Letter from the President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the 2016 year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday season. It is easy to get caught up in the commercial part of this time of year, but I urge all of us to be sure to take time and reflect on all of the wonderful intangible gifts we have been provided - even in this time of turmoil and strife. Let us all continue to walk with a purpose and provide service to those who need access, an underlying mission of the Law School.

I also want to give a big thank you to all of you who attended the Annual Gala at 15 Washington Street on November 9th. Jane Hanson ’84, Lucinda Long, ’84, and Mark Angelson ’75 were honored for their incredible service and achievements. Two students were also recognized, Robert Papazian ’17 was awarded the Alumni Student Recognition Award, and Farah Rahaman ’17 received the student Fannie Bear Besser Public Interest Award. These students are our next line of leaders and we congratulate you again on your achievements and look forward to your future success.

If you would like to become more involved with the Alumni Association, you may reach me at ochitou@gatewayhealthplan.com. It is a great way to come back home, especially if you have been away for a while.

Regardless of what you celebrate, on behalf of the Rutgers School of Law Newark-Alumni Association, I wish you all a Happy Holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Osato F. Chitou

Alumni Reunions

Mark your calendars! Based on the success of this year’s 50th and 25th reunions, the law school will be holding a reunion on April 28, 2017 for the classes of 10 (1957, 1962, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007). The schedule for the day will include: 2 CLE courses (including 1 Ethics, and will be made fun so that non-lawyer guests can enjoy them as well), lunch, a panel discussion with current students, a tour of the new law school, and a cocktail reception in the Great Hall at the "old law school" at 15 Washington. After the cocktail reception, everyone will split into their individual classes for dinner. More information will be available in the coming months.
Rutgers Law School National Trial Team took first place in the New York Regionals of the American Bar Association’s National Trial Advocacy Competition held on November 19-20 at the Federal Courthouse in Manhattan. This is the first year the Rutgers Moot Court Board National Team participated in this competition, sponsored by the ABA Section on Labor and Employment Law.

The team of Immanuel Adeola, Matthew Capone, Melissa Taustine, and Steven Tegrar came out on top in a field of 16 schools, and defeating teams from Fordham Law and Brooklyn Law, earning a place in a final national round in New Orleans in January.

“Rutgers Law should be proud of the team’s success. Their representation of Rutgers Law has been exceptional, not only by demonstrating extraordinary trial advocacy skills, but also exhibiting the utmost professionalism,” said Associate Dean Andrew Rossner, who is the team’s coach and faculty advisor to the Moot Court Board. “Their success is not only an individual achievement; it is an outgrowth of the upgrading of our Moot Court Board advocacy program over the past four years.”

“This weekend was a wonderful opportunity for our trial team to gain experience and to represent Rutgers Law to the best of our ability,” said Tegrar. “I am tremendously proud of our team and the countless hours spent in preparation for this competition, including Sunday practices. The time and effort that our team has put in paid off this weekend as our team demonstrated an impressive understanding of the Federal Rules of Evidence and trial presentation skills.”

According to Rossner, the team conducted full trials in their preliminary round on Saturday, winning those rounds and being one of the four teams that advanced to the semi-final round. The team won its trial in the semifinal round against Fordham, advancing to the final round. The final round trial, between the Rutgers team and Brooklyn Law, was before Judge Andrew Peck, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of New York on Sunday afternoon.

The Rutgers National Team beat Brooklyn, winning first place, thus becoming the New York Regional team to earn a place in the National Rounds in New Orleans in January. The team came out on top in a field of 16 area law schools. The judges noted our team members’ exceptional advocacy skills, mastery of
evidence, preparation, creativity and professionalism.

Students argued a case involving a transit authority train operator who claimed a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act because his employer would not allow him to bring a service dog to work with him, though he allegedly had PTSD. The team had to argue both sides of the case during the competition.

"I offer my heartiest congratulations to the Rutgers Law School National Trial Team, their performance was exemplary in this past weekend’s competition," said Rutgers Law School Co-dean Ronald K. Chen. I am especially proud because it is the first time our National Team participated in this particular competition, which focused on labor and employment law. Their hard work and preparation paid off and I wish them future success in the nationals in January."

The Moot Court Board’s National Team is selected through a competitive process each spring. Second year students who are selected for the team enroll in an intensive program to develop trial advocacy and evidence skills, including coordinated classes on Evidence and Trial Advocacy. In addition to the classes, the team members practice several times a week, receiving individualized feedback from faculty and trial attorneys from the bar who volunteer their time. “The enhanced training program allows the students to develop keen trial advocacy skills and master the use of the rules of evidence at trial,” said Rossner. “Rutgers team members gain skills and confidence that enable them not only to prepare and present a persuasive case theory and the evidence to support it, but also to deal with the exigencies that inevitably arise at trial. I am convinced that it is the latter skill that distinguished our team from the other excellent field of teams at the competition.”

The National Trial team had practice support from the Rutgers Moot Court Board, alumni and practicing attorneys from the bar and the NJ Chapter of the National Employment Lawyers Association [NELA]. “We are so thankful for the bar’s support of the team. Attorneys Rutherford Livengood and NELA members, Brian Curley and Evan Goldman were generous with their time and provided invaluable guidance to our team as they prepared for the competition,” said Rossner. “As our Moot Court Board program has grown to provide more opportunities for students to compete in mock trial, appellate moot court and other types of competitions, we have found wonderful support from members of the bar with specialized expertise and an interest in helping our students grow as lawyers.”

"We worked really hard to prepare and we are beyond thrilled to have won, said team member Melissa Taustine. “In this instance, I really believe it was as much about our preparation as it was about our attitude walking into the competition. We were . . . just wanting to have fun, get some practice and enhance our skill. We didn’t have prepared scripts so we were able to adapt and change our tactics in each trial.” Capone added, “Adaptability and an unconventional approach to both the problem and our general presentation won us the support of the jurors and ultimately the competition.”

Tegrar said, “Being accepted onto, and part of, the national trial team has been one of the most rewarding experiences of law school thus far. I am very grateful to work with such a talented group in a field of law that I find so enjoyable and exciting, trial advocacy. Our team looks forward to competing in the next round of the competition in New Orleans with the hope of bringing a national championship home to Rutgers.”

Other team members include Maria McKee, Nathania Reyes, the current Moot Court Board co-chairs, and Vincent Garcia will compete in February at another competition in Philadelphia, at the Regionals of the Texas Young Lawyers Association National Mock Trial Competition.
Three graduates of Rutgers Law School and two current students were honored for their service and achievement at this year’s Newark Alumni Association Gala, held in Newark on November 9.

Jane Hanson ’84, the executive director of Partners for Women & Justice, a non-profit that offers legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, was given the Fannie Bear Besser Award for Public Service.

Lucinda Long ’84, senior vice president and general counsel of Valley National Bank, received the Distinguished Alumna Award.

Mark Angelson ’75, chairman of the Institute of International Education Scholar Rescue Fund, and a member of the Rutgers University Board of Governors, was recognized with the first-ever Alumni Leadership Award. This award is given by the merged Rutgers Law School and will rotate each year between a Newark and Camden alumnus/a at the annual gala of the respective alumni association.

Rutgers Law-Newark Alumni Association President Osato Chitou talked about the mission of the law school, “We are a voice for the voiceless, an advocate for the people that have had no name.” She credited the Minority Student Program, created at the law school in the 1960s with helping to diversify the bar in the state of New Jersey.

Co-deans Ronald K. Chen from Newark and Michael T. Cahill from Camden greeted the guests and Chen noted that the gala was being held at 15 Washington, the former home of the law school, which recently was reopened after a multi-million dollar renovation.

Two students were given awards by the Alumni Association. Robert “Bobby” Papazian ’17 was given the Alumni Student Recognition Award. He is the senior notes editor of the Law Review, co-founder of the Rutgers Law Runners’ Society, a student representative to the Academic Policy Committee, volunteers with the Hon. Morris Stern Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project and has interned with Justice Barry T. Albin of the New Jersey Supreme Court, and with Judge Jane Roth of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Farah Rahaman ’17 received the student Fannie Bear Besser Public Interest Award. She serves as the senior editor for the Rutgers Race & the Law Review, is a teaching fellow for the Minority Student Program, is an Equity & Opportunity Studies Fellow, and a member of the LRAP Board. She’s interned with the New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal justice, with the Juvenile Law Center and with the Essex County Public Defender’s Juvenile Section. She is a Kinoy/Stavis Public Interest Law Fellow and an Eagleton Raimondo Legislative Fellow.

Hanson said, “I remember fondly my years in law school. I like to say it was at Rutgers Law School Newark that I learned American history. It’s an institution that held us together and taught the importance of social justice.”

Long, who was a professor at Montclair State University, said she knew she’d be at home at Rutgers Law School, “Rutgers sounded like the perfect place for an old leftie.” She said the school welcomed “nontraditional” students including second-career students and women returning to work.

Angelson, who received a standing ovation, said Rutgers had “a culture of inclusion and collaboration” and noted how Rutgers University has become an anchor institution in Newark.

From left to right, honorees Lucinda Long ’84, Mark Angelson ’75, and Jane Hanson ’84
Rutgers Law students Adam Saunders and Amelia Lyte each won a $1,500 scholarship from the New Jersey Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association (NJTMA), in the Inaugural Honorable Rosemary Gambardella Scholarship Competition, which is based on a student's understanding and demonstration of bankruptcy law. Students, Claire Nielsen and Christine Armellino, also each won $1,000 scholarships as the runners-up.

Members of the NJTMA came to Rutgers Law School in Newark on November 17 to watch and participate in competition, which involved four students from Professor Chrystin Ondersma's bankruptcy class.

In the final round of the competition, the students were asked to present arguments in front of a panel of three competition judges that included Judge Rosemary Gambardella of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey, Steven Mitnick, Esq., a partner at SM Law PC, and Colleen Maker, Esq., an associate at Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP.

The students were given a mock case about a distressed clothing company that entered into a mail-order business in an attempt to turnaround the company, but ultimately filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The students acted as attorneys in the case, two arguing on behalf of the debtor clothing company and two arguing on behalf of a creditor sued by the debtor to recover preference payments.

During the competition, each group of two student attorneys adversaries was given 30 minutes to argue their case to and answer questions by the judges. After the presentations were over, Saunders and Lyte were awarded the winning scholarships by past NJTMA presidents Stephen B. Ravin, Esq., of Saul Ewing LLP and Nicholas B. Jalowski of Cambridge Financial Services LLC. The four students as well as three other contestants and Professor Ondersma were also given free memberships to NJTMA, whose members sponsored a networking reception after the event.

“The briefing and oral argument particularly forced me to learn a lot about preference payments and their potential defenses. I had to make sure that I was comfortable enough with the Code and relevant case law to answer the judicial panel's questions and respond to push back on the fly. Winning the competition was an honor, and I am tremendously appreciative of Professor Ondersma, the NJTMA, and Judge Gambardella for providing us with this amazing opportunity,” said Saunders.

NJTMA President Jane W. Mitnick said, “Education is at the very core of our association’s mission along with preparing future restructuring industry leaders. It is always exciting to see the next generation filled with such enthusiasm and the participating students were no exception.”

Professor Ondersma said the two winners were chosen from a field of seven original competitors, who were evaluated on written briefs prior to the competition. She credited the students with doing their own research, since much of the material had not yet been covered in her class when the competition began.
CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP

On Thursday, November 17, 2016, Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP and Rutgers Center for Gender, Sexuality Law and Policy with Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance co-hosted, “Celebrating Diversity in Leadership.” This panel discussion featured Mary Beth Hogan, Rutgers Law, ’90, Co-Chair of Litigation, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; Natalie R. Williams, Managing Director and General Counsel for Responsible Banking and Data, JP Morgan Chase & Co; and Jen Wong, Chief Operating Officer, Time Inc., and President, Digital, Time Inc., and was moderated by Suzanne A. Kim, Professor of Law and Judge Denny Chin Scholar, Rutgers Law School and Director, Rutgers Center for Gender, Sexuality, Law and Policy.

Panelists spoke about pipelines and pathways to leadership positions, sharing stories about their career. Discussion also included changes observed in diversity in leadership in various sectors and strategies for career development and accessing leadership opportunities. The conversation addressed the importance of role models and mentorship and how those relationships can benefit the mentor, mentee, and the culture of the workplace.

The event was open to Rutgers Law alumni and students. Alumni who are interested in future collaborations with the Center for Gender, Sexuality, Law and Policy should email the Center at cgslp@law.rutgers.edu.

RUTGERS GIVING DAY RESULTS

Thanks to your generosity, Rutgers Law School raised over $22,000 on a phenomenal Giving Day this year. The Newark campus alone raised almost $16,000 from 104 donors, an increase of 24% in dollars raised and 48 more donors than last year, ranking the law school 7th university-wide, out of 78 schools and programs. The money raised on Giving Day 2016 supports the law school’s scholarship fund, the Minority Student Program, and the law library. Students also participated and donated at a table set up in the law school’s lobby. This was Rutgers University’s second annual Giving Day, a day-long event held in connection with Giving Tuesday, a global giving initiative that follows Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and Cyber Monday. Thank you alumni. Scarlet forever!

OTHER NEWS STORIES THIS MONTH

The following news stories were published on our website during this month:

Rutgers Law Clinic Helps Win Victory in Fourth Circuit Court
Rutgers Law Students Assisted Voters on Election Day
Recent Alumni Accomplishments

Amanda M. Curley ’12 has joined the firm of Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper in its Business and Commercial Real Estate practices.


Sharon Lippett ’94 has become a Member of the Firm at Epstein Becker Green in its Employee Benefits practice in New York.

Hilary Meyer ’05 has been named Chief Enterprise and Innovation Officer at Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders.

Jeff Gardner ’93 has been appointed as an Administrative Law Judge with the National Labor Relations Board.

Two Law School Alumna Awarded Rutgers Medal

As Rutgers University celebrated its 250th birthday, two graduates of Rutgers Law School in Newark were awarded the Rutgers Medal at a celebration with Chancellor Nancy Cantor and other Rutgers dignitaries, faculty, staff and students.

Donita Judge ’03, a senior attorney with the Washington D.C.-based Advancement Project, has been working against voter suppression laws in North Carolina and previously in Ohio. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2015 Rutgers-Newark National Lawyers’ Guild Arthur Kinoy Award, the 2014 New Jersey Garden State Bar Association Oliver Randolph Award, and the 2009 Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey “Public Sector Change Maker Award.” Judge, who also attended Rutgers University for her undergraduate degree, was accompanied by Rutgers Law School Co-dean Ronald K. Chen and Jan Ellen Lewis, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences & University College.

“I feel honored and humbled,” Judge said upon receiving the award.

Delores Jones-Brown ’86, a professor in the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, at City University of New York, also was honored with the Rutgers Medal. In addition to attending Rutgers Law School, Jones-Brown earned her master’s degree from the School of Criminal Justice and a doctorate from Rutgers University in Newark. She was the founding director of the John Jay College Center on Race, Crime and Justice and also is a member of the doctoral faculty of the CUNY Graduate Center. She is widely published on topics of race and justice.

Chancellor Cantor, who spoke at the event, complimented the graduates and students at the anniversary celebration. “Tonight is so uplifting,” she said. “This place is producing the stars for the next generation.”

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Co-dean Ronald K. Chen, far left, and Dean Jan Ellen Lewis of the College of Arts and Sciences, congratulate Rutgers Medal winner Donita Judge ’03.

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Rutgers Institute for Professional Education

Upcoming CLE Courses

For a full schedule of courses, visit: https://ipe.rutgers.edu

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 3, 2016</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 4:45 PM</td>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>Corporate Compliance and Ethics &amp; eDiscovery Trends and the Use of Social Media</td>
<td>NJ: 8.4 incl. 4.8 ethics</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 6, 2016</td>
<td>4:00 PM - 8:15 PM</td>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>Introduction to Civil Trial Preparation in New Jersey</td>
<td>NJ: 4.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 6, 2016</td>
<td>4:00 PM - 8:15 PM</td>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>Introduction to Civil Trial Preparation in New Jersey (Videoconference)</td>
<td>NJ: 4.8</td>
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<td>Friday, December 9, 2016</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 1:15 PM</td>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>Bridge the Gap: Ethics and Law Practice Management Essentials</td>
<td>NJ: 4.8 incl. 3.0 ethics</td>
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<td>Monday, December 12, 2016</td>
<td>1:00 PM - 4:30 PM</td>
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<td>Fundamentals of New Jersey Residential Landlord-Tenant Practice</td>
<td>NJ: 4.0</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 14, 2016</td>
<td>9:00 AM - 12:30 PM</td>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>6th Annual ETHICS-Fest: Analyzing Common Ethical Dilemmas</td>
<td>NJ: 4.0 incl. 4.0 ethics</td>
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Wishing you a Happy Holidays and a Successful New Year!

Your friends at
Rutgers Law School