Rutgers Law School has chosen its commencement speakers for 2018.

Anita Hill, a national figure leading the #TimesUp movement against sexual harassment and assault and a vocal advocate for equal opportunities for women in STEM and other fields, will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws from Rutgers University–Camden during the Rutgers Law School commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 17. She also will deliver the keynote address for the Class of 2018 at that ceremony.

New Jersey’s State Attorney General, Gurbir S. Grewal, will be the commencement speaker for Rutgers Law School commencement in Newark. Law School commencement in Newark will take place on May 25, 2018 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

“Rutgers–Camden is proud to present an honorary degree to Anita Hill during commencement this year,” says Rutgers University–Camden Chancellor Phoebe Haddon. “Prof. Hill is one of our nation’s most powerful voices in addressing equality and discrimination, and has reemerged as a central figure in the current national discussion regarding sexual harassment.

“Her career is a living testament to her commitment to the idea of equity in access in myriad ways, particularly regarding the importance of equal rights for women. She is the ideal role model to charge graduating students to take what they learned at Rutgers–Camden and work to improve their communities and world,” concludes Haddon. Continued on page 2.
Dear Alumni:

An engaged alumni network is the best kind of alumni network. That is the message we would like to convey this month as we reflect gratefully on our energetic alumni base, and look forward to three great opportunities for engagement coming up soon.

First, on February 21 at 6:00 p.m., we are offering a special networking event especially for all alumni in South Jersey, hosted by Co-Deans Cahill, Chen, and Chancellor Phoebe Haddon. The event is in Westmont and you can register at this link.

Then, on March 1 at 6:30 p.m., the 33rd Annual PILF/PILSA Public Interest Spring Auction will take place on the Newark campus. This is the prime fundraiser for PILF’s grants for law students who work at unpaid legal internships for public interest and nonprofit organizations. PILF will honor Co-Dean Ronald Chen for his career of commitment to public interest and public service. An Alumni Cocktail Hour will precede the Auction at 5:30 p.m. Please register today at this link.

Third, we are excited to invite you to what will be one of the largest single gatherings of alumni in many years: the MSP50 Celebration on April 14 in Newark. Please sign up today for this once in a generation event and gala with the theme: coming together and looking ahead. Details on tickets, donations, and programs are here: law.rutgers.edu/MSP50

In closing, we would like to note the upcoming retirement of Co-Dean Chen from the Newark Co-Deanship. We will relish these next few months as an opportunity to recognize and applaud Ron for his years of service. Thankfully, he will remain a distinguished member of the Law School faculty. An executive search committee is currently in process to appoint the next Newark Co-Dean. If you have any questions or input, please contact Brian, our Newark Alumni President, before the end of February.

Best regards,

Janice Heinold
Chancellor, Camden Alumni Association
jheinold@rlclawnj.com

Brian Biglin
President, Newark Alumni Association
rslnapresident@gmail.com

Anita Hill currently serves as a professor of social policy, law, and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies at Brandeis University. Chosen by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, Gurbir Grewal, an Indian-American Sikh, is the first South Asian attorney general in New Jersey. He is the former Bergen County Prosecutor and leads the state Department of Law and Public Safety, which has 7,200 employees.

Grewal is a former federal prosecutor in the criminal division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York, who served as the Bergen County Prosecutor since 2016 and earned praise for promoting better relations between residents and police and for his response to battling the opioid crisis in Bergen County. He is a 1999 graduate of William & Mary Law School. Grewal is the son of Indian immigrants.
National Mock Trial Starts Spring Semester Strong

Rutgers Law students John Flynn ’18, Christina McGinnis ’19, and Melissa Taustine ’18 represented the Rutgers Law National Mock Trial Team at the three-day Texas Young Lawyers National Trial Competition Regionals, hosted by Temple Law School in Philadelphia, from Feb. 9-11.

The Rutgers team competed against 21 other teams from regional law schools including the University of Pennsylvania, Temple, Widener, Dickinson, Seton Hall and Villanova Law Schools. These were the best mock trial teams in the region.

For each of the three rounds of competition, the team conducted full trials of a civil tort case involving a fatal accident at a grain elevator against a competing school. The Rutgers team represented both the plaintiff and the defendant in separate rounds. Each round consisted of arguing pre-trial motions and conducting a full trial, including opening statements, closing argument and conducting direct and cross examinations of both fact and expert witnesses.

During the three-day competition, the Rutgers team won two of the three rounds. Significantly, the team won their rounds against the top seeded teams from Dickinson and Widener Law. The team was defeated by Temple, a team that rose to the finals and has won the competition consistently in the past ten years.

“Yet, again the National Mock Trial Team performed superbly in a competitive field. They were impressive and strong representatives for Rutgers Law,” said Andrew Rossner, Associate Dean for Professional and Skills Education, who oversees the Mock Trial program at Rutgers Law in Newark.

“The team not only have developed incredible trial advocacy skills, their professionalism and team spirit cannot be beat,” he said. Team members Flynn and Taustine stepped in at the last minute when two colleagues withdrew from the National Team with less than four weeks left. McGinnis, Flynn and Taustine kicked into high gear and worked tirelessly over the last three weeks practicing and preparing for the competition. Two team alumni, Maria McKee ’17 and Samantha McCluskey ’16 assisted with coaching.

“Every trial is a learning opportunity. For this competition I got to argue for both sides, and it was the first time I had to prep witnesses who I did not speak to until the day of the trial, which made it more challenging,” said McGinnis. “Overall it was a great experience and I look forward to future competitions.”

Taustine added, “We had a great time competing in Philadelphia this year. It’s always a tough competition but we were able to make a good showing and win two out of our three rounds . . . Although we are always disappointed to not advance, the best part of being a part of this team is working hard with close friends.”

The National Trial Team will next compete in the prestigious ABA/John Marshall National Criminal Trial Advocacy competition in March. Based upon the team’s successes in the past two years, Rutgers Law has been invited for the first time to this elite invitational competition. National Team members Immanuel Adeola ’18, Matthew Capone ’18, Steve Tegrar ’18, and Taustine will represent Rutgers Law at the competition in Chicago starting on March 8.

The Moot Court Board’s National Appellate Team will compete in the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition Regionals in New York City on February 22 – 24. Flynn and Krystal Valentin ’18 will represent the Law School. Last year, Rutgers Law took the Champion position and advanced to the National Round in Chicago, as well as earned 3rd place in the Best Brief category.

“Alumni, students, faculty and staff should be proud of what our students have achieved through the Moot Court Board Programs. They have shown an extraordinary level of dedication to developing their skills and to being exemplary representatives of the law school. That dedication and skill has made Rutgers Law a national advocacy powerhouse,” Rossner said.

Rutgers Law Alumni News
Judge Releases Detained Activist and Cites Law School Clinic Brief

Rutgers Law School’s International Human Rights Clinic filed an amicus brief on behalf of detained immigration activist Ravi Ragbir, arguing that his abrupt arrest and detainment by ICE violated his rights to speak freely and criticize unjust immigration policies, which are protected by the Constitution and international law.

On Monday, January 29, 2018, U.S. District Court Judge Katherine Forrest of the Southern District of New York agreed with Ragbir’s attorneys, ordering his release, and cited sections of the brief, which was submitted by Rutgers Law Professor Penny Venetis, who directs the clinic.

“The Court referenced our free speech brief about five times in her comments. She clearly was concerned about Mr. Ragbir being singled out for arrest and detention for exercising his most fundamental rights,” said Professor Venetis. “This is a man who is a community leader and poses no threat to anyone. He advocates for legal reform in the most peaceful and constructive manner. He should be applauded, not jailed.”

In its “friend of the court” amicus brief, the clinic argued that Ragbir’s detention violated his First Amendment rights, as well as his rights under international law, which place great value on “political speech,” about issues of great public importance. The Rutgers clinic also argued that it was hypocritical for the U.S. to detain Ragbir for speaking about one of the country’s most important public policy issues while simultaneously criticizing governments around the world for jailing democracy advocates who speak publicly about the need for democratic reform.

Ragbir, who was detained in January after a scheduled check-in with ICE, is the Executive Director of The New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC, an interfaith network of congregations, organizations, and individuals, who support people resisting detention and deportation. He also is married to a Rutgers Law graduate Amy Gottlieb ’96, who is an associate regional director of American Friends Service Committee.

Eight Rutgers Law students from the Clinic contributed to the brief, working nights and weekends and finishing the brief in just five days, during the first full week of the spring 2018 semester.

“Hearing the cheering and applause that erupted after she read the order, and after each time she denied ICE’s attempts to stay Ravi’s release, and knowing that we were a part of that, was a very rewarding feeling. The atmosphere was electric, it was the sort of moment you hope for when you get into public interest and civil rights areas of law. Working on that brief has definitely been the high-point of my time at Rutgers,” said law student Kevin Finckenauer ’18.

“Hearing Judge Forrest mentioned our brief during the proceedings was really exciting. After all the hours we put into researching and formatting the document, it made it feel like everything we did was validated. Of course, it was also amazing that she ruled in our favor. The applause was incredible in the overflow room, and you could hear the cheers and excitement from the main courtroom,” said law student Brian Parcon ’19.

“The Rutgers law clinics have been at the forefront of defending human rights for 50 years,” said Venetis. “We will continue to work on defending the human rights of the most vulnerable among us.”

Rutgers Law Student Tamara Annaie ’19, added, “It was very chilling sitting in a court room that, within a span of one hour, changed from a room filled with anxious supporters praying for the release of their good friend from detention, to the happiest court room I have ever seen. While leaving the court room, people were hugging, kissing, and some even broke into song. It is very fulfilling knowing that the Rutgers International Human Rights Clinic was able to be part of such a powerful occasion, an occasion that will certainly have positive rippling effects.” ■
For Valentine’s Day: Finding Love in Law School

Rutgers Law School is not just a place of books and learning; it’s also is a place where couples have fallen in love and started their lives together. In honor of Valentine’s Day, we share some stories of romance from Rutgers Law School couples.

Sara Fedorczyk and Brian Quigley

The State House in Trenton may not be the typical romantic venue, but it brought Sara Fedorczyk and Brian Quigley together. They were both working in the Assembly Majority Office after college doing constituent relations and policy work in 2008 and became friends who had a common interest in public service. They began having lunch together, shared some good-natured political debates, and studied for their LSATs, before they both enrolled in Rutgers Law School in Camden in 2009.

While at law school, Brian, who is from South Brunswick, and Sara, who grew up in Hillsborough, had all but two classes together and both worked on the school’s Voting Rights Project. In their 2L year, they both traveled to New Orleans and volunteered at the City Attorney’s Office.

“Being together 24/7 may drive some couples crazy, but we truly became a team in every way,” Sara Quigley said. “One of our best, and most rewarding, experiences was co-serving as law guardians to a minor in need of housing through the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic. Recognizing that we both shared the same passion for helping others strengthened the feelings we had for one another.”

They both graduated in 2012 and began clerkships in the Camden County Superior Court. Brian clerked for a civil judge and Sara for a criminal court judge, whose chambers happened to be down the hall from each other. During the last week of their clerkships, in August 2013, the couple got engaged.

They married in 2015 and are now the parents of a baby girl and reside in Hopewell Township. Though they’ve been together for nearly a decade, the Quigleys have found themselves right where they began – in the state capital. Brian Quigley works as General Counsel to the Assembly Majority Office and Sara Quigley is a Deputy Attorney General.

Sara said they still meet for lunch on occasion and still debate policy and politics. The Quigleys have this advice for other love birds in law school. Brian Quigley said, “Learn from one another’s perspectives. It’s amazing how two people that are so similar in many ways can see things so differently. Take advantage of the extra vantage point.” Sara added, “Law school is serious business so always encourage one another. But remember to put the books down every once in a while and make each other laugh.”

Alumnus Nominated to Delaware State Board of Education

Wali W. Rushdan II ’12 was recently nominated by the Governor of Delaware, and subsequently unanimously confirmed by the Delaware State Senate, to serve on the Delaware State Board of Education. On the left is a photograph of Rushdan offering testimony before the Senate during his confirmation hearing and on the right is a photograph that was taken with Rushdan, his mother (Amina Rushdan), his father (Wali Rushdan, Sr.), and the current Governor of the State of Delaware, John Carney.
Finding Love, cont.

Stacy Posner and Jed Goldstein

A lost pencil, a spilled cup of tea, and a broken laptop became the recipe for love for Stacy Posner and Jed Goldstein, who met at Rutgers Law School orientation in 2003.

During their 1L year, Jed and Stacy were tracked together in Property and Torts. Stacy remembers lending Jed a pencil and sitting behind him in Property. She said one morning she spilled tea on her laptop and rushed to the computer store to try and get it fixed, then ended up walking in late to Professor Twila Perry’s class, flustered and hungry.

That day, Professor Perry called on Stacy and she didn’t have her notes. Upset and frazzled, Stacy ended up hanging out with Jed after class, relaxing and watching TV, and shortly after that they become a couple.

During their third year of law school, Stacy, who is from Livingston, and Jed, who is from New Providence, got engaged. They married the following August in 2007.

“We were able to do a lot of the planning while we were in law school, which made things so much easier, because once I started working I had much less time,” Stacy recalled.

After graduation, Stacy got a job with Debevoise & Plimpton and Jed went on to clerk with Judge Edwin Stern in the Appellate Division and then Judge Garrett Brown in the U.S. District Court.

Fast forward to 2018. The Goldsteins are the parents of two girls and Stacy is a partner at Riemer & Braunstein, a finance boutique firm in New York. Jed, formerly an associate at Gibbons, owns his own legal recruiting company, South Mountain Legal Search.

One of the perks of being married to another lawyer is having a spouse who understands your job, she said. “As a working mom trying to balance family and my career Jed deeply understands the demands of being a lawyer and he is such a committed partner in making our life work,” she said. “I don’t think he would really get the challenges if he had not practiced himself.”

Stacy’s advice to other couples, “Don’t dismiss the thought of having a relationship in law school. Jed and I have such a solid foundation built on almost 2.5 years of seeing each other every day. Sure, studying for the bar while living with your fiancé may not be ideal, but we quickly learned how to manage the stress, and we did both pass.”

Jed reflected, “Though I very much enjoyed my time at Rutgers Law School, meeting Stacy was far and away the best part of it – for obvious reasons – and also, because she’s really smart, and helped me get through half of my classes!”
Rutgers Law Co-Dean Ronald Chen Launches Public Service Internship Fund

When Ronald Chen, Co-Dean of Rutgers Law School in Newark, steps down in June to return to being a full-time professor, he will leave behind a legacy that will help future students gain valuable experience in public interest law.

Chen has started a Public Service Internship Fund that will endow stipends for Rutgers Law students who work on internships in the public sector. Pledging $100,000 of his own money to start the fund, it will pay $5,000 to law students who have “shown merit and a history of overcoming challenges to enable the student to pursue a summer placement promoting social justice or public interest law in government service or for a public interest legal organization.” With Chen’s gift and the support of his classmates, the fund already has pledges for $175,000, which will establish the first internships this summer.

“So many of our students come to Rutgers passionate about a career in public interest law and advocacy. I want this internship to give them the opportunity to take their first steps at pursuing that passion, especially for those who need some support in order to accept a position that may give excellent experience although unpaid,” said Chen.

In January, a group of 40 alumni who attended law school with Chen came together to honor his service and to support the new fund at a reception at the home of his classmate, Nader Tavakoli ’83, co-chaired by Robert Friedman ’83.

Though he has spent the last 18 years as a vice dean, acting dean, dean, and co-dean at Rutgers Law, Chen also has a long history of public advocacy work as an attorney. He is a long time member of the National Board of the ACLU and was recently elected as its General Counsel.

He served as Public Advocate for the State of New Jersey from 2006-2010. As the Public Advocate, he championed eminent domain reform, voter rights, affordable housing, affordable energy for ratepayers, and protection against childhood lead poisoning. And at Rutgers, he actively protected constitutional rights working with students in the school’s Constitutional Rights Clinic.

Co-Dean Chen graduated from Rutgers Law School in 1983 and was a member of the school’s Minority Student Program, and for a short time, also served as the program’s acting dean. Tavakoli said, “I’ve known Ron since pretty much the day we started. We shared an office as editors of the Law Review. Ron was incredibly committed to school then and remained committed. He is the most loyal and passionate person at an institution with whom he’s had a relationship.”

Chen reflected on his time at Rutgers, “Those were known as the days of the People’s Electric Law School. We were passionately committed to use the law as social change. We still are.” In the years since, Chen said the school’s commitment to advocacy work has continued. Its legal clinics help clients in the community, in addition to pro bono and public interest programs, and its faculty-led academic centers focus on public scholarship.

To support the Ronald K. Chen Public Service Internship Fund, go to the law school’s Giving Page: go.rutgers.edu/maeek74v. Select the choice “Other” and write in “Chen Public Service Internship F760537.”
Remembering Professor Fred Chandler

Fred Chandler, a beloved professor and colleague at Rutgers Law School's Camden location and a scholar of federal income tax law, passed away at his home in Houston on Dec. 18, 2017. He was 91.

Chandler made a lasting impact on students in his 32 years teaching at Rutgers Law, inspiring some to pursue a career in tax law. Dallas tax law attorney Don Lan enrolled in Chandler’s federal income tax course as a 1L and was hooked.

“Fred not only made the course interesting, he was able to explain complex tax concepts simply, and I realized fairly quickly that I had an aptitude for tax law,” says Lan, RLAW’77.

In addition to teaching at Rutgers Law’s Camden location, Chandler also taught tax law in China.

While in China, he researched its developing legal system, and after he returned to the United States, he taught a course on the topic at Rutgers.

Faculty have fond memories of Chandler. In the 1980s, Bob Williams began teaching the Migrant Farmworker Litigation Clinic, which gave law students an opportunity to handle cases representing members of a migrant farm workers union to protect union organizing activities.

Williams, an expert in state constitutional law and the director of the Center for State Constitutional Studies at Rutgers University–Camden, says “Tex,” as he was called by his colleagues at the law school, went to Williams’ office and gave him a vote of confidence for offering the controversial course.

“He said to me, ‘Bob, I am so proud of the work that you are doing for those farm workers. It is extremely important work, and you have my complete support, and I will help you in any way I can.’”

Chandler’s influence on Rutgers Law remains today. In honor of Chandler, Lan formed the Fred Chandler Scholarship at the school in 2013 to provide financial assistance to students.

“I wanted to find a way to express my thanks, admiration, and frankly, love, for Fred in a way that would hopefully outlive both of us,” says Lan.

Read the full obituary here. ▪

Longtime Clinic Administrative Assistant Retires

Mary Ann Purvenas, left, administrative assistant for the law school’s clinical programs, retired after over 25 years of service. The Camden location held a retirement lunch for Mary Ann, where her long career at the law school clinic was celebrated.
Alumni Updates

To submit an update, please email alumni@law.rutgers.edu

Gregory S. Bergman ’14 has joined as an associate in the General Litigation group at Blank Rome LLP, in Philadelphia, PA.

Kevin Glenn ’89 has become a partner at King & Spalding, in New York, NY.

Andrés Acebo ’11 has become a partner at DeCotiis, FitzPatrick, Cole & Giblin LLP, in Teaneck, NJ. He was also named one of the Top Lawyers Under 40 by the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Laurie Carter ’93 will be inducted to the Clarion University Sports Hall of Fame.

Steven Andreacchi ’12 has become a partner at Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, in Westfield, NJ.

Andrew R. Wolf ’95 has been awarded the Cirafesi Chancery Practice Award by the Middlesex County Bar Association.

Daris B. Jackson ’13 has been appointed to serve on the LGBT Policy Task Force to the Bronx Borough President.

Robert J. Menendez ’11 has become Counsel at Lowenstein Sandler LLP.

Matheu D. Nunn ’07 has been sworn in as the Deputy Mayor of Morris Township.

Robert L. Ransom ’16 has become an associate at Archer & Greiner P.C., in Haddonfield, NJ.

Jordan D. Weinreich ’05 has become a partner at Sherman Wells Sylvester & Stamelman LLP, in Florham Park, NJ.

Edward J. Sholinsky ’07 has been appointed to serve as Vice President of the Board of Directors for Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Pennsylvania.

Matthew J. Petrozzilo ’15 has joined as an associate Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, in New York.

Wali W. Rushdan II ’12 has been appointed to serve on the Delaware State Board of Education.

Minority Student Program Holds Pre-Law Diversity Conference

On Saturday, January 20, the Camden location hosted a Pre-Law Diversity Conference for undergraduate students considering a career in law. During the conference, over 70 students had an opportunity to attend a law school lecture, learn about LSAT preparation and hear from Rutgers Law students, faculty and staff about the law school admissions process and experience. Hon. Victoria Pratt ’98, former Newark Municipal Chief Judge and current Rutgers Law professor delivered the keynote address. At the end of the conference, attendees also had an opportunity to network with practicing attorneys. This event marked the first time any law school in the Delaware Valley hosted such a conference.
Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE TO
THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION’S

33rd Annual Spring Auction

MARCH 1, 2018

TICKETS ON SALE IN FEBRUARY

5:00 PM - ALUMNI RECEPTION
6:30 PM - AUCTION

RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL
123 WASHINGTON STREET
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102

RUTGERS.NEWARK.PILF@GMAIL.COM
Tickets available here

The Association of Latin American Law Students Invites You To

Fiesta con Sabor

Join us as we recognize the Honorable Chief Judge Jose L. Linares, Lillian Plata, Guillermo Artiles, and Luis Díaz for their commitment to supporting Hispanic law students and the greater Hispanic community.

March 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM
Rutgers Law School - Newark
222 Washington Street
Newark, NJ 07102

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities please email alals.rutgers@gmail.com or purchase online at www.tinyurl.com/fiestaconsabor.

All proceeds support the ALALS Scholarship Fund for incoming Hispanic law students.

Tickets available here

RUTGERS

Giving Day

3.21.18

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Keep in Touch with Rutgers Law School

To keep you informed, Rutgers Law School needs your current home and business contacts.

UPDATE INFORMATION