

# RUTGERS LAW ALUMNI NEWS

JULY 2017

## LAW SCHOOL CO-DEAN SEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT

In keeping with the planned evolution of the now united Rutgers Law School, Rutgers University – Newark Chancellor Nancy Cantor and Provost Jerome D. Williams, in consultation with Rutgers University – Camden Chancellor Phoebe Haddon, have announced the search for Co-Dean of Rutgers Law School-Newark. With that, current Co-Dean Ronald K. Chen has moved into the final phases of his original plan to return to the faculty, having helped guide Rutgers’ two law schools sagely and skillfully through the merger into one; he will remain in office through the transition.



Co-chairs of the search committee announced by Williams are Jan Lewis, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and

Sciences-Newark and Professor of History, and Twila Perry, Professor of Law at Rutgers Law School-Newark.

The committee includes faculty members from both Newark and Camden, as well as alumni and a student: Carlos Ball, Distinguished Professor of Law and Judge Frederick Lacey Scholar; Elise Boddie, Professor of Law, Henry Rutgers University Professor and Robert L. Carter Scholar; Stuart Deutsch, Former Dean, University Professor and Willard Heckel Scholar; Jon Dubin, Associate Dean for Clinical Education, Professor of Law and Alfred C. Clapp Public Service Scholar; Susan Feathers, Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest; David Harris, Distinguished Alumnus ('79), Firm of Lowenstein, Sandler PC (ret. 2017); Suzanne Kim, Professor of Law and Judge Denny Chin Scholar; Tony Martinez, 3rd year student; Kim Mutcherson, Vice Dean and Professor of Law, Camden; Oliver Quinn, Distinguished Alumnus ('75), Chair of RU-N Advisory Board; Ann Marie Scalia, Distinguished Alumnus ('93), Senior Deputy General Counsel, NYC Department of Social Services; and Rick Swedloff, Professor of Law, Camden.

Selection of a search firm to work with the committee is in its final stages.

It is anticipated that review of candidates will take place beginning in fall 2017, with the goal of announcing the appointment of a new dean by the end of the academic year. ■

### In This Issue

Alumni Spotlight: James DiGiulio - 2	Public Interest Fellows - 7	Alumni Updates - 9
Outstanding Graduates - 3-5	Alumnus Supreme Court Victory - 8	Upcoming CLE Programs - 10
Fellowships in Labor Law - 6	CLiME Annual Report - 8	

## JAMES DIGIULIO '06 NAMED CHIEF COUNSEL TO GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE



Rutgers Law School alumnus James DiGiulio has been appointed chief counsel to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

DiGiulio will serve as Christie's top legal advisor through the last six months of his final term in office before the winner of the November gubernatorial election takes office in January 2018.

DiGiulio, who had previously served as senior counsel for Christie, is

returning to the administration to serve as Christie's top legal advisor after working in private practice for about three months at O'Toole Scivo in Cedar Grove, N.J.

A 2006 graduate of Rutgers Law, DiGiulio also earned a master of laws degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

DiGiulio replaces Gregory Acquaviva, who is now a New Jersey Superior Court judge. ■

### SUMMERING IN THE HAMPTONS?

You are cordially invited to enjoy conversation and cocktails at the home of Judie and Len Ackerman RC '62, LLB '64, 290 Georgica Road, East Hampton, on Saturday, August 5, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Len is a committed Rutgers alumnus who is founder and senior partner of Ackerman, O'Brien, Pachman & Brown, in East Hampton. Len and Judie are welcoming alumni of all Rutgers schools who have residences in eastern Suffolk County to mingle and to hear Peter March, Executive Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, speak on the topic of "The New State of the State University of New Jersey."

There is also much to talk about with the formation of Rutgers Law School. Our merger is now two years old. Associate Dean for Advancement Robert Steinbaum will be attending and looks forward to meeting alumni from both predecessor law schools to talk informally about what's happening at the "new" school. Please RSVP by July 24 to Maxine Sowinski at 848.932.6450 or [development@sas.rutgers.edu](mailto:development@sas.rutgers.edu).

## MEET SOME OF RUTGERS LAW'S OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

**Sami Jameel's** work with international refugees and prison detainees has led him to have a personal ethic of compassion in the law. "I hope to be judicious and empathetic to all whom I encounter in my career," said the new Rutgers Law graduate, who will serve as an Assistant District Attorney in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office.

While at Rutgers Law, Jameel, a 27-year-old native of Virginia, founded and co-directed the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), a student-led pro bono project dedicated to serving the legal needs of asylum seekers. Started at Yale Law School in 2008, Jameel founded the Rutgers chapter of IRAP in 2015 under the guidance of Susan Feathers, Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest.



Sami Jameel, left, graduated with his fiancée, Bisma Muhammed.

Through a partnership with the law firm Duane Morris, Jameel and other members of the assistance project have been providing legal representation to Iraqi and Afghan nationals who provided services to the U.S. military and are seeking to resettle in the United States. But that's not the only experience Jameel had working with international clients as a law student.

As a Kinoy-Stavis Fellow, Jameel worked on a case with Professor Jeena Shah and the International Human Rights Clinic, representing individuals who were detained and treated inhumanely at the Abu Ghraib Prison. He went to Richmond, Virginia to observe the arguments in the case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. As a member of the Constitutional Rights Clinic, he also worked on the Right to Heal Coalition's effort to clean up toxic combat materials in Iraq and advocated for recognition of harms suffered by veterans and civilians after the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

He credited Professors Jim Pope, George Thomas, and Shah for influencing and supporting him during law school and said he'll never forget taking Professor Brian Neary's Intensive Criminal Trial Practice Course for six Saturdays in a row. For the final exam, the students conducted a full-length mock murder trial.

"Professor Neary took the time to work with each individual student's weakness in a way that inspired each of us to be more confident," Jameel recalled. "By the end of the semester, I felt like a veteran trial lawyer and conducted my final trial with confidence."

Jameel also interned with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, which inspired him to pursue an internship with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, which led him to his post-graduation career. He said when he got to law school, he never thought he'd practice criminal law, but learned, "I should never rule something out until I try it."

He said he chose to attend Rutgers Law because he wanted to be at "a big market law school that had a rich tradition of promoting public service." When he got here, Jameel said he didn't know anyone, but made his first friends through the Minority Student Program. One of his new friends introduced him to another MSP student during his first semester. That student, Bisma Muhammed '17, became his fiancée last year and the two law graduates plan to be married this summer after taking the bar exam.

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATES, CONT.



**Jeanne Kabulis** always had an interest in law, so after spending more than 20 years teaching French and Spanish, she decided to pursue a law degree.

Originally from Westerly, R.I., Kabulis and her family moved from Fairfax County, Va., to Wynnewood, Pa., for her husband's career. "Changing careers in midlife involves risk-taking and loss," says Kabulis. "As soon as I started to consider that I could realize my dream of studying law, there was no turning back. It was a watershed moment."

Although she had originally planned to find a teaching position in the Philadelphia area and save money to start law school in the fall of 2015, she decided to enter Rutgers Law School in 2014 because the school offered her a scholarship.

"I've always known that my skill set would be better suited to a career in the law," Kabulis says. "As much as I loved teaching language, I wanted to do something impactful,

something meaningful—something that would serve vulnerable individuals who are unable to advocate for themselves."

Through Kabulis' courses and pro bono work, she has developed interests in employment, disability, and health law. After spending a summer as a Maida Public Interest Fellow and a semester in the Immigrant Justice Clinic at Rutgers Law, she's also interested in immigration law.

"I love the complexity of immigration law," says Kabulis. "It involves federal law, international law, and sometimes state law when juveniles are involved. It also dovetails nicely with my foreign-language background."

Kabulis had the opportunity to use both French and Spanish while working in the Law School's Immigrant Justice Clinic to communicate with clients from West Africa, Central America, and Mexico. She also translated documents such as vital records, police reports, and retainer agreements.

A French scholar with a Ph.D. in French literature and civilization, Kabulis draws from her background as a linguist, researcher, and author when addressing legal issues.

"I have an extensive background in two foreign languages, experience with the target cultures, and textual interpretation that I put to good use whenever I interact with a client, construe a statute, or develop an argument," says Kabulis. "My identity as teacher and researcher remains inseparable from my identity as lawyer and constantly informs my thought processes."

In the spring of Kabulis' second year at Rutgers Law, her 20-year marriage broke down. It was two weeks before finals, and at the time, she was carrying a heavy course load, and was a staff editor for the Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy at the law school.

With the support of her family and the Rutgers Law community, including Angela Baker, associate dean of students; Jill Friedman, associate dean for pro bono and public interest; and professors Katie Eyer and Joanne Gottesman, Kabulis says she was able to meet all of her obligations. "My transition from teacher to lawyer and from chronic dissatisfaction to self-determination was a veritable team effort," Kabulis says. "Rutgers-Camden became my sanctuary as well as my school." Kabulis' first job after graduation is working as a judicial clerk in the Civil Division at the Superior Court of Camden County.

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATES, CONT.

When **Alaina Thomas** was recognized with a Community Service Award at the Minority Student Program Banquet earlier this spring, Assistant Dean Yvette Bravo-Weber read off a long list of service organizations that Thomas had been involved with during law school, showcasing Thomas's passion for social justice.

Thomas did everything from working as an intern for Essex-Newark Legal Services, where she helped clients who had been wrongfully terminated, to interning at the American Civil Liberties Union, researching police body camera policies.

She also worked for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City, conducting research on government misconduct and racial justice cases, and this spring was a legal intern at the Urban Cooperative Enterprise Legal Center in Newark, researching federal and state laws about prison cooperatives.

Within the law school, Thomas spent three semesters working in the International Human Rights Clinic on the Movement 4 Black Lives Team. She said she attended community meetings and spoke with local organizers about topics that ranged from housing to treating crime with social workers instead of the police.

"Collaborating with the community through my clinic work has been my most memorable experience in law school," she said.

"The task of fostering relationships has allowed me to meet and have these transformative conversations with dozens of

organizers and activists. This experience has enriched my legal education in ways no class or text book ever could."

Thomas credited Professor Jeena Shah, who directs the clinic, as someone who not only inspired her but taught the "most impactful" class she had at law school. She also chaired the National Lawyers' Guild chapter and said she collaborated with other students on initiatives to increase diversity at the law school. Thomas said she got to know Susan Feathers, Assistant Dean of Pro Bono and Public Interest, when she became a Marsha Wenk Fellow and said she mentored her when she had doubts about coming to law school.

"As a Marsha Wenk Fellow, she made a vital contribution to the fellows program, and spearheaded a vast array of service-learning projects and programs, including Diversity Matters: Fisher II and Beyond; the Art of Protest; and the Annual NLG Awards Dinner," Feathers said of Thomas. "Her highly collaborative, community-based approach to her work has also enabled her to make a vital contribution to the law school's efforts to deepen our commitment to creating a culture of service, diversity, and inclusion."

Thomas, who is originally from East Orange, graduated from Montclair State University and previously interned at a non-profit in Newark before attending law school. She said working with community organizations on issues of economic justice is something she wants to do in her future legal career.

"I think student involvement outside of the classroom is an essential part of having a good, well-rounded law school experience," she said. "Students should be encouraged to engage not only within law school, but also in the city. It is the relationships I've built working with other students, faculty, and community members that have benefitted me the most during my time here." ■



## TWO RUTGERS LAW STUDENTS AWARDED FELLOWSHIPS TO WORK IN LABOR LAW

Two Rutgers Law students are spending the summer at public interest labor law fellowships thanks to the Peggy Browning Fund.

Will Campbell '18 is working in Washington D.C. at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters where he is part of the legal team of about a dozen attorneys. He said he's been writing memos, working on arbitration and hopes to gain experience in employer negotiations before the summer is over.

At Rutgers Law in Newark, Campbell is a member of the Rutgers Labor and Employment Law Society and one of the editors of the Rutgers Race & Law Review. He said he's long had an interest in labor law. After earning his bachelor's degree in labor studies at Rutgers New Brunswick, he also got a master's degree in Labor and Employment Relations from the Rutgers School of Management. "I'm getting practical experience with labor law and research and writing, which is so integral to any legal career," he said.

Last summer, Campbell, 23, completed another Browning Fellowship with the Sheet Metal Workers' Union Local 19, assisting with prevailing wage enforcement in the Delaware Valley.



Daniel Dowdy '18, is the other Browning Fellowship winner. A student at Rutgers Law in Camden, Dowdy is spending his summer with Previant Law Firm S.C., a labor firm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he is part of a team of seven other labor attorneys. "Most of my time is spent representing labor unions," he said. "Unionism has long been a value to this country and continues to be so."

Dowdy, 28, has put his passion for social justice into action. He is president of the National Lawyers' Guild chapter at Rutgers-Camden, a student leader of the Voters' Rights Project, director of the group of Rutgers Law School students providing pro bono work at the Pennsylvania Innocence Project, a staff editor of the Rutgers Journal of Law & Religion and will be an Eagleton Fellow in the 2017-2018 academic year.

While at law school, Dowdy has had a diverse array of experiences – from helping eligible incarcerated persons to vote to getting published in a journal on the subject of employment protections for followers of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster. He is pursuing his interest of politics and will be an extern in the New Jersey Senate Majority Office in the fall.

"I chose Rutgers Law because it is very clearly the highest level of legal education any aspiring attorney can get at the best value," he said. "Overall I could not be happier with my choice to come to Rutgers Law. I am a better person because of it and my career will exist and thrive on the launch pad given to me by Rutgers Law."

According to its website, the Peggy Browning Fellowship Program provides stipends to law students who dedicate their summer to advancing the cause of workers' rights by working for labor unions, worker centers, labor-related not-for-profit organizations, union-side law firms and other nonprofit organizations. The 10-week summer fellowship program is available to first and second-year law student who intend to consider labor law as a career. The Peggy Browning Fund will be visiting both Rutgers Law campuses in the fall to make presentations about labor law and the fellowships. ■

## THREE STUDENTS WILL WORK ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY-BASED LAW AND POLICY AS PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWS

Three students have been named Public Interest fellows for the Rutgers Center for Gender, Sexuality, Law and Policy (CGSLP) and will work on interdisciplinary research involving gender and sexuality-based equality in law and policy. The new student fellows are: Amanda Kronemeyer '19, Christina LaBruno '19, and Heather McLinn '19.

The students were appointed by CGSLP and the Eric R. Neisser Program, which oversees public interest career advising, service-learning projects, and public interest fellowships. Kronemeyer will focus primarily on expanding the LGBTQ Legal Education and Outreach Project, through which, the public service program trains and recruits law students and pro bono attorneys who provide a legal educational program for the LGBTQ community in Newark. This summer, she is working at a full-time summer internship at the NYC based Transcend Legal, a non-profit devoted to providing health care and legal assistance to transgender clients.

"I felt that I could use my experience and law school education to further help this marginalized group," said Kronemeyer, who is active in the LGBGQ Caucus at the law school.

McLinn said she is deeply committed to CGSLP's mission and said she hopes that through her work, she is able to assist in reducing homophobia, misogyny, and racism, "I wanted to become a fellow so I could conduct holistic research on relevant policy issues." She is spending her summer as an intern at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, which provides legal services to low-income people of color who identify on the gender spectrum.

LaBruno, a leader in If/When/How, a national reproductive rights movement, is excited to work with CGSLP on initiatives including those on reproductive rights, "I want to work to make sure everyone, regardless of their income, sexual orientation or gender identity, can decide when and how to raise a family."

Jamie DiNicola '18, along with Taylor Brownell '17 and Adam Herpolsheimer '18, recently completed a year as CGSLP public interest fellows. DiNicola spent part of his year researching LGBT sex education policies and incarceration issues. "This is work that directly affects people," he said. "It is not simply theoretical or academic work."

Professor Suzanne Kim, the center's faculty director said, "I am thrilled to welcome our talented new fellows to CGSLP. They will play a critical role in the center's research, policy, and programming initiatives." Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest Susan Feathers, who assisted in designing the LGBTQ Legal Education and Outreach Project and the CGSLP Fellowship Program, said she is inspired by the fellows, "The incoming class of fellows each have a unique and rare blend of experience that will enable them to make a vital contribution to the CGSLP's policy initiatives, while also being engaged in hands on advocacy." ■



Left to right: Heather McLinn '19, Christina LaBruno '19, and Amanda Kronemeyer '19

**If you would like to make a gift to the Eric R. Neisser Program or any other program at Rutgers Law School, either now, over the course of the next five years, or as part of your estate plan, please contact Robin Todd (Camden), 856.225.6682 or [robin.todd@law.rutgers.edu](mailto:robin.todd@law.rutgers.edu) or Robert Steinbaum (Newark), 973.353.3063, or [robert.steinbaum@law.rutgers.edu](mailto:robert.steinbaum@law.rutgers.edu).**

## ALUMNUS JOHN CONNELL WINS HISTORIC U.S. SUPREME COURT FREE SPEECH CASE

John Connell RLAW'86, of the Archer law firm in Haddonfield, N.J., successfully argued the First Amendment case representing musician Simon Tam in *Lee v. Tam*.

The Supreme Court ruled that Tam's Portland-based Asian-American rock band will be permitted to trademark the band's name, "The Slants," which is a term that's long been used as an anti-Asian slur.

Connell made the hour-long oral argument before the Supreme Court on Jan. 18. A partner and chair of both the appellate advocacy and communications law groups at Archer, Connell and the firm represented the band pro bono. His colleagues Ronald Coleman and Joel MacMull litigated the case in the lower courts.

Read more in this Philadelphia Inquirer story [here](#). ■



## Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017

This year CLiME hosted a national conference for the **Trauma, Schools and Poverty Project** and embarked on a new phase to advocate a state legislative strategy for trauma-informed institutional practices; we commenced engagement on a University-wide to project to study **equitable growth strategies** with the City of Newark; welcomed **Equity + Opportunity Fellow** Jennifer McGee-Avila, an Urban Health doctoral student, focused on housing, segregation and HIV; grew our body of original **scholarship** with 15 new papers; engaged **Senior Researcher**, Cristina Garmendia and implemented an improved **communications strategy**, including the launch of our blog, [www.endinequality.com](http://www.endinequality.com).

[View the Full Report](#)

Visit the CLiME blog [www.endinequality.com](http://www.endinequality.com) and website [www.clime.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.clime.newark.rutgers.edu)

## ALUMNI UPDATES

**James DiGiulio '06** has been named as Gov. Chris Christie's chief counsel.

**Lloyd Freeman '07** has become the President of the Garden State Bar Association for its 2017-2018 year.

**Joseph M. Hayes '05** has joined the firm of Flaster Greenberg, in Cherry Hill, NJ as a Shareholder in the Corporate and Tax Departments.

**Eric J. Taylor '04** won the Democratic Primary to be the next Magisterial District Judge for Wyomissing and West Reading in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

**Gary Barrera '04** has joined the firm of Wendel Rosen as a partner in the firm's Insurance Practice Group.

**Suzette T. Rodriguez '03** has joined the firm of Blank Rome LLP, in Princeton, NJ, as Of Counsel in the Labor and Employment group.

**Laura F. Segal '15** has joined the firm of Gevurtz Menashe, in Portland, OR, as an associate.

**Julie M. Murphy '07** has joined the firm of Hyland Levin LLP, in Marlton, NJ, as Counsel.

**Sobande Afolabi '04** was presented with the Roger M. Yancey Trailblazing Award by the Garden State Bar Association.

**Alberto Rivas '85** has been named Assignment Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Middlesex Vicinage.

**Sascha Rips '15** was recently named Colonias Team Manager at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid in Brownsville, Texas.

**Douglas L. Heinold '96**, a Partner in the firm Raymond Coleman Heinold, LLP, has become President of the Burlington County Bar Association for the 2016-17 term.

To submit an update, please email [alumni@law.rutgers.edu](mailto:alumni@law.rutgers.edu)

### CGSLP SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

The Rutgers Center for Gender, Sexuality, Law and Policy has released its Summer 2017 newsletter, which is [available here](#). You can also follow them on Twitter @RutgersCGSLP

#### RUTGERS LAW ALUMNI NEWS

**Liz Moore**  
Director of Communications  
[e.moore@law.rutgers.edu](mailto:e.moore@law.rutgers.edu)

**Mike Starrett '15**  
Alumni & Development Associate  
[Michael.starrett@law.rutgers.edu](mailto:Michael.starrett@law.rutgers.edu)

## RUTGERS INSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION UPCOMING CLE COURSES

For a full schedule of courses and to register, please visit: <https://ipe.rutgers.edu>

### **Bridge the Gap: Ethics and Law Practice Management Essentials**

Friday, July 21, 2017 | 9:30 AM - 1:45 PM | Newark  
CLE: NJ: 4.8 (incl. 3.0 ethics) | NY: 4.5 (incl. 3.0 ethics) | PA: 4.0 (incl. 2.5 ethics)

### **Bridge the Gap: Ethics and Law Practice Management Essentials**

Friday, August 25, 2017 | 9:30 AM - 1:45 PM | Camden  
CLE: NJ: 4.8 (incl. 3.0 ethics) | NY: 4.5 (incl. 3.0 ethics) | PA: 4.0 (incl. 2.5 ethics)

### **Governance of Privately-Held Corporations and Limited Liability Companies**

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 | 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM | Newark  
CLE: NJ: 2.2 | NY: 2.0 | PA: 1.5

### **Municipal Court Practice in New Jersey**

Saturday, October 14, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Camden  
CLE: NJ: 4.6 | NY: 4.5 | PA: 3.5

### **Intellectual Property Law Overview: How to Incorporate IP Law Into Your Practice**

Monday, October 23, 2017 | 6:00 PM - 8:10 PM | Newark  
CLE: NJ: 2.5 | NY: 2.5 | PA: 2.0

### **Un-arrange a Marriage: An Introduction to Family Law with a Focus on Forced Marriage**

Friday, November 10, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 4:45 PM | Newark  
CLE: NJ: 8.1 (incl. 1.2 ethics) | NY: 8.0 (incl. 1.0 ethics) | PA: 6.5 (incl. 1.0 ethics)

## CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE

To update your contact information please do so at the below link.

[UPDATE INFORMATION](#)

## SAVE THE DATE: RUTGERS LAW MINORITY STUDENT PROGRAM'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN 2018

Rutgers Law School celebrates the 50th anniversary of its pioneering Minority Student Program on Saturday, April 14, 2018. Created in 1968, the MSP is a nationally recognized model for educating and preparing students of color and disadvantaged students of all races for a legal career and for diversifying the legal profession.

Jeffrey Hsi '97, a former MSP night student, now an intellectual property lawyer with Boston's Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, has made a leadership gift of \$250,000, launching a \$1.5 million campaign to fund first-year summer public interest internships.

Further details will be provided in future issues of this newsletter.