

# RUTGERS LAW ALUMNI NEWS



## March 2018 Table of Contents

- 2 | Letter from Leadership
- 3 | New Chair of CCLG
- 4 | Students and Judges
- 5 | Raising Money for Public Interest
- 6 | National Moot Court Team
- 7 | Hispanic Lawyers
- 8 | Alumni Updates
- 9 | Upcoming CLE

## Rutgers Law Alumni News

Elizabeth 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)

## Minority Student Program to Celebrate 50 Years

In the wake of the Newark Rebellion in 1967, and similar social unrest sweeping the nation, Rutgers Law School created the Minority Student Program (MSP) in 1968 – a first-of-its kind effort to diversify the legal profession.

MSP marked what historians called, “The beginning of a serious and long overdue effort to racially diversify the Newark-based law school and the legal profession.”

Fifty years later, the results of this groundbreaking program – which has expanded to include students of economic disadvantage from any background – have been extraordinary.

This April 14th, Rutgers Law School celebrates the [50th anniversary of MSP](#) and is inviting students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and supporters to come back to Newark, the birthplace of the program, for a daylong symposium and evening gala.

Rutgers Law’s MSP has helped hundreds of men and women of color, or from disadvantaged backgrounds, build accomplished careers in the law --including senators, judges, civil and constitutional rights activists, corporate officers, and more.

The program’s impact has been felt widely, whether in the fields of social justice, corporate legal practice, politics, the judiciary, or academia.

Continued on page 2.

## Letter From Leadership

Dear Alumni:

We wish to thank the over 225 Alumni, Deans, and Professors that came out on 2/21/18 for the South Jersey Gathering. It was an unseasonably warm night, and our venue opened all of their windows and patio for us to enjoy it. We had alumni from the class of 1965, 1967, and many other classes in attendance, for a truly memorable evening.

We also thank the alumni who attended or otherwise supported the PILF Auction on March 1 in Newark, once again joining with our students to support grants for students working in public interest jobs.

March 21 is Rutgers Giving Day. There will be prizes awarded to the school within the university with the most donations on that day, so please set a reminder on your calendar to give!

Finally, please plan to join us at the Rutgers Law School Alumni Reception during the State Bar Association's Annual Meeting, May 17 from 5:30-7:00 PM at the Borgata. You can now register to receive two free drink tickets. Registering for the NJSBA Annual Meeting does not automatically register you for this event. Please check your emails for the registration link, or look here: <http://tiny.cc/612try>

If you have any questions about the Alumni Associations or wish to get involved, please contact us. We have regular board meetings and events that you can support. Also, be sure to follow our Facebook pages!

Best regards,

Janice Heinold  
Chancellor, Camden Alumni Association  
[jheinold@rclawnj.com](mailto:jheinold@rclawnj.com)

Brian Biglin  
President, Newark Alumni Association  
[rslnaapresident@gmail.com](mailto:rslnaapresident@gmail.com)

### Alumni Associations

#### Camden

Janice L. Heinold '97  
Chancellor

Kevin Miller '14  
First Vice Chancellor

Samantha R. Gross '14  
Second Vice Chancellor

Ragner Jaeger '14  
Treasurer

Angella Middleton '14  
Recording Secretary

Laura Ann Pontelandolfo '09  
Corresponding Secretary

#### Newark

Brian Biglin '11  
President

Osato Chitou '10  
Immediate Past President

Maritza Rodriguez '11  
President Elect

Helen Nau '93  
Vice President

Mark Makhail '13  
Treasurer

Joe Linares '14  
Secretary

## Minority Student Program Celebration, cont.

The day will begin in Newark at 11 a.m. at the renovated former law school building, 15 Washington, where Rhaseda Douglas and Yvette Bravo-Weber, MSP deans in Camden and Newark, will lead a panel of current students talking about their backgrounds and the current program. In addition, former MSP deans will recall the challenges they and MSP faced during their tenure. Professors from both locations will speak about their work as engaged scholarship in important issues of social justice. Rutgers Law Professor David Troutt will conclude the colloquium with what the faculty committee has learned in its review and possible directions the program might take going forward. The colloquium will adjourn at 5 p.m. A bus will run from Camden for current students, faculty and staff.

The event then moves to the Robert Treat Hotel. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., with a program including the annual student awards and the elected student speaker. Then plenty of live music and dancing.

All current members of the Rutgers Law community, including faculty, staff and students, are invited. The cost, which ranges from the regular price of \$175, down to \$150 for those employed in government or non-profit organizations, to \$40 for students and current Rutgers faculty and staff, includes luncheon, gala cocktails, dinner, and souvenirs. Registration is online, using this link: [alumni.com/msp50](http://alumni.com/msp50). To learn more about the MSP 50th, please visit [law.rutgers.edu/msp50](http://law.rutgers.edu/msp50) ■



Minority Student Program Class of 2020 in Camden

## Center for Corporate Law and Governance Welcomes New Chair

Stuart Alderoty '85 has succeeded Linda Willett '89, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ, as the Chair of Rutgers Law School Center for Corporate Law and Governance.

Alderoty is Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of CIT Group Inc. He is the Chief Legal Officer, responsible for overseeing all legal, corporate governance and insurance risk management matters for CIT and its operating groups. Alderoty serves on the board of the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, a not-for-profit association that advocates for the expanded hiring, retention and promotion of minority attorneys in corporate law departments and the law firms that serve them. Alderoty received his J.D. from Rutgers Law School, and his B.A. from Rutgers University – New Brunswick.

"We greatly appreciate Linda Willett's dedicated leadership to the Center during her tenure as founding Advisory Board Chair and her continued service on the Advisory Board. And we look forward to working with Stuart Alderoty as he takes over the helm," said Doug Eakeley, founder and co-director of the Center for Corporate Law and Governance. ■



### Syracuse 8 Visits Rutgers Law School in Camden for Black History Month

On February 28, in celebration of Black History Month, the Rutgers Law School Minority Students Program in Camden hosted members of the "Syracuse 8" - a group of college athletes who sacrificed their athletic careers to protest racial inequities in the 1970s.



## Newark Law Students Network with Sitting Judges

Judges from all branches of the judiciary were invited to Rutgers Law School in an annual networking event for students sponsored by the law school's Career Services Department. A panel of judges spoke to students about clerkship and internship opportunities and afterwards, students were invited to network and mingle with the judges at a reception held in the atrium. The judges urged students to study hard, consider getting involved in law journals, be personable when interviewing, and to consider which internship or clerkship is the right fit before applying. ▀



From left to right: United States Magistrate Judge Steven Mannion, Third Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Michael Chagares, Superior Court Judge Daniel D'Alessandro and Superior Court Judge Ronald Wigler



Two Rutgers Law students talk with Superior Court Judge Mary Thurber



Superior Court Judge Daniel D'Alessandro speaks to Rutgers Law students

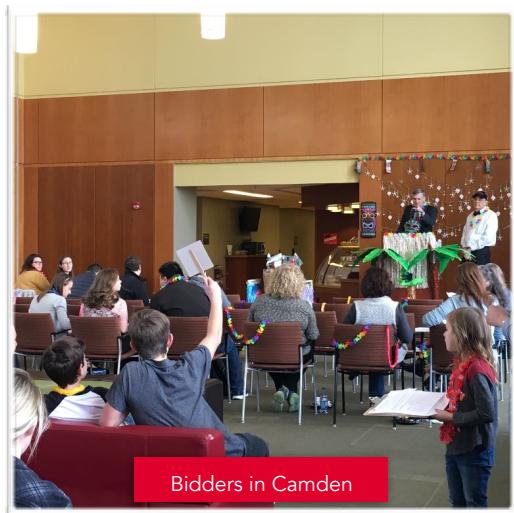
## Two Auctions Raise Money for Summer Public Interest Work

Rutgers Law students who want to spend their summers doing public interest work got a boost from two different auction fundraisers that raised money for summer stipends.

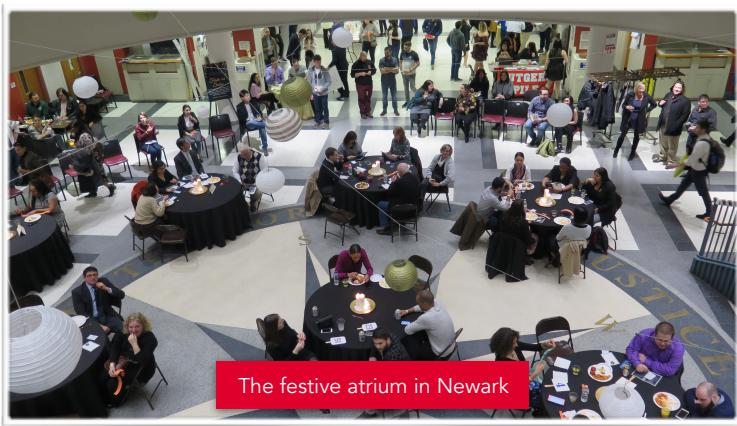
In Newark, the Public Interest Law Student Association had an auction in the lower atrium on March 1, where attendees bid on everything from drag shows to bicycle tours. In Camden, the Association for Public Interest Law auctioned off dinners, tickets to television shows, and a Nintendo Switch.

At both locations, several faculty members and administrators donated gifts and activities to support the auctions.

Co-Dean Ronald Chen '83 was honored in Newark with the Distinguished Public Service Award. He surprised the organizers by auctioning off a vintage velvet ceremonial hat, in the style that he wears to law school commencement ceremonies.



Bidders in Camden



The festive atrium in Newark

Jaynor Diaz '19, who received a 2017 grant to work at the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, credited the stipend for making it possible for him to complete his summer job, "This summer position was extremely meaningful to me as it helped me realize that I want to housing law," he said. "The PILF money was vital to making sure this summer was possible for me. It helped cover my travel expenses. . . The money allowed me to work at a very rewarding organization and to focus my efforts into doing my best at the internship."

PILF stipends have enabled students to work at a variety of organizations across the country, including the New Jersey Attorney General's

Office, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Fair Share Housing Center, LAMBDA Legal, and the White House Counsel on Environmental Quality.

At the APIL event, Camden students enjoyed a tropical-themed dinner and snacked on caramel corn. Co-Dean Michael Cahill and Professor Steven Friedell served as auctioneers at the festive event for items that included drum lessons and wine tastings.



Auction guests on the bridge in Camden

Sara Gray, the APIL president, thanked those who supported the auction and offered these words in the program, "By participating in the auction, you are not only helping law students learn valuable skills and begin careers of public service, you are supporting legal services in communities that would otherwise have none."

She noted that through the support of the auction, APIL has funded stipends for students working in an array of public interest positions, including public defender offices, the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, Fair Share Housing Center, South Jersey Legal Services, the New Jersey Attorney General's Office. ▀



An auction basket in Newark

## Successful Season for Newark Moot Court National Trial Team

The Moot Court Board National Trial Team completed a full and successful 2017-2018 season in March, earning the second seeded position in the quarterfinal round in the ABA/John Marshall Law School National Criminal Justice Trial Competition at the Federal Court House in Chicago. This follows the team's finish as semi-finalists in the ABA National Trial Competition New York Regional Competition in November and as semi-finalists in the Queens DA Invitational Mock Trial Competition in October.

In early March, national team members Immanuel Adeola '18, Matthew Capone '18, Melissa Taustine '18 and Steve Tegrar '18 competed in preliminary rounds against Inter-American University of Puerto Rico School of Law and Loyola University Chicago School of Law, winning both preliminary rounds. Rutgers was 2nd seeded among the eight teams that advanced to the quarterfinal round, besting all but one other school in the competition. The Rutgers team earned a higher seed in the quarterfinals than Brooklyn, Fordham, American University Washington, and University of Florida Law Schools. Georgetown Law, University of California Berkeley Law School, University of Pennsylvania Law and William and Mary Law School competed in the preliminary rounds, but did not advance. The Rutgers team performed well, but was edged out by Fordham Law in a tough quarterfinal round.

The competition required the team to try both sides of criminal case involving an attempt to detonate an explosive device near a federal facility in an effort to send a terrorist message. Undercover Federal agents were involved in the planning of the attack, which was foiled before an explosion took place. The defendant alleged entrapment.



This year is the first time Rutgers Law was invited to the National Criminal Justice Trial Competition. The team was invited based upon its success the last two years. In another first, the team competed in October 2017 in the Queens District Attorney's Invitational Mock Trial Competition, finishing as semifinalists. The Queens DA Competition is an annual invitational competition between nationally and regionally selected teams chosen based upon their records. Capone, Taustine, Tegrar, and Christa McLeod '18 made up one of six teams in a field of 16 to advance to the semifinal round. This was the first time Rutgers Law was invited to this competition.

In November 2017, the National Team also earned a semifinalist position in the New York Regionals of the ABA National Mock Trial competition at the Federal Court House in Manhattan. The team of Jessenia

Caquias '19, Bailey Ott '19, McLeod and Christina McGinnis '19 earned one of four spots in the semifinal round out of a field of 16 teams. The team lost to Harvard Law, who went on to win the competition. "We're proud of the National Moot Court Team and its members, who continue to bring recognition and esteem to Rutgers Law School," said Co-Dean Ronald Chen. "Because of their strong performances at competitions, they have been invited to increasingly more competitive and prestigious contests. I join the whole law school in congratulating them on a successful year."

"Our national trial team members have done an exemplary job of honing their skills and competing at an extraordinarily high level. Their successes against the most competitive schools in the most competitive competitions speaks well of their dedication, talent and teamwork," said Dean Andrew Rossner, who coaches the team and supervises Rutgers Law School's Moot Court program. "This is not only a wonderful achievement for the team and the individual team members, it is a dividend to the Law School of the reorganization and enhancement of the Moot Court Board and trial advocacy programs at the Law School over the past few years. The sustained successes this year and last are a direct result of our program enhancements which provides intensive instruction and opportunities to compete to students committed to developing as trial lawyers. The program now provides rigorous and effective trial advocacy training incorporating classes in evidence and trial advocacy with comprehensive and individualized instruction and skills training for National Mock Trial Team members."

"We also owe a debt of gratitude to alumni and members of the bar who have assisted in coaching and preparing the team, including Samantha McCluskey and Maria McKee, National Trial Team alumni, as well as Rutherford Livengood, Brian Curley and Brian Neary ▀

## Law Students Celebrate Hispanic Achievement



Members of the Alainza executive board and special guests

"As an Immigrant Justice Clinic student and President of Alainza, I could not have been more proud to stand in a room full of alumni of our organization, special guests, and the Rutgers Law community to celebrate our honorees and scholarship recipients," said Julie Peterson '18. "Alainza is like a family and the atmosphere of the banquet was supportive and uplifting." The Carmen M. Garcia Bright Futures Award, named for Alainza founder Hon. Carmen M. Garcia, was also given to two high school seniors from Camden.

Rutgers Law students in both Newark and Camden celebrated the achievements of Hispanic lawyers and community leaders at two annual banquets held this spring.

In Camden, the 15th annual Defensores de la Justicia Banquet by Alianza, the Latino Law Students Association based in Camden, was held in February.

The banquet honored Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez of NJ's 5th Legislative District and New Jersey's first elected Hispanic woman state legislator; and Rutgers Law School Professor Joanne Gottesman, Director of the Immigrant Justice Clinic.



Senator Nilsa Cruz-Perez, center, with members of Alianza



This year's Fiesta honorees, from left to right, Guillermo Artiles '12, Hon. Jose Linares, U.S.D.J., Lillian Plata '02, and Luis Diaz '87.

Linares, who received the organization's Trailblazer Award, praised Rutgers Law School and the work of ALALS, "It celebrates our diversity, our ethnicity, bringing to the table a different culture, a different way of thinking and inclusiveness." He then offered this advice to students, "Your success is not going to be measured by the size of your bank account, it will be measured by the lives that you touched along the way. If you invest in other people's futures, you're going to get a lot more success."

The event is also a scholarship fundraiser that featured dining and dancing in the Center for Law and Justice atrium. ■

In Newark, The Association of Latin American Law Students held its annual Fiesta con Sabor on March 8. This year's honorees included Guillermo Artiles '12, associate council for the Office of Governor Phil Murphy; Jose Linares, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court in New Jersey; Lillian Plata '02, founding member of the law firm Nee Plata and a member of the Board of Directors for the Don Pedro Development Corporation; and Luis Diaz '87, General Counsel and Chief Cybersecurity Officer for Vision-E.



Members of the ALALS executive board and volunteers for Fiesta

## Alumni Updates

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

**Dwayne C. Vaughn '81** has been appointed to the position of Vice President of Housing Policy and Development at Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.

**Megan Knowlton Balne '10** has been named one of SNJ Business People's 40 under 40.

**Elizabeth M. Andes '16** has been installed as a Young Lawyer Trustee of the Morris County Bar Association.

**Paul J. DeMartino Jr. '15** has joined as an associate in the Complex Commercial Litigation practice at Genova Burns LLC, in Newark, NJ.

**Luisa A. Fuentes '95** has joined as Of Counsel at Fraser Cerra, LLC, in Sparta, NJ.

**Naim Surgeon '09** has been named a 2018 Fellow of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

**Iman Wells '15** has become an associate at Nukk-Freeman & Cerra, in Chatham, NJ.

**Thomas Thornton '11** has become an associate at Hollister & Brace, in Santa Barbara, CA.

**Jane M. Fearn-Zimmer '91** has joined as a shareholder in the Business and Corporate Department at Flaster Greenberg, in Cherry Hill, NJ.

**Maria Fernanda Gandarez '88** has become a partner at Pryor Cashman, in New York, NY.

**Anna Maria Tejada '99** has been named one of NJBIZ's Best Fifty Women in Business 2018.

**Arlene Q. Perez '09** has been appointed to NJ Governor Phil Murphy's Puerto Rico Task Force.

**Melissa Salsano '14** has been promoted to Senior Associate at Peckar & Abramson, P.C., in New York, NY.

**Ayana Z. Gordon '01** has been promoted to General Counsel of Gerber Life Insurance Company.

**Babatunde P. Odubekun '17** has been appointed to the Newark Housing Authority.

**Michael J. Blee '88** has been assigned the position of Presiding Judge of General Equity for Atlantic and Cape May Counties.

### Emeritus Professor Featured on Your Weekly Constitutional

Emeritus Professor Norman Cantor was recently interviewed on a public radio series called *Your Weekly Constitutional*. Discussion focused on the possible connection between constitutional rights and physician assistance in dying for fatally stricken patients seeking to hasten death.

[The 30-minute interview is available here.](#)



**RUTGERS**  
**Giving Day**  
**3.21.18**

**THINK BIGGER.**



### Newark Alumni Reunions

Mark your calendars! The law school will be holding a reunion on May 11, 2018 for the Newark classes of 1958, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1988, 1998, & 2008. The schedule for the day will include: two CLE courses (including 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.

Registration is available at [RAalumni.com/2018LawReunion](http://RAalumni.com/2018LawReunion)



# Upcoming CLE Programs

## Fundamentals of New Jersey Estate Planning

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Camden

CLE: NJ: 3.3 | NY: 3.0 | PA: 2.5

## Lawyer as Legal Risk Manager

Thursday, April 5, 2018 | 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM | Newark

CLE: NJ: 1.5 | NY: 1.5 | PA: 1.0

## Accounting for New Jersey Trust and Business Accounts

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 | 6:00 PM - 8:05 PM | Newark

CLE: NJ: 2.5 (incl. 1.2 ethics) | NY: 2.5 (incl. 1.0 ethics) | PA: 2.0 (incl. 1.0 ethics)

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

Friday, April 13, 2018 | 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)

## Third Annual Corporate Compliance Institute

Friday, April 13, 2018 | 9:00 AM - 3:45 PM | Camden

CLE: NJ: 6.6 (incl. 1.5 ethics) | NY: 6.5 (incl. 1.5 ethics) | PA: 5.5 (incl. 1.0 ethics)

## Municipal Court Practice in New Jersey

Saturday, April 21, 2018 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Camden

CLE: NJ: 4.6 | NY: 4.5 | PA: 3.5

## Maintaining Attorney Trust and Business Accounts

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 | 6:00 PM - 8:10 PM | Camden

CLE: NJ: 2.5 (incl. 1.2 ethics) | NY: 2.5 (incl. 1.0 ethics) | PA: 2.0 (incl. 1.0 ethics)

## Alternate Dispute Resolution: How to Navigate the Mediation Process

Thursday, April 26, 2018 | 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM | Newark

CLE: NJ: 4.0 (incl. 1.2 ethics) | NY: 4.0 (incl. 1.0 ethics) | PA: 3.0 (incl. 1.0 ethics)

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

Friday, April 27, 2018 | 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)

## Technology and Ethics for Attorneys in 2018

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 | 6:00 PM - 8:10 PM | Newark

CLE: NJ: 2.5 (incl. 2.5 ethics) | NY: 2.5 (incl. 2.5 ethics) | PA: 2.0 (incl. 2.0 ethics)

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

## Keep in Touch with Rutgers Law School

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

[UPDATE INFORMATION](#)