U.S.

Advancing Youth through Opportunity, Inc. (AYO) is an afterschool program for children in low-income communities in Brooklyn.

Doll and Toy Museum of New York is a museum whose goal is to educate the public on the importance of dolls and toys in culture, history, and art.

FROGG (Friends and Residents of the Greater Gowanus) is a grassroots organization that advocates for environmentally sound community planning for the Gowanus Canal neighborhoods. The canal is a Superfund site, one of the nation's most contaminated bodies of water.

La Finca Del Sur/South Bronx Farmers, Inc. is an urban farming organization that provides fresh and affordable produce to low-income communities and runs educational programs.

New York Asian Women's Center operates a 24-hour multilingual hotline that provides victims of domestic violence with access to trained counselors.

Social Transit Research Laboratory, Inc., (Str-Lab) plans to create a cell phone application for people to coordinate transportation, such as shared cabs and carpools.

Providing Adequate Healthcare to Immigrants in Detention

Dynamic Forum Co-sponsored by the Safe Harbor Project, Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Program, and the Center for Health, Science and Public Policy

Tanveer Ahmand had been a tax-paying New York City cab driver for years when he was taken into custody and held in an immigrant detention center in New Jersey. In 2005, the 43-year-old man died in jail after enduring hours of agonizing pain, his screams for medical attention unheeded. A fellow inmate who did not know his name sent a note to immigrant advocates describing the terrible death.

When *The New York Times* investigative journalist Nina Bernstein first heard the story, she had very little information to go on. Government officials told her that no records about the man existed. Undeterred, she kept investigating and eventually discovered Ahmand's identity and the facts surrounding his death. At the same time, she exposed a systemic and sometimes fatal lack of medical services in immigrant detention in a series of articles in *The New York Times*.

On March 5, 2010, Bernstein shared her findings at a forum, entitled "Finding a Cure: Providing Adequate Healthcare to Immigrants in Detention." Leading experts from a range of relevant fields spoke of the medical needs of detainees, the administrative challenges of civil detention, ongoing efforts to revamp the system, grassroots campaigns to fight detainee abuses, and progress on the road to reform.



Nina Bernstein, *The New York Times* investigative journalist.



(L to R) Cheryl Little and Brittney Nystrom, speakers, with Aliza Kaplan, moderator, during the panel on Policy and Advocacy Initiatives.

The current system, home to over 300,000 immigrants a year, is deeply flawed—even “Kafkaesque,” as one speaker said. Although immigrant detention is a form of civil detention, as opposed to criminal detention, and thus is not intended to serve a punitive purpose, the realities of imprisonment are grim. Immigrant detainees are often deprived of due process safeguards, routinely shackled

The current system, home to over 300,000 immigrants a year, is deeply flawed—even “Kafkaesque,” as one speaker said.

and suited in prison jumpsuits, have limited access to legal assistance, and often receive inadequate medical attention. “We don’t just want to make detention nicer,” said another speaker. “We want to transform the centers and look at who is being detained and why.” ■

SPEAKERS

Nina Bernstein, *The New York Times* Investigative Reporter

Dora Schriro, Commissioner, New York City Department of Correction

Allen Keller, Founder and Director, Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture

Phyllis Coven, Acting Director, Office of Detention Policy and Planning, ICE

Jon Krohmer, Senior Medical Officer, Office of Health Affairs, DHS

Brittney Nystrom, Director of Policy and Legal Affairs, National Immigration Forum

Cheryl Little, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center

Tom Jawetz, Counsel to the U.S. House of Representative’s Judiciary Committee

David Shapiro, Counsel to the Liberty and National Security Project, Brennan Center for Justice

Andrea Black, Network Coordinator, Detention Watch Network

MODERATORS

Stacy Caplow, Brooklyn Law School Professor of Law; Director of Clinical Education; Co-Director, Safe Harbor Project

Aliza Kaplan, Brooklyn Law School Associate Professor of Legal Writing

Karen Porter, Brooklyn Law School Assistant Professor of Clinical Law; Executive Director, Brooklyn Law School Center for Health, Science and Public Policy

Dan Smulian, Brooklyn Law School Assistant Professor of Clinical Law; Co-Director, Safe Harbor Project

Two Longstanding Clinics Hold Rousing First Reunions

Two clinics, the Safe Harbor Project and the Corporate and Real Estate Clinic, held their first reunions this spring, bringing together their extended families of current students, professors, and alumni for enthusiastic celebrations.

Each clinic was established over a decade ago and enjoys the fierce loyalty of its graduates. Many said that the opportunity to take responsibility for their own clients through the clinics—whether they were seeking asylum in the U.S. or seeking affordable housing in New York City—was a unique and transformative learning experience.

In March, Professor Debra Bechtel, founder and director of the Corporate and

Real Estate Clinic, organized an event for 30 alumni and 20 current students at Gerald's, the campus café. Since the clinic opened in the fall of 1997, over 200 students have represented low-income co-ops across the city.

Also in March, the Safe Harbor Project hosted about 50 of the more than 300 students who have participated in the clinic, some travelling from as far as Washington D.C., Massachusetts, and Texas. Clinic director Stacy Caplow spoke movingly at the reception about the commitment of the students, who “pour their hearts into the demanding work.” She recounted some of the clinic’s many victories. Graduates were particularly interested in hearing

updates about their clients, many of whom regularly keep in touch with the clinic.

Max Shterngel '09, a Safe Harbor alumnus who is now a litigation associate at White & Case LLP, said, “One of my most memorable experiences was pulling an all-nighter in the Happy Days Diner with my colleagues, trying to wordsmith our client’s affidavit to best tell her story. There was so much laughter, and at 5:00 a.m. we were surprisingly productive.

Our client was a source of much inspiration and I often stop to think of how she must be doing. Truly, it was one of the most meaningful and instructive experiences I had at BLS.” ■



Corporate and Real Estate Clinic, Director Debra Bechtel (second from right)



Safe Harbor Project Co-Directors Dan Smulian and Stacy Caplan

Revisiting Mandatory Arbitration in Customer Securities Disputes



George Friedman, Executive Vice President and Director of Dispute Resolution, FINRA, addresses audience

On Tuesday March 23, the Investor Rights Clinic, the Corporate and Securities Law Association, and the Business and Finance Society,

co-sponsored a panel discussion with Theodore Krebsbach and Theodore Eppenstein, the lawyers who argued the landmark Supreme Court

decision *Shearson v. McMahon*. The panel was moderated by Professor Karen J. van Ingen, director of the Law School’s Investor Rights Clinic.

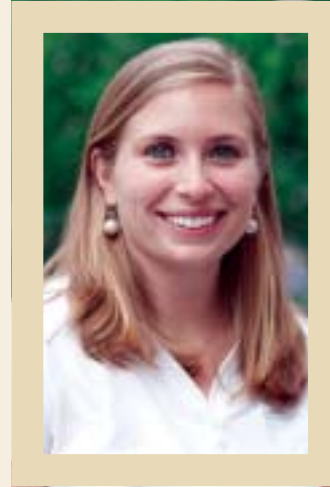
The case upheld the enforceability of agreements drafted by the industry mandating arbitration for public customers who have disputes with their brokers and broker-dealers. Krebsbach and Eppenstein, who are luminaries in their field, were joined by George Friedman, Director of Dispute Resolution, FINRA, and Robert Davidson, Executive Director of JAMS Arbitration Practice, for a spirited and informative discussion of the

mandatory arbitration, FINRA as a dispute resolution forum, and the Obama Administration’s White Paper proposal for a study of mandatory arbitration by the SEC.

Former SEC Commissioner Professor Roberta Karmel, and Professor James Fanto, who was clerking for Justice Blackmun when he wrote his celebrated dissent in the *McMahon* case, were in the audience and added another level of insight to the discussion. The *Securities Arbitration Commentator*, a leading newsletter in the field, covered the program. ■

Lydia Potter's Six Semesters in the "Real World"

Lydia Potter '10 has set a new standard for immersion in real-world lawyering through a combination of clinical courses, either for credit or pay through the Law School's public service grants. Starting in her second year, she worked in a courtroom, financial institution, or government agency during every semester. She also served as president of the Corporate and Securities Law Association. Potter will join Apollo Management, L.P., a private equity investment firm, as a legal associate. She shared some insights about her remarkable clinical experiences at BLS.



“ I grew up in Boston and went to Trinity College. By my senior year, I knew I wanted to go to law school, but at the suggestion of some mentors of mine I took some time between college and law school to work in a law firm setting. I went to Simpson Thacher & Bartlett as a corporate paralegal, and the experience convinced me that becoming a lawyer was the right choice.

One of things that drew me to BLS was its clinical program and the fact that it is so close to the courts and to Wall Street. Also, BLS is very proactive about connecting students to practical experiences.

I never planned to take six internships and externships. It just happened, semester by semester, as I learned of new and exciting opportunities.

When I was a 1L, some upper-class friends advised me that it is very valuable to be a judicial intern if you want litigation experience. So I interviewed and was fortunate to be able to work for a summer with U.S. District Court Judge Kenneth M. Karas of the Southern District

of New York. I researched civil issues, drafted bench memoranda, and observed court proceedings. Judge Karas was accessible and made a point of talking to the clerks and interns about his decision-making process after court proceedings.

Then, in the fall of my second year, I took the Civil Practice Externship, working as a law clerk at Brown Brothers Harriman. There, I researched federal securities statutes and topics such as insider trading. The professor who taught the clinic was an attorney at UBS Financial Services, and her experience was very valuable to me. I was also required to keep a journal, which forced me to think critically about what I was doing.

As the spring semester approached, I realized I was interested in bankruptcy law as well. I had spoken to U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Elizabeth S. Stong of the Eastern District of New York during my first year, and reached out to her when she spoke at a symposium on campus the following fall. That led me to become her intern for the spring semester of my second year.

Continuing my interest in business and financial law, I was a legal summer associate at UBS Financial Services after my second year. In the fall of my third year, I became an intern at the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of New York, in the Business and Securities Fraud Unit in the Criminal Division.

At that point, I was not planning on taking any more externships, but through my counselor at the BLS Career Center I learned about an opportunity at Kohlberg Kravis Roberts. Working there helped me gain exposure to a wide variety of legal and compliance issues in the private equity and asset management industries.

Although every one of my clinical experiences was different, they all had a corporate and business element and I benefited from this strong common thread. Now that I have had time to reflect on my experiences, I have no doubt that I will be a better lawyer because of them. ”

CLINICAL FACULTY

Brooklyn Law School's faculty members are expert practitioners in a range of specialties, and their scholarship and practical skills fuel our award-winning clinical program. They serve as mentors to students, guiding them as they learn to exercise judgment as lawyers, generate ideas and strategies, and serve their communities.



Some members of the faculty and staff (from left) Alisa Adolph, Professors David Reiss, Minna Kotkin, Ursula Bentele, Dan Smulian, Stacy Caplow, Debra Bechtel, Mary Jo Eyster, and Karen Porter; and Ana Puello

FULL-TIME FACULTY

JONATHAN ASKIN, who teaches the BLIP clinic, is a former telecommunications attorney with more than a decade of experience in the communications industry in both the public and private sectors. A former senior attorney at the Federal Communications Commission, he also served as a strategist on President Barack Obama's Technology Advisory Board during the 2008 campaign.

DEBRA BECHTEL, one of New York's foremost experts in low-income or limited equity co-ops, has directed the Corporate and Real Estate Clinic since 1997 and teaches the Advanced Corporate and Real Estate Clinic. She has over 20 years of experience in the areas of real estate law and community development.

URSULA BENTELE is a nationally recognized expert on death penalty issues. The recipient of the New York City Bar's Thurgood Marshall

Award, she has argued numerous death penalty appeals and is the author of *Capital Case Sentencing: How to Protect Your Client*. She directs the Capital Defender and Federal Habeas Clinic.

STACY CAPLOW is the director of the Clinical Education Program and co-director of the Safe Harbor Project. A leader in the field of clinical legal education, she has received a Fulbright Fellowship and has worked internationally to establish legal clinics and assist refugee centers.

MINNA KOTKIN has extensive litigation experience handling a range of civil rights law reform and class action suits. She served as Litigation Director for New York Lawyers for the Public Interest for many years and has taught several different clinics at the Law School over the past 20 years. She currently teaches the Employment Law Clinic.

KAREN PORTER is the executive director of Brooklyn Law School's Center for Health, Science, and Public Policy, and she teaches the Health Law Externship. She has taught courses at Washington University Law School on law and medicine and AIDS and the law, and is the author of numerous publications related to AIDS policy.

DAVID REISS directs Brooklyn Law School's Community Development Clinic and teaches real estate finance and property law as well. His prior experience includes practicing law in several firms' real estate and land use departments, and he serves on several local community boards.

LISA SMITH teaches the Prosecutors Clinic and is the director of the Civil, Criminal and Judicial Externship Programs. She is an expert in the area of domestic violence. She served for many years as the Executive

>> To learn more about our faculty, please visit www.brooklaw.edu/clinics/faculty



Assistant District Attorney for Domestic Violence, Sex Crimes, and Child Abuse in the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

DAN SMULIAN co-teaches the Safe Harbor Project and has a strong background in public interest law. A former director of training and legal services at the New York Immigration Coalition, he managed a statewide program that provides seminars and educational events on immigration law and immigrants' rights issues for immigrant communities.

KAREN VAN INGEN teaches the Investor Rights Clinic. She has two decades of experience as a litigator, arbitrator, and mediator, with a focus in institutional and retail securities transactions and class actions, commercial contracts, partnerships, and joint ventures, and employment disputes. She is also a special master in the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

KEVAN CLEARY

Senior Trial Counsel, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York

RALPH DE PALMA III

Of Counsel, Pryor Cashman Sherman & Flynn LLP

SCOTT DUNN

Chief, Immigration Unit, U.S. District Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York

MARY JO EYSTER

Attorney-Mediator

ROBERT GAULIN

Managing Partner, Gaulin Group LLP

SUSAN HALATYN

Senior Counsel, New York City Law Department

JAN HOTH

Lead Appellate Counsel, Center for Appellate Litigation

JONATHAN KIRSHBAUM

Senior Appellate Counsel, Center for Appellate Litigation

GLENN MAGPANTAY

Staff Attorney, Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund

DEBORAH MORSE

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FAST FACTS

- >> The 2009 Official Guide to ABA-Approved Law Schools reports that 65% of all BLS students participate in an externship at least once. Many students enroll in both externships and in-house clinics during their upper-class years.
- >> Last year, 671 students participated in the three externship programs: 368 students in the Civil Practice Externship, 168 in the Criminal Practice Externship, and 135 in the Judicial Clerkship.
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