

# NOVA LAWYER

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Published for the alumni and friends  
of the Shepard Broad Law Center

SHEPARD BROAD LAW CENTER



1974-2014  
NSU Law Center Celebrates  
40 Years of Academic Excellence  
and Alumni Achievements



# Shepard Broad Law Center

## Mission Statement and Values

### Our Mission

To ensure that students develop the knowledge, skills, and values that are at the heart of becoming trusted, highly adept, professional lawyers who are respected for serving clients, their communities, and justice.

### Our Values

We believe and model

- respect for the law and the importance of lawyers in a free society
- equitable access to education
- diversity of background and viewpoint
- excellence in teaching that serves the students and their learning needs
- high standards of ethics and professionalism
- evolution of the competencies lawyers need in an ever-changing world
- support of successful entry and advancement in the bar and other professions
- assumption of leadership roles and service to the community

#### Shepard Broad Law Center Administration

Jon M. Garon—Dean and Professor of Law

Catherine Arcabascio—Associate Dean for International Programs

Tim Arcaro—Associate Dean for AAMPLE® and Online Programs

linda f. harrison—Associate Dean for Critical Skills Program

Elena B. Langan—Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Janet Mosseri—Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Lynn Acosta—Assistant Dean for Student Services

Robert Levine—Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development

Jennifer McIntyre—Assistant Dean for Online Programs

William D. Perez—Assistant Dean for Admissions

Nancy Sanguigni—Assistant Dean for Clinical Programs

Eric Young—Assistant Dean for the Law Library and Information Technology

Rebecca Allen—Director of Donor Relations

Meg Chandelle—Director of Advanced Lawyering Skills and Values Program

Jennifer Jarema Escobar—Director of Communications, Publications, and Special Events

Joshua Metz—Director of Finance and Administration

Elena Rose Minicucci—Director of Alumni Relations



*Nova Lawyer* is published yearly by the Shepard Broad Law Center. Please direct any correspondence to *Nova Lawyer's* project manager, Jennifer Jarema Escobar, Shepard Broad Law Center, 3305 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7721, or [nsulawcenter@nova.edu](mailto:nsulawcenter@nova.edu).

#### 2013–2014 Shepard Broad Law Center Board of Governors

Mark I. Aronson '81

Mitchell W. Berger

Sharon Kegerreis Berger

Paul D. Bianco

Lorna E. Brown-Burton '87

Ira J. Coleman '86

Robert F. Diaz '84, judge

Steven B. Dolchin

Michael E. Dutko '84

Paul G. Finizio '83

Jamie Finizio-Bascombe '93

Rex J Ford '84, judge

Natalie Giachos '06, *Alumni Association*

*President, Ex Officio*

Ronald P. Glantz '80

Michael I. Goldberg

Michael C. Greenberg '01

Gordon James III

Robert W. Kelley '81

Rick Latta

Melanie G. May '81, judge, *Chair*

Douglas M. McIntosh '81

James Fox Miller

Robin Sobo Moselle '91

Michael W. Moskowitz

Edward J. Pozzuoli III

Martin R. Press

Michael S. Ross '78

Diana Santa Maria

Sheldon J. Schlesinger

David W. Singer '80, *Vice Chair*

Beverly L. Vesel '79

Peter L. Wechsler

#### Alumni Association Board of Directors

Heather Baxter '00

Caroline O'Brien Brown '01

Jessica Garcia Brown '99,

*Secretary/Treasurer*

Angela Crandall '01

Michael Ehren '07

Steven Farbman '85

Natalie Giachos '06, *President*

Robert Levine '86, *Ex Officio*

Elena Rose Minicucci '96, *Ex Officio*

Anita Paoli '90

Bruno Renda '11

Audra Simovitch '92

Jeremy Singer '11

Keith Sonderling '08

Melissa Taylor, *Law Student Liaison*

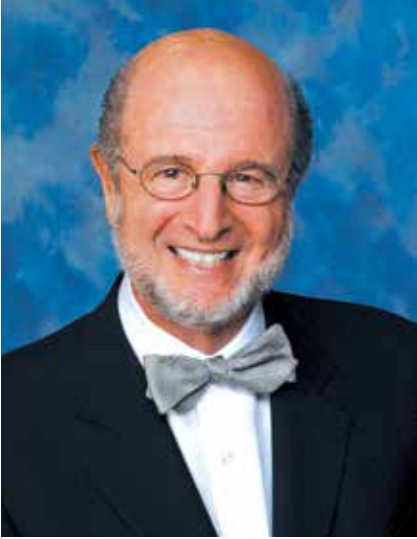
Beverly L. Vesel '79

Ethan J. Wall '07, *Vice President*

Thomas Zeichman '12

*“It is amazing to think that, from our unpretentious beginning, we have spawned a Law Center with more than 9,000 alumni in 48 states and 8 countries.”*

—Bruce Rogow



#### FOREWORD BY PROFESSOR BRUCE ROGOW

Forty years! Where will the Law Center be 40 years from now—in 2054? None of us who were part of the creation of the NSU Law Center, professors and students, could have imagined what we see today in 2014 and what we have achieved since 1974.

It was August 1974. There were six professors, a dean, a librarian, and half of a floor in a building used for cancer research. The building was situated on a barely paved patch of land with old asphalt runways as the entrance to the building. Peter Thornton, from the University of Notre Dame, was the dean, and his friend, Sam Bader, was charged with teaching Contracts. John Reifenberg, Jr., taught Legal Research and Writing. Joel Berman was the Torts professor, Tom Baynes taught Property, Larry Hyde taught Criminal Law, and I taught Civil Procedure. Lucrecia Granda served as the law librarian. There were 175 students and only 25 were women. Their ages ranged from 20s to 50. The students were eager, trusting, and hoping for accreditation.

It was a grand, exciting, and fun time. Forty years later, that initial class has generated judges, lawyers, entrepreneurs, public officials, educators, legislators, mothers, fathers, and grandparents. We have had families with multigenerational Law Center graduates. It is amazing to think that, from our unpretentious beginning, we have spawned a Law Center with more than 9,000 alumni in 48 states and 8 countries. Some of our outstanding alumni include the NFL Minnesota Vikings vice president for football operations, the general manager of the NBA Sacramento Kings, and the CEO/CFO of one of the largest hotel companies in the world. Naming our judges around South Florida, the state, and other states would take more space than I have. Yes, there have been a few failures, but, overwhelmingly, our graduates have succeeded in law and life.

In our 40th year, the 2013 entering class had 313 full- and part-time students almost evenly divided between men and women, 53 percent and 47 percent, respectively. More than half of those students reflected the diversity of our country—Hispanic, African American, Asian American, and Native American/Pacific Islander. The faculty also has grown in size (59 members), as well as in diversity and gender. Approximately half of our faculty members are women.

Early law students will recall questions about the university's future, but it, like the Law Center, has blossomed over the last 50 years into a major educational institution with nearly 26,000 students and more than 162,000 alumni. The main campus—at 314 acres and growing—is extraordinary. If you have not visited, you should. It would make you proud. And you should be proud, too, of your Law Center as it starts the next 40 years.

I call upon you to join in making the next four decades as productive as the past four decades: visit, contribute, promote, and participate. Daniel Webster saved Dartmouth College in a U.S. Supreme Court argument in which he said, “It is, sir, as I have said, a small college. And yet, there are those that love it.”

We are a small, but mighty, Law Center. Love it!



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN	3	CELEBRATING 40 YEARS	21
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS	4	NSU LAW CENTER THROUGH THE YEARS	36
NSU CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE	5	NSU LAW CENTER BY THE NUMBERS	38
NSU BREAKS GROUND ON THE CENTER FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH	6	FALL 2013 NSU LAW CENTER EVENTS	39
NSU LAW CENTER NEWS	7	SPRING 2014 NSU LAW CENTER EVENTS	43
CLINIC NEWS	12	STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS	47
FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBER FAREWELLS	17	STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS	51
NEW NSU LAW CENTER DEAN	18	ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS	56
NEW FACULTY MEMBERS	20	IN MEMORIUM	70
		10 REASONS TO VISIT THE LAW LIBRARY	72

## Table of Contents



*“Though we are celebrating the past, we are looking forward. The NSU Law Center remains focused on educating professionals committed to their trade, their profession, their community, and their clients.”*

—Jon M. Garon

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni and Friends:

This year, Nova Southeastern University celebrates its 50th anniversary, highlighting a half-century of educational innovation and the economic growth our university has brought to South Florida. Ten years after its founding, Nova University launched what would become the Shepard Broad Law Center, which has since grown to become a nationally recognized leader in innovative legal education. Throughout the NSU Law Center's history, our faculty members have led the nation in clinical and experiential education, in technological innovation, and in commitment to expanding access to legal education across all communities.

As the newest addition to the NSU Law Center, I am delighted to be a part of its tradition, following on the success of Elena Langan and Athornia Steele. The Law Center is well positioned to continue its role as a leader in legal education.

Legal education stands at a critical juncture. Economic pressures and technological change have buffeted the practice of law. Costs for legal services have risen even as new communities and much of the working public struggle to pay for the legal services they need. To meet the challenge, our students must learn the critical-thinking skills essential to their roles as legal professionals, just as past students have for generations. In addition, they must also prepare themselves with knowledge of a global economy, a rapidly changing business environment in which to build their professional practice, and a complex technological environment requiring skills never imagined a generation ago.

Despite these challenges, the Law Center's tradition of excellence and educational expertise has enabled our graduates to thrive in the changing environment. Building on the extensive clinical and externship programs, Law Center graduates learn the rigors of actual practice through hands-on experience and working with real clients while being mentored by our faculty members and alumni, as well as by members of the professional community.

Our extensive international program enables us to bring the world into the classroom. With partnerships in Europe and new opportunities being developed across the globe, our students are able to put their legal education into an international context that is essential in the modern economy. This applies equally to our domestic community.

*U.S. News & World Report's* Best Graduate Schools for Law ranked the NSU Law Center third in the nation for diversity. Not to be outdone, the Law School Diversity Index ranked the Law Center as first for diversity among all law schools in Florida. These diversity rankings are sources of pride, because they reflect our unwavering commitment to inclusion, access to justice, and a global worldview that is the hallmark of the legal community of the future.

The Law Center is also making great strides in utilizing technology across the educational program. Our nationally recognized AAMPLE® admissions program earned a patent for its innovative approach to online education, and our online Master of Science degree programs have experienced tremendous growth and acclaim. These programs and other innovations will help the NSU Law Center continue its commitment to a sophisticated, technologically relevant approach to training new professionals.

Though we are celebrating the past, we are looking forward. The NSU Law Center remains focused on educating professionals committed to their trade, their profession, their community, and their clients. Much is changing in legal education and the practice of law, but our commitment is not. With your continued support, I am confident the NSU Law Center will continue its tradition of excellence and innovation. I look forward to working with you to explore the possibilities and help prepare our graduates for future challenges.

Jon M. Garon  
Dean and Professor of Law  
Shepard Broad Law Center





## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends:

This year, the NSU Law Center celebrates four decades since its founding in 1974. We have grown tremendously since then. In the 20 years since I was a student here, the school has started an evening division; created three online Master of Science degree programs—in education, employment, and health law; and extended its reach abroad. The Law Center not only has dual-degree programs within the university, but also with universities in Barcelona, Spain, and Rome, Italy. The center also offers study abroad programs in Spain, Italy, and the Czech Republic.

Our faculty members continue to be recognized for legal scholarship and for producing practice-ready graduates. Our clinical programs and externships enable law students to gain practical skills that set them apart in their legal practice. Alumni from the NSU Law Center are able to use their Juris Doctor degrees in many ways, including as litigation and transaction attorneys; members of the judiciary in state and federal court; undergraduate and law professors; corporate CEOs; business and legal entrepreneurs; creators of new products and services; in-house legal counsel for private corporations and governmental entities; elected and appointed officials at the local, state, and national levels; and community leaders. Our law graduates serve on nonprofit boards, help raise money for charities, assume leadership roles in local and state bar associations, work to achieve justice and improve the lives of others, and provide countless hours of pro bono legal services to citizens unable to afford a lawyer to represent them.

Our alumni are able to achieve personal success and establish themselves as respected lawyers because they received an excellent legal education at the NSU Law Center.

Every month, many alumni submit news stories to me about their accomplishments, awards, and achievements. These stories are published in the Class Actions column on the Shepard Broad Law Center's Web site. When I read about the success of my fellow law alumni, I am very proud to be an alumna myself and to have such esteemed colleagues.

As I host law alumni events across Florida and out of state, I hear many heartwarming stories from alumni who recall their days at NSU. Many made lifelong friends, met their spouses, and have returned to the school to give back, donating their time, talent, and treasure. Our law students are grateful to alumni who speak at events, coach moot court and trial teams, judge competitions, and mentor them.

Through financial donations to the Law Alumni Scholarship Fund and other programs here, our alumni help create opportunities for those who follow in their footsteps. Together, we can build a robust alumni association and stronger NSU Law Center and create a legacy that will add value to our J.D. degrees for years to come. We now have more than 9,000 law alumni throughout the world. No matter where you are, I hope you will continue to support the NSU Law Center.

Best regards,

Elena Rose Minicucci, J.D. ('96)  
Director of Alumni Relations  
Shepard Broad Law Center

*“Our alumni are able to achieve personal success and establish themselves as respected lawyers because they received an excellent legal education at the NSU Law Center.”*

—Elena Rose Minicucci

For information regarding upcoming events, please contact Elena Minicucci at [minicucc@nova.edu](mailto:minicucc@nova.edu).



NSU News



# NSU Celebrates 50 Years of Academic Excellence

*Throughout five decades of explosive growth, one thing is still tops at NSU:  
a reputation for academic excellence and innovation.*

By Carol Reynolds-Srot  
NSU Associate Editor and Copywriter

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day. And, who would have thought that the concept of what was to become Nova Southeastern University (NSU) was started over breakfast by The Oatmeal Club—a bunch of civic-minded pioneers who met regularly for breakfast. Nova University of Advanced Technology was chartered as a graduate institution in the physical and social sciences in 1964 on land that was an airfield during World War II. It had 17 doctoral students, 17 faculty members (many of whom flew into South Florida to teach for the weekend), and 38 staff members.

Fifty years later, the institution, now called Nova Southeastern University, sits on a 314-acre campus and has nearly 26,000 students, more than 162,000 alumni, more than 700 full-time faculty members, and nearly 3,400 full-time employees. NSU offers more than 140 degree programs and is the largest not-for-profit, private university in the Southeast. It is classified as a research university with “high research activity” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and is 1 of only 37 universities nationwide to also be awarded Carnegie's Community Engagement Classification. Throughout five decades of explosive growth, one thing is still tops at NSU: a reputation for academic excellence and innovation.





## NSU Breaks Ground on a Revolutionary Center for Collaborative Research



Broward County will soon have a focal point for research and discoveries that will one day impact all of humanity. On February 13, 2014, Nova Southeastern University (NSU) broke ground on a revolutionary Center for Collaborative Research (CCR) that will house an IBM supercomputer, one of Florida's largest wet labs, the NSU Technology Incubator, and offices for some of the world's most accomplished researchers.

"This new, multidisciplinary center will provide our world-class team of researchers with the tools they need to continue to make discoveries that will impact the way we all live," said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer. "From developing new cancer treatments to finding new methods for environmental sustainability, the possibilities are endless."

Located on NSU's main campus, the 215,000-square-foot facility will cost approximately \$80 million to construct and equip. NSU, the nation's ninth largest private, not-for-profit university, is funding the center using a combination of its own reserves and tax-exempt financing. Construction is expected to be completed in 2016, and more than 300 construction-related jobs and another 150 research-related jobs will be created through this project.

NSU is classified as a research university with "high research activity" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. More than 200 research projects are currently underway at NSU, including studies on cardiovascular disease, anticancer therapies, chronic fatigue syndrome, autism, coral reef restoration, stem cells, and wildlife DNA forensics, among other subjects.

"The Center for Collaborative Research will expand the university's research capability and provide the infrastructure to advance knowledge, support innovations, and develop new research partnerships," said Gary S. Margules, Sc.D., vice president for the NSU Office of Research and Technology Transfer.

The CCR will provide wet labs for many of NSU's innovative researchers, as well as a General Clinical Research Center, which is an outpatient facility with a centralized clinical research infrastructure for investigators in multiple disciplines.

The new IBM supercomputer, nicknamed Megalodon, allows NSU to join an elite group of universities with this type of research computing power. The name *Megalodon* was chosen

as it was the biggest prehistoric shark that ever lived and the largest predatory marine creature in the history of the planet. Centaurus Energy, located in Houston, Texas, donated the multimillion-dollar supercomputer.

"This supercomputer allows researchers to create more accurate models of complex processes, simulate problems once thought impossible to solve, and analyze increasing amounts of data generated by experiments in weeks or months, rather than the years required by conventional computers," said Eric S. Ackerman, Ph.D., dean of NSU's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences. The CCR will be connected to Florida LambdaRail, an ultra-high-speed broadband network that links the state's higher education institutions. The network provides a medium that fosters collaboration and partnerships in support of scientific research, education, and 21st-century economy initiatives.

The center will also house NSU's Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine; the Rumbaugh-Goodwin Institute for Cancer Research; the Emil Buehler Research Center for Engineering, Science, and Mathematics; and Broward County's only private incubator for information security businesses.

Following a long-standing relationship between NSU and the United States Geological Survey (USGS), including the USGS's current location on NSU's main campus, it is intended that the USGS will occupy the entire first floor of the CCR. The USGS and NSU will partner on collaborative, interdisciplinary research involving greater Everglades restoration efforts, hydrology and water resources, and more.

The CCR was designed by ACAI Associates, Inc. based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and is being constructed by The ANF Group, based in Davie, Florida. It is being built to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver-level standards.

The CCR will be located on the southwest end of campus near the NSU Health Professions Division—which houses the colleges of dental medicine, health care sciences, medical sciences, nursing, optometry, osteopathic medicine, and pharmacy.

For more information about the CCR, visit [www.nova.edu/research/ccr](http://www.nova.edu/research/ccr).

## NSU LAW CENTER NEWS



### 24 Law Alumni Admitted to Practice before the U.S. Supreme Court

The Shepard Broad Law Center sponsored its fourth biennial United States Supreme Court Admissions Ceremony on April 28, 29, and 30, 2014. Since 2008, the Law Center has organized a biennial trip to the Supreme Court for this memorable event. Twenty-four alumni traveled to Washington, D.C., to be admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States. NSU Law Center alumni stood before the nine justices of the Supreme Court and were sworn in to the bar of the highest court in the nation. Applicants were members of the bars of the states of Florida, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, as well as the District of Columbia, and were found to possess the necessary qualifications for admission.

Candidates were met by the clerk of the Supreme Court and escorted into the courtroom, where they were seated directly behind counsel table. Bruce Rogow, Law Center professor, made the motion for the admission to the Bar on Monday and Tuesday, while Tim O'Brien, visiting professor, made the motion on Wednesday. John Roberts, chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, granted the motion. The attorneys remained in the courtroom to watch oral arguments, which occurred on all three days.

On Monday, alumni were joined by George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer; Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson, Ph.D., NSU vice president for advancement and community relations; Sharon Sullivan, NSU executive director of alumni relations; Elena B. Langan, then NSU Law Center interim dean; and Elena Minicucci ('96), NSU Law Center director of alumni relations.

On April 28, 2014, the Law Center and NSU's Alumni Association hosted an evening event at Bistro Bis. NSU alumni from the D.C. area joined with law alumni being admitted to practice and their guests. The guest speaker for the evening was Gale Allen, Ph.D., deputy chief scientist for NASA and one of NSU's 2013 Distinguished Alumni award recipients. Allen discussed Finding Life "Out There" and the Future of Space Exploration. Hanbury shared his vision for the university and told the group about new developments and initiatives at NSU.



#### Alumni Sworn In

Melina Buncome, 1993  
Clarissa Cabreja, 2003  
Jason Chodos, 2006  
Prince Donnahoe, 1995  
Samantha Fitzgerald, 1999  
Molly Gaussa, 2002  
Natalie Giachos, 2006  
Luis Gomez, 1996  
Joshua Goodman, 1998  
Karey L. Bosack Greenstein, 2005  
Jose Guerrero, 2003  
Trisha Hewes, 2009  
Dennis Moore, 1993  
Thomasina Moore, 1993  
Victoria Morton, 2003  
William O'Connor, 2000  
Bartosz Ostrzenski, 2002  
Ignacio Sarmiento, 2005  
Kara Schickowski, 2007  
Scott Smiley, 2003  
Mark Solomon, 1979  
Keith Sonderling, 2008  
Chad Van Horn, 2009  
Ethan Wall, 2007



# NSU Law Center Receives Top Rankings for Diversity

*U.S. News & World Report's* issue of Best Graduate Schools for Law, released March 11, ranked the NSU Law Center number three nationally for diversity with a 0.65 Diversity Index. The Law School Diversity Index also indicates that the Law Center ranks first for diversity among all law schools in Florida. The Diversity Index identified law schools in which students are most likely to encounter classmates from a different racial or ethnic group. In compiling the data, *U.S. News & World Report* did not include law schools enrolling a large proportion of students from any one ethnic group, since there is a low likelihood that law students at that school will encounter peers from a different ethnic group than their own.

“We are proud of our ranking by *U.S. News & World Report*,” said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer. “As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, we recognize that the university has not only grown in size and capacity, but so, too, has the community around us. Our students have the opportunity to learn not only in the classroom, but to learn how to live in a global society. Diversity is one of NSU’s Core Values, and our student population is reflective of a global society with many different cultures, races, values, and nationalities.”

The ranking was based on data collected by *U.S. News & World Report*. To be included, each law school must be accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA). There are currently 203 ABA-approved law schools across the United States.

“We are proud of our commitment to diversity and the community at large,” said Elena Langan, J.D., former interim dean at the Law Center. “We recognize that our students come from a variety of backgrounds, with wide-ranging perspectives. We are pleased to be able to provide our students with boundless opportunities and support so that they are successful both during and after law school.”

The *Hispanic Business* 2013 annual diversity report ranked the NSU Law Center as a top 10 law school for Hispanics. Other ranked law schools include the University of California—Los Angeles, University of Miami, and University of Texas—Austin. Total Hispanic graduate enrollment for the Law Center was 191, yielding 23 percent of the total graduate enrollment population. Hispanics earned 40 out of 215 J.D. degrees at the NSU Law Center (approximately 18 percent). The Law Center’s location in South Florida makes it ideal for interactions with Hispanic business leaders, government agencies, and local communities.

# NSU Receives Patent for Innovative, Online Admissions Model

The U.S. Patent application for the Alternative Admissions Model for Legal Education (AAMPLE®) program created at the NSU Law Center by Joseph Harbaugh, professor of law and dean emeritus, originally submitted in April 2001, has resulted in the issuance of a Notice of Allowance from the U.S. Patent Office. The patent only applies to the online distance-education AAMPLE® program. Online classes meet in synchronous sessions at least four hours per week. These classes are held using real-time audio streaming with visual aids facilitated by the university’s online course platform (Blackboard). The online format requires weekly feedback and critique of written assignments, with a minimum of five written assignments in total. Sections are limited to 20 students, but are typically smaller. This patent will be the fourth patent that NSU owns.

AAMPLE® serves as an additional method of identifying candidates for admission to an institution’s law school. Harbaugh and several of his colleagues realized that, while LSAT scores and GPAs have some value in predicting student success, the

indicators had practically no significance in determining long-term results, such as a student’s ability to succeed in law school, pass the bar, or attain professional success. The primary purpose of AAMPLE® is to serve an admissions predictive function—a tool for evaluating the capabilities of prospective students.

“We are elated to see this portion of the process through,” said Harbaugh. “We believe that dreams are meant to be realized. The AAMPLE® program is one additional avenue that provides students who have the desire and commitment to attend law school the opportunity to achieve that dream.” AAMPLE® applicants are enrolled in two law school courses—Introduction to the Fourth Amendment and Negotiable Instruments—taught by law school professors. Each course replicates an appropriate portion of an equivalent regular J.D. offering in that subject that is suitable for the abbreviated five-week session in which the courses are offered. Applicants invited into the program may choose either a live, on-campus format or an online option using distance-learning technologies. The patent currently applies only to the online distance-education format.

The talent payoff of this approach for the NSU Law Center is reflected in the many success stories associated with those admitted through the AAMPLE® program. These students have been editors in chief and executive editors of the *Nova Law Review*; editors in chief and articles editors of the *ILSA Journal of International and Comparative Law*; and winners of the upper class Moot Court Society competitions.

Currently, four law schools across the nation are licensed to use the AAMPLE® program.

# Competitions Bring Law Center Accolades



*Pictured from left to right: Melissa Aponte Martini; Sylvia Cobo; L. Edward Bryant, Jr., J.D.; Carisa Champion-Lippmann; and Kathy Cerminara, J.S.D., NSU law professor (photo courtesy of Brad Snyder)*

## Students Win National Health Law Transaction Competition

The team of Sylvia Cobo, Carisa Champion-Lippmann, and Melissa Aponte Martini placed first as the overall champion at the L. Edward Bryant, Jr., National Health Law Transactional Competition at Loyola University School of Law in Chicago. Their memorandum came in second (two other schools tied for first), and won second place in presentation. Eighteen teams from a total of 14 law schools competed, including teams from the number one, number two, and number four health law schools in the nation as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*. This is the second year in a row the NSU Law Center has won this competition. Held on March 21, 2014, the competition required the team to advise the physician owners of a specialty hospital about their options for the future, taking into account complex legal and business considerations. Co-coaches were professors Kathy Cerminara and Donna Litman.

## Moot Court Team Wins Regionals

Students Maegan Bridwell, Barry Chenman, and Tal Harari were named Regional Champions of the 2014 American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Moot Court Competition held in San Francisco on February 20–22. As one of four teams from the regional round advancing to the National Finals, the Law Center defeated teams from Gonzaga University, Oklahoma City University, University of California—Davis, University of California—Los Angeles, and in the final round, University of the Pacific.

## Student Selected for Elite Mock Trial Competition

Jay Dermer was chosen as 1 of only 16 law students in the United States to compete in the 2014 Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition at Baylor University in Texas. The competition, which was held in June, features the best individual trial advocates. Dermer was selected based on his performance at last fall’s Buffalo-Niagara Criminal Trial Competition. It is one of the biggest national invitationals in the country, with more than 40 teams from 30 law schools competing each year. Law students try both sides of a homicide case in front of experienced judges and trial attorneys who have volunteered to be judges and evaluators.



## Nova Law Review Symposium

### Energy, Climate Disruption, and Sea Level Rise: New Directions in Law and Policy

On February 6 and 7, 2014, NSU's Law Center organized a two-day symposium—Energy, Climate Disruption, and Sea Level Rise: New Directions in Law and Policy. This was the third annual symposium. Prior symposia have focused on hot-button issues, such as legal representation of children in cases of neglect and abuse and veterans and active-duty military personnel with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The environmental symposium focused on the legal and policy issues raised by climate disruption and sea level rise. Ongoing disruption of the world's climate has begun to cause significant changes in physical and social patterns in many regions of the globe. Low-lying areas with large amounts of coastline—such as Florida—are particularly threatened by current and future sea level rise, intense storms, and high tide events. These emerging realities raise a number of difficult legal issues. They also present immense challenges to policy makers at all levels, with respect to both the ways that electrical energy is generated for human use and the shape and application of public policies regarding land use, development, and pollution prevention.

This symposium featured expert presenters from across the United States—with significant representation from Florida—who described current (and possible future) Florida and federal regulation of energy as it is related to the impact of climatic shifts. Scientists provided background on the causes and projected physical and social impacts of climate disruption. More than 80 people attended this event, including attorneys who advise local, state, and federal government agencies; landowners; insurance companies; industrial clients; representatives of non-governmental organizations; policy makers; academics from several disciplines; and interest group advocates. To complement the efforts of the symposium, the NSU Law Center's *Nova Law Review* published a symposium edition (Nova L. Rev Volume 38, Issue 3).



*“The speakers were uniformly superb, the symposium was well attended and well received, and the blending of perspectives and disciplinary expertise was both provocative and informative.”*

—Joel Mintz

For nearly 30 years, Joel Mintz, professor of law and cofounder of NSU Law Center's in-house Environmental and Land Use Law Clinic, has taught a variety of substantive and clinical environmental law courses, including offerings on the federal law of pollution control, comparative environmental law, and environmental aspects of land use planning. He has written extensively on environmental enforcement, the Superfund program, growth management, sustainable development, and certain international environmental agreements.

### Joel Mintz on the Symposium

The satisfying experience I had co-organizing our February symposium stemmed from a combination of several factors: my longstanding love of nature, my deeply felt concern about the worsening problem of climate disruption, and the opportunities the conference provided to work with some wonderfully knowledgeable and talented people. My interest in the wonders of the natural world goes back to my early childhood, when my family lived close to a wonderful open meadow. I spent many happy hours there, seeing and listening to birds and other wildlife, climbing trees, sitting by a gurgling brook, and breathing the crisp air that surrounded it all.

My passion for the outdoors was reinforced in my college and law school years. I was moved and inspired by the first Earth Day celebration in 1970. I also took courses in the then-beginning field of environmental law including a marvelous clinical course at the Natural Resources Defense Council. I realized that becoming an environmental attorney was indeed my thing. Later career experiences, as an attorney and chief attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency and a teacher of environmental law at NSU, confirmed the rightness of that decision.

One of the most exciting and enriching experiences of my professional career has been my active, 11-year membership in the Center for Progressive Reform (CPR). This national organization of law professors works together to testify before congressional committees and produce books, essays, blogs, white papers, and op-ed articles in support of progressive approaches to environmental protection and other governmental regulation that protects health and safety. Its board and member scholars include top-notch academics who are highly respected in their fields of expertise.

Each year, the NSU Law Center organizes a symposium that focuses on a timely topic. I was invited to plan a symposium on an environmental theme, and it struck me that energy policy, climate disruption, and sea level rise might provide a workable topic for an interdisciplinary conference. I suggested that idea to University of Minnesota law professor Alexandra Klass, a fellow CPR scholar, and she enthusiastically concurred. With her generous assistance, I was able to recruit nine distinguished CPR



scholars to make presentations at the gathering. I also asked two of my colleagues, Richard Grosso and Brion Blackwelder ('84), to join me in planning and organizing the symposium. I could not have asked for better partners! Both individuals have a deep interest in the subject, and both know numerous government officials, scientists, and environmental lawyers and advocates. In early planning meetings, it was agreed that the symposium would include a judicious mix of academic disciplines, that it would focus on state and local policy, as well as national issues, and that we organizers would divide up the tasks of inviting people to participate in the conference based on our personal familiarity with prospective speakers and their areas of expertise.

At the event, our hopes for the conference were fully realized. The speakers were uniformly superb, the symposium was well attended and well received, and the blending of perspectives and disciplinary expertise was both provocative and informative. The outstanding presentations and discussions at the symposium confirmed my sense that the overall problem of climate disruption is serious indeed, and that (unless policy changes are urgently made and strictly implemented) Florida is extraordinarily vulnerable to sea level rise. The speakers revealed some exemplary progress in adapting to flooding dangers at the local level, and they produced a thoughtful set of recommendations for policy reforms. At the same time, however, the conference participants emphasized a troubling political inertia, at all levels of government, that poses significant challenges to those who favor a sensible response to climate disruption threats.

In all, it was hugely energizing and rewarding for me, along with my colleagues, to put together a symposium event that spotlighted these vital matters, and that brought outstanding expertise to bear on how our state and nation can respond constructively to the increasing perils of a rapidly changing climate and an ever-rising sea.



*Presenters pictured from left:*

Mona Hymel, J.D.—Arthur W. Andrews professor of law, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law

Victor B. Flatt, J.D.—Thomas F. and Elizabeth Taft distinguished professor of environmental law, University of North Carolina School of Law

David M. Driesen, J.D.—professor, Syracuse University College of Law

Joel A. Mintz, J.D., LL.M., J.S.D.—professor of law, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center



# Clinic News



Dear Alumni and Friends,

The Shepard Broad Law Center’s Clinical Semester Program provides students with a dynamic learning experience that serves as a bridge from the classroom to the real world. The clinical semester gives our students the opportunity to gain practical experience, build relationships through networking, and enrich the community through service.

The success of our clinical program depends on the continued support of dedicated members of the legal community, like you, who share our vision and commitment to preparing law students to become competent and ethical professionals. If you are interested in having your firm become an approved host for our law students through the NSU Law Center’s clinical program, please contact us at (954) 262-6063 or at [sanguignin@nsu.law.nova.edu](mailto:sanguignin@nsu.law.nova.edu). You can learn more about the NSU Law Center’s clinical semester by visiting [www.nsulaw.nova.edu/clinics](http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/clinics).

We look forward to talking with you soon!

Nancy Kelly Sanguigni  
Assistant Dean, Clinical Programs

The NSU Law Center’s Clinical Programs Office cannot provide direct legal advice or services to members of the general public. For assistance in obtaining an attorney, please contact the Broward County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service at (954) 764-8040, The Florida Bar Lawyer Referral Service at 800-342-8011, or your local Legal Aid Office.



## Veterans Law Clinic Inaugural Class

This January, the NSU Law Center Veterans Law Clinic enrolled its first class. The students participating in the inaugural class were Michelle Avis, Kendra Breeden, Jessica Chery, Michael Cubbage, Camila Daza, and Michael Nahabedian.

During the semester, students in the Veterans Law Clinic had the unique opportunity to provide legal assistance to low-income veterans and military personnel on a variety of issues. Some of the issues included veterans’ benefits, housing matters, wills, employment discrimination, family law, veterans’ court, driver’s license restoration, sealing and expungement, and military upgrades. Community involvement included self-help workshops and outreaches at Veterans of Foreign Wars organizations and shelters. The clinic students also hosted a guest lecturer on national security clearance and post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Front row from left: Kendra Breeden, Jessica Chery, and Michael Cubbage  
Back row from left: Jayme Cassidy, J.D., staff attorney for the Veterans Law Clinic; Michael Nahabedian; Michelle Avis; and Camila Daza

# Bankruptcy Law Clinic Coming Winter 2015

The NSU Law Center will offer a Bankruptcy Law Clinic beginning winter 2015. The clinic is one semester, 5 to 6 course credits, and will combine a classroom component with students working on bankruptcy cases. Students enrolled in the Bankruptcy Clinic will represent actual clients in federal bankruptcy proceedings. The classroom component will examine the legal, social, and ethical dimensions of bankruptcy law practice.

## Business Practice Clinic

Supervising attorneys from large, medium, and small law firms throughout Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties mentored student externs. Students were also mentored by attorneys from Broward College, the Economic Crimes Division of the United States Attorney’s Office, United States Bankruptcy Court, United States Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Hollywood City Attorney’s Office, as well as by in-house counsel for several corporations and a large not-for-profit health care organization.

### Sharita Young, Extern, Business Practice Clinic

My experience at the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (USSEC) was very rewarding. Throughout the semester, I worked alongside skilled attorneys on complex legal issues and was exposed to a ton of new experiences. I’ve attended witness statements, court proceedings, and internal meetings. I have also drafted memoranda of law, investor declarations, document requests, and other miscellaneous documents for cases where the alleged damages were typically in the millions.

Among the perks that are available to interns at the USSEC are training opportunities. Interns are allowed to attend educational courses hosted by the commission. I participated in Bloomberg terminal, futures and options, and banking law. Additionally, interns have access to the USSEC’s internal database,

which contains a substantial amount of educational materials. Interns can learn about every aspect of securities law by taking advantage of the resources that the commission has to offer.

One of my favorite things about working at the USSEC was its location in the downtown Miami/Brickell area. There are many places to eat lunch and hang out after work. Additionally, there are beautiful views of Brickell and Brickell Key, and I was fortunate enough to have a desk with a view from the 17th floor.

My internship at the USSEC also created numerous networking opportunities. There were periodic networking events throughout the semester where interns mingled with attorneys outside the work environment. I developed close bonds with several attorneys at the



commission, and I intend to maintain those relationships.

There was never a dull moment while interning at the USSEC. From day one, the attorneys that I worked with made a solid effort to include me in projects. If I could relive this whole experience, I would. I definitely recommend this externship to any future law students.

## Children and Families Law Clinic

Eight students participated in the NSU Law Center’s in-house Children and Families Law Clinic, while five students were externs in private firms, legal aid offices, and government agencies. Clinic interns were able to immerse themselves in real-life family law cases involving alimony, child support, paternity, equitable distribution, and dependency. Students were involved in client interviews, depositions, mediations, and hearings. The in-house clinic gave interns the opportunity to use their foreign language talents to represent clients who spoke Spanish and Portuguese. Students also spent time at the Broward County Courthouse, allowing them to make valuable connections with local family law attorneys and judges. To round out their clinic experience, students attended the Broward County Bar Association’s Raising the Bar Family Law Seminar. The daylong seminar addressed current family law issues and was a great way for students to network with legal professionals.





*Front row, from left: Laura Garcia, Melissa Falconi, Maybel Castellon, and Ruby Garg*

*Back row, from left: Rose Marie Marchese, Julie Collange, Tara Gelfant, and Monica Jordan*

## Ro Marchese, Intern, In-house Children and Families Law Clinic

When I first stepped foot through the doors of the Children and Families Law Clinic, I didn't know what to expect. Although I had interned in various legal capacities before, I had never worked directly with clients or been given the freedom to work on a case on my own. As soon as I sat down at my desk, my nerves escalated, especially when Brion Blackwelder ('84), professor and director of the NSU Children and Families Law Clinic, handed me a file. My first case involved a mother who wanted to move her children out of the country, and I had no idea where to begin. I immediately asked Professor Blackwelder for insight. In return, he asked me what I thought I should do. From that moment on, I drafted petitions and motions based on what I felt would best help my client meet her goals.

After my first week working at the clinic, I was thrilled to receive my certificate as a Certified Legal Intern (CLI). This meant that I could sign my name on each document that I composed and speak on the record during hearings. By becoming a CLI, I was allowed to represent one of my clients during a special set hearing.

I had prepared all night by writing an opening statement and questions that I would ask the petitioner and respondent. When the judge motioned for me to begin, I attempted to enter my documents into evidence, but before I could explain the relevance, the judge stopped me and asked whether I had any questions to ask my client. I hurriedly started to ask the questions I had practiced for hours, but the judge stopped me again and decided to take over and ask his own questions. Because the petitioner did not show up to court, the judge quickly ruled in our favor, and the hearing was over before I could take a breath. I learned that no matter how long I prepared for hearings, they rarely go according to plan.

The best part of my clinic experience was the bonds I formed with the other interns. Some of the interns knew each other from class, but by the time clinic ended, we had all become best friends. All students in the clinic worked hard by completing motions and attending hearings and meetings with clients. We helped each other through cases by asking questions and bouncing ideas off one another. We were all facing



these new challenges and building our confidence together as future lawyers.

Participating in clinic was the best decision of my law-school career. I learned how to be a lawyer, which is something that you don't necessarily learn in the classroom. As interns, we had anywhere from 5 to 12 cases at a time, and we learned how to deal with clients, opposing counsel, and the court system. I believe that this experience helped prepare me for the real world, no matter what type of law I choose to practice. I now feel ready for the next chapter in my legal career.

## Lindsey Zielinski, Extern, Children and Families Law Clinic

Options surround us in law school. From the classes we take to the organizations we join, our opportunities seem endless. When discussions started about seizing the opportunity to participate in the clinical program, I was intrigued. For the first two years in law school, we are taught the fundamentals of law, but I was in search of a way to obtain practical experience.

The clinic gave me practical, hands-on experience in drafting motions and pleadings. It also provided me with valuable courtroom experience. I had the opportunity to consult with clients one-on-one, orchestrate mediations, learn about different methods of discovery, participate in depositions, and more. I was placed at Legal Aid of Palm Beach County with Ross

Baer ('88), adjunct professor at the Law Center. Within my first three days, I completed an intake, drafted the pleadings to initiate a paternity suit, shadowed the domestic violence attorney for a day in court, and had a final hearing for an uncontested dissolution of marriage. As the semester continued, the list of hands-on experiences I received lengthened. I was able to speak in court on multiple final hearings for marriage dissolutions and motions. I ran a plethora of mediations regarding dissolution of marriage cases and paternities, and I held my first deposition and drafted a writ of certiorari.

The placement in the clinical program not only helped mold me into the type of attorney I strive to be, but also gave me great experience to share during



job interviews and when networking. The attorneys and paralegals I worked with were welcoming and more than willing to take time out of their busy schedules to teach me as much as they could. Participating in the Children and Families Law Clinic was by far the best experience in law school.

## Criminal Justice Clinic

Seventeen students participated in the winter 2014 Criminal Justice Clinic. The clinic offers students the opportunity to work across the state of Florida and in other states. This opportunity provides students with an edge when applying for positions with a state attorney's office or public defender's office. Clinic externs were placed in offices for the state attorney or public defender in Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Orange counties. Students handled cases involving DUI, drug possession, petty theft, prostitution, domestic violence, and attempted murder. During their externships, students gained a greater understanding of the legal process and had the opportunity to network and build relationships with attorneys, judges, and opposing counsel. Additionally, Mark Dobson, NSU Law Center professor, helped students with their resumes, cover letters, and interviewing skills. Several students enrolled in the Criminal Justice Clinic have already received job offers, and many others are going through the interview process.

## Kimberly Wald, Extern, Criminal Justice Clinic

During the winter 2014 semester, I participated in the Criminal Justice Clinic with the Broward County State Attorney's Office. This was a unique, valuable, and educational experience, which led me to pursue a career as an assistant state attorney. During my externship with the Broward County State Attorney's Office, I drafted motions, which were filed with the court, and subsequently, I was able to successfully argue those motions. While in court, I spoke on record and interacted with lawyers and legal professionals. I was also able to use

my knowledge from trial advocacy and evidence classes when I had to direct, cross-examine, and impeach witnesses, as well as refresh a witness's recollection and give closing arguments. My deposition classes and advanced criminal law lectures were directly applicable to my clinic experience. The three-week course thoroughly prepared me for this experience. The hands-on experience in the courtroom was invaluable, and the connections and friendships I developed made the externship a memorable and enjoyable experience.





# Environmental and Land Use Law Clinic

Three students participated in the in-house Environmental and Land Use Law Clinic and were introduced to a broad scope of issues at the local, state, and federal levels. One student served as an extern for a private public interest law firm. The students had the opportunity to experience the day-to-day life of an environmental law attorney. The students worked on a number of cases involving property rights, endangered species, sea level rise, ocean erosion, and protecting endangered turtle habitats along the Florida coast.

## Ryan Abrams, Extern, Environmental and Land Use Law

The best decision I made in law school was to enroll in the Environmental and Land Use Law Clinic, directed by Richard Grosso, a professor at the NSU Law Center and a leading figure in the field of environmental and land use law in Florida. Everyone in the field knows and respects him, and I have learned so much from him. I learned the practical side of the law, and had an opportunity to gain valuable, real-world experience.

This was no ordinary classroom experience, as the professor took the interns on a number of field trips to the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), where 700,000 acres of Everglades wetlands were drained and replaced with large-scale farming. I went to a groundbreaking ceremony in the EAA that celebrated the construction of a new stormwater treatment area that

will treat polluted agricultural runoff. During that ceremony, I met the secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Herschel T. Vinyard, Jr. I also went to Miami and saw the lake belt area, where limestone mining practices have transformed the region into a series of lakes that are devoid of life due to their significant depths. I learned that there are hard consequences affecting the public good when environmental and land use laws are inadequate or unenforced.

My externship was with Robert N. Hartsell, P.A., a private public interest environmental and land use law firm based in Pompano Beach. Robert Hartsell ('02) is an adjunct professor at the NSU Law Center and teaches in the Environmental and Land Use Law Clinic. While at the firm, I helped with



challenging and complex projects. I wrote motions, one of which the court ultimately sided with, and responses to motions. After evaluating and scrutinizing an Environmental Impact Statement for compliance with federal law, I drafted an extensive complaint. These were just a few of the many assignments that I was given. After a semester in the clinic, I am confident that I will be an effective attorney and help preserve the environment.

# International Practice Clinic

In the winter 2014 International Practice Clinic, students participated in diverse externships, such as Warner Music Latina, Inc.; a financial legal services firm in Panama; a public interest law firm in Charlotte, North Carolina; a pharmaceutical consulting company; and law firms specializing in corporate work and immigration.

## Ellie Einhorn, Extern, International Practice Clinic

During my time in the legal department at Warner Music Latina, Inc. (WML), I learned how to draft and amend contracts. I helped with licenses, waivers of exclusivity, synchronization, television development, and recording and nondisclosure agreements. The work environment at WML was different from other clinical placements, because it is not a law firm, but a recording label. At WML, all departments of the company, such as finance and marketing, were involved in

the creation of the contract. As a result, I saw how the contract evolved from the creation of the idea to the execution of the signatures. The supervising attorney at WML worked closely with the students and explained her critiques. As a result, I was able to learn from my mistakes and apply the law and language correctly. My experience at WML was unparalleled, and I look forward to a career as an attorney in the entertainment industry.



# Faculty Farewells

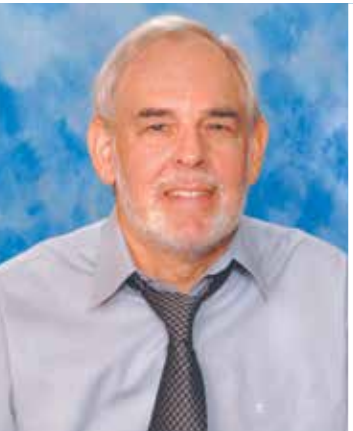
The NSU Law Center has come a long way since 1974 and the school would not be here today without its faculty and staff members. This year marks the retirement of a record number of individuals, including founding faculty member Bruce Rogow, transformational leaders Gail Richmond and Joseph Harbaugh, and other dedicated instructors and faculty and staff members. All of us at NSU are grateful to these individuals who have given years of dedication and hard work.



**Bruce Rogow**  
(40 years)



**Steve Wisotsky**  
(39 years)



**Marc Rohr**  
(38 years)



**Johnny Burris**  
(35 years)



**Gail Richmond**  
(35 years)



**Marilyn Cane**  
(31 years)



**Lynn Epstein**  
(25 years)



**Eloisa Rodriguez-Dod**  
(21 years)



**Joseph Harbaugh**  
(19 years)



**Charlene Smith**  
(11 years)

# Staff Farewells

Rosann Auchstetter  
Janet Corso  
Veronica Kiszkiel  
Frank Novak

Angie Stramiello  
Geri Thaler  
Susan Werner  
Carol Yecies

Barbara Britzke, Critical Skills Program Instructor





Jon M. Garon

*“The Law Center is well positioned to embrace demographic change to create new programs and initiatives for its graduates and members of the bar.”*

—Jon M. Garon

*“Jon Garon’s academic achievements, engaging vision, and passion for the law and the future of legal education, make him ideally suited to build upon the excellent work of his predecessors and to further advance the visibility of the Law Center.”*

—George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer

Meet Jon M. Garon, J.D., noted authority on the study of the future of legal education, and new dean of the NSU Law Center. As dean, Garon will serve as the chief academic and administrative officer of the Law Center, working with a diverse community of scholars and students in the creation of new programs and initiatives for its students, graduates, and members of the bar.

Previously, Garon served as dean of the Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he also served as interim dean of its School of Business. Garon was a professor of law at the University of New Hampshire School of Law and associate dean for academic affairs at the Western State University College of Law as well. At Hamline University, Garon created and advanced law school programs to national ranking and secured approval for two joint-degree programs.

Most recently, Garon was a tenured professor of law and founding director of the Chase Law + Informatics Institute—which offers interdisciplinary research, courses, and programs on the regulation and utilization of information systems across many fields and disciplines, including intellectual property law, privacy law, security, health care, criminal law, business law, and international law—at Northern Kentucky University in Highland Heights, Kentucky. While there, he grew the Chase Law + Informatics Institute to national acclaim as one of the top 13 law schools nationwide teaching law practice technology and securing the school’s first \$1-million donation to name the W. Bruce Lunsford Academy for Law, Business, and Technology.

Among his numerous accomplishments, Garon has held key leadership positions as past chair in both the American Bar Association’s Law School Administration Committee and the Association of American Law Schools Section on Part-Time Legal Education. He is the author of three books and numerous book chapters and articles. These include *The Independent Filmmaker’s Law & Business Guide to Financing, Shooting, and Distributing Independent and Digital Films*; *Own It—The Law & Business Guide to Launching a New Business Through Innovation, Exclusivity and Relevance*; and *Entertainment Law & Practice*. Additionally, he has presented at more than 60 forums across the United States.

His scholarship extends broadly over the areas of emerging technologies, and their impact on business, society, law practice, and delivery of legal education. In his article in the *University of Connecticut Law Review*, “Legal Education in Disruption: The Headwinds and Tailwinds of Technology,” Garon documents the economic and technological transformation of the small

law practice, the effect of which drives changes to the legal curriculum. His other scholarship includes entertainment law and practice, which addresses both the practical aspects of entertainment and the fundamental underpinnings of entertainment law.

“Jon Garon’s academic achievements, engaging vision, and passion for the law and the future of legal education, make him ideally suited to build upon the excellent work of his predecessors and to further advance the visibility of the Law Center,” said George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer.

In his role as dean, Garon will focus on advancing the Law Center in all areas, including curricular innovations, international and global experiences, and technology and innovation. He also will focus on academic excellence from faculty members and students, student preparedness for professional jobs, and the school’s reputation in legal education and the profession.

“The Law Center is well positioned to embrace demographic change to create new programs and initiatives for its graduates and members of the bar,” said Garon. “Similarly, shifts in technology and access to information will reshape the role of lawyers in society, and these changes can lead to programs for J.D. students, LL.M. students, and those seeking non-J.D. certificates and degrees.”

Garon succeeds Athornia Steele, J.D., who stepped down in September 2013, but will return to teaching at the Law Center after a sabbatical. Elena B. Langan, J.D., professor of law and associate dean for academic affairs, had served as interim dean, and will return to her previous position.

Garon received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Theater from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and his Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School in New York, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

Garon is looking forward to working with his fellow deans across the university and faculty and staff members at the law school. Strengthening relationships with alumni and the community and creating new opportunities for students, faculty members, alumni, and donors are among some of his top priorities. Additionally, Garon plans to foster partnerships with a variety of bar associations and community organizations so that the NSU Law Center will be integral to the communities it serves.



New Faculty Members



Above: Megan Chaney  
Below: Marilyn Uzdavines



**Megan Chaney** joined the NSU Law Center as an associate professor in the summer of 2013. She brings with her formidable classroom teaching, clinical administration, and criminal practice experience. Chaney was the director of clinical programs and experiential learning and an associate professor of law at University of La Verne College of Law in Southern California, where she taught Evidence, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Trial Advocacy, Lawyering Skills Practicum, and Professional Responsibility. She was also the founding faculty adviser for the award-winning La Verne Trial Team.

Prior to that, in 2006, she was appointed visiting associate professor of law at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada—Las Vegas, where she taught Criminal Procedure and codirected the Juvenile Justice Clinic. Chaney was a Robert M. Cover clinical teaching fellow and clinical lecturer in law at Yale Law School from 2004 to 2006. While at Yale, she worked with Ronald. S. Sullivan, Jr., professor and former director of public defender services in Washington, D.C. She supervised students representing clients accused of felony crimes in Connecticut and co-taught Criminal Defense Theory and Ethics.

She received her J.D. degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University in New York and is proud of the clinical education she received there in both the Criminal Law Clinic and the Criminal Appellate Clinic. She received her B.A. degree from Bard College at Simon’s Rock in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Chaney’s experience includes serving as an assistant public defender at the Miami-Dade County Public Defender’s Office. She has spoken at numerous academic conferences throughout the United States including the Association of American Law Schools Clinical Conference, the Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, the Wells Adoption Conference at Capital Law School, and the Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction Conference for Law School Computing. In fall 2007, she helped develop and teach the training curriculum for the Western Juvenile Defender Center at the National Juvenile Defender Leadership Summit. The *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy* published her latest article about post-adjudicatory juvenile defense.

Since arriving at the NSU Law Center, Chaney has taught courses in Criminal Law, Professional Responsibility, and Trial Advocacy. She codirected the Criminal Justice Clinic and has helped coach nearly 20 student members of the Nova Trial Association and the Moot Court Society in competitions across the country. She looks forward to her new role as the faculty adviser for the Nova Trial Association, a role bestowed upon her by Mark Dobson, professor of law.

**Marilyn Uzdavines** joins the faculty at the NSU Law Center as an assistant professor. Previously, she was a visiting professor at Stetson University College of Law in Tampa. Uzdavines teaches Lawyering Skills and Values and Real Estate Transactions. Her scholarship focuses on property law issues and, more specifically, on stabilizing America’s blighted neighborhoods through code enforcement reform. Her article on this topic will appear in the fall 2014 issue of the *Washburn Law Journal*.

She has spoken at numerous academic conferences throughout the United States, including the Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, the University of Miami Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference, the NSU Law Center Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference, the Southeastern Regional Legal Writing Conference, and the Legal Writing Institute’s National Conference.

Uzdavines received her B.A. and J.D. degrees magna cum laude from the University of Florida. While in law school, she served as symposium editor of the *Florida Law Review*; was elected as a member of the Order of the Coif; and served as a teaching assistant for Legal Research and Writing, Appellate Advocacy, Trusts and Estates, and Trial Practice.

After law school, Uzdavines practiced in Tampa at the international law firm of Holland & Knight, LLC, where she worked in the business law group. She later opened the firm Uzdavines Law Group, P.A., in Clearwater, Florida, where she practiced real estate law, condominium law, creditor’s rights, and estates and trusts. She has represented national lenders in foreclosure litigation cases throughout Florida. Uzdavines has also counseled clients on the Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act and the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. She is a member of The Florida Bar’s Real Property Probate and Trust Law Section and is admitted to practice in the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida.



# NSU LAW CENTER

## Celebrating 40 Years of Academic Excellence and Alumni Achievement

On September 5, 1974, when the doors first opened, the goal was then, as it is today, to produce lawyers dedicated to justice and excellence in the profession. For 40 years, the faculty and staff members of the NSU Law Center have been committed to preparing students to enter the legal profession and to become leaders in the communities where they live and work. The graduating class of 1977 was the first group of students to be educated here.

Since that time, the NSU Law Center has created a legacy of respected attorneys, community leaders, law makers, and law changers. Today, there are more than 9,000 graduates. It is not uncommon to find alumni who are distinguished leaders

in top law firms, many levels of government, the sports and entertainment industries, or at some of the most notable corporations in the world.

Many aspects of the NSU Law Center experience were the same for all alumni: professors, finals, and studying for the bar exam. Here is where students defined themselves, reached goals, and found friends—all things that created a sense of community. To commemorate this milestone in the Law Center’s history, alumni have been selected from each decade, starting with the inaugural class. Their stories are a testament to the unique education, culture, and inspiration that mark the NSU Law Center experience.



INAUGURAL CLASS OF 1977

Ron Klein



Ron Klein, shareholder of Klein and Fortune, P.A. in Hollywood, Florida, practices in the areas of commercial and residential real estate, transactional litigation, and corporation law. In 1986, he was a shareholder at Lococo, Klein, Touby & Smith, P.A. From 1977 to 1984, he was an associate for three years, and then a shareholder for four years, at Malspeis, Lococo, Brown, & Schwartz, P.A. He was of counsel to the Walter Heller Company 1977–1978. From 1979 to 1989, Klein was on the Miami Board of Realtors—Attorney Liaison Committee. He has been an adjunct professor at St. Thomas University in Miami teaching Regulatory Environments and Labor Relations. Currently, he is a legal education instructor for Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, National Business Institute, Sterling Education Seminars, and Lorman Education Services. Klein has published numerous articles and writings on the subject of commercial litigation, title litigation, residential and commercial real estate, and landlord tenant law. He is an approved instructor with the Florida Department of Insurance, The Florida Bar, and the Florida Real Estate Commission. Klein received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Miami and a Master of Science degree in Real Estate Appraising from Florida International University. He graduated cum laude from the NSU Law Center. For almost 25 years, he has maintained a Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rating.

*“Being part of something new and unique is what I loved about this school. I feel that NSU, as a whole, still has that innovative and pioneering spirit today. I am proud of what the university has become and how much it has grown.”*

—Ron Klein

Where are you from?

I was born in Philadelphia and moved to Hollywood, Florida, in 1963.

What is your background?

My mother's family is from Spain, my father's mother was from Russia, and my father's father was from Germany.

Are you the first law school graduate in your family?

I have several cousins who are attorneys, and my aunt was an attorney in New Jersey.

When did you first gain an interest in law?

I knew I wanted to be an attorney since my second year of college. Unfortunately, my father became ill, so I left college to run the family television and appliance business. I received legal experience from that business. Four years later, I sold the business to return to college to become an attorney.

Why did you want to pursue law as a career?

Having operated a business for four years, I learned that running a business was more than sales. I had to learn to deal with customers, landlords, franchisers, and employees; to sell products; and to purchase products at the right price.

Why did you choose NSU for law school?

I was in the first graduating class of Nova High School (public) in 1966. When I heard that there was going to be a law school, I applied immediately. Being able to stay in this area, attend a new law school, and go to what was then Nova University—I believed it was a wonderful opportunity.

You were the first student to ever put down a deposit to attend this law school. Can you explain, in your own words, your experience and what the school was like when it was just starting?

I was at my apartment studying for my master's degree by the pool, and I saw the mailman depositing the mail into the building mailboxes. Knowing I had applied to several law schools, I checked the mail immediately. There was the acceptance from Nova University. I ran into my apartment, called my wife to let her know the good news, and drove my car to the admissions office with my deposit. The person who I spoke to did not even know how to handle receipt of the check. She looked around, spoke to some other people, and then opened a book and wrote my name and the amount of the deposit. She told me that I was the first deposit they had received for the law school.

At the time, the law school had not yet received provisional approval from the American Bar Association, but I was certain the school would become accredited. I was also familiar with the Fischler family and had complete confidence in Abe Fischler. You knew that the students who first attended really wanted to be there and become attorneys. I moved into the dorm apartments and, I believe, was the first person to live on campus. I think Jay

Schwartz ('77) was the second student living on campus. I was standing on a stairwell of an empty building when Schwartz pulled up in his Oldsmobile convertible. We have remained friends ever since.

Who was your favorite professor and why?

I really loved the professors. In a small law school, you really got to know them. Sam Bader, Joel Berman, and Bruce Rogow were just the best law professors. They provided such a unique learning experience. Sam Bader showed true concern for the students. If you needed something, he was there. If you did not understand something, he took whatever time was required to explain it.

Joel Berman was the best professor I have ever had in any school, and I have been to many. His knowledge of the subject was incredible, and his delivery was the best ever. Bruce Rogow was terrific. I spent much time in his office receiving explanations of civil procedure, and by the end, I felt I actually knew something about civil procedure. I thank each and every professor at Nova; because of their work, I was able to become an attorney.

What was your favorite class and why?

My favorite class, without question, was Wills with Joel Berman. It seems like yesterday, but I still remember his lectures and the concepts he taught.

What is your favorite memory of the Law Center?

There are so many favorite memories! It is hard to pick just one. Sam Bader fighting for me to obtain permission to graduate early; lox and bagels with Joel Berman; the rat smell; my study group and friendships with Kathleen Touby ('77) and Pete DeMahy ('77); copying Valerie Hall Manuel's ('77) notes (She took the best notes!); and my friendships with Michael Reith ('77), Anthony Vitale ('77), Howard Grietzer ('77), and Jay Schwartz ('77), which continue today. I could go on forever with the memories of law school, which I feel were the best years of my life.

What advice can you give current students about law school and their law careers?

No matter what you hear about becoming an attorney and the profession, there is always room for another good attorney. My best advice is to never do anything your mother would not be proud of. Put your clients first and your fees last. If you do the right job for your clients, the fees will follow. The only thing you have is your reputation, so make it a good one.

The NSU Law Center is celebrating 40 years this year. How much has the school changed since you were a student?

Being part of something new and unique is what I loved about this school. I feel that NSU, as a whole, still has that innovative and pioneering spirit today. I am proud of what the university has become and how much it has grown. It is such a beautiful campus with lots of students. I can only hope that the personal relationships I experienced between faculty members and students are still there.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment or what are you most proud of thus far in your career?

I believe it is a privilege to be able to operate an ethical law office and establish a reputation of excellence among my peers and the court. I have maintained an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell for more than 25 years. When I became an attorney, I promised my mother I would never do anything in my career that wouldn't make her proud. I have stayed true to that promise and have turned away countless amounts of business that I do not believe would have made her proud for me to be associated with.



## CLASS OF 1984

### Bernard (Bernie) Moyle



Bernard Moyle serves as the chief operating officer and chief financial officer for Vantage Hospitality Group, Inc., headquartered in Coral Springs. He is also one of the managing partners. The hotel company is the eighth largest worldwide with more than 1,200 hotels independently owned and operated. It is the only hotel company to be ranked eight consecutive years on the *Inc.* 500/5000 List of America's Fastest-Growing Private Companies.

Moyle's vision and contributions to the company have made Vantage a leader in the hospitality industry. Vantage's first hotel brand, Americas Best Value Inn, is a leader in the limited-service segment. Vantage's brands include Americas Best Value Inn, Lexington Hotels, Jamison Inns, and Country Hearth Inns, making Vantage a leader in the full

service and limited service hotel segments. Vantage affiliates include a broad spectrum of hospitality-related business focused in the areas of hotel ownership and management, real estate brokerage, and insurance brokerage; Moyle is responsible for the operating effectiveness of these businesses as well.

He has worked in the community and business development for the city of Coral Springs. Moyle has held several posts with the city's public-private entities, including chairman of the board of the Economic Development Foundation of Coral Springs and Enterprise Coral Springs. In these posts, he helped attract new businesses to the area, creating thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of positive economic impact.

Moyle also served for eight years as vice chair of the Coral Springs Community Redevelopment Agency. This organization is charged with overseeing the redevelopment of approximately 150 acres in downtown Coral Springs.

A member of the Broward Workshop, Moyle is involved with the transportation, legislation, and tourism committees. (The Broward Workshop is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, invitation-only business organization made up of chief decision-makers representing more than 100 of the county's major businesses.)

Prior to joining Vantage Hospitality, Moyle practiced commercial law for 18 years and was managing partner at Benson, Moyle, Mucci LLP in Fort Lauderdale. He holds a bachelor's degree from Salisbury University in Maryland. He has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the Year for NSU, is a former treasurer and president of the NSU Law Alumni Association, and is a member of the Law Center Board of Governors. He was also the 2013 recipient of the Covered Bridge Award given by the Coral Springs Chamber of Commerce for his superior contributions to the local business community. The award is the highest honor one can receive in Coral Springs and is given to those who demonstrate civic leadership. Moyle resides in Coral Springs with his wife, Cheri. They have four adult children.



1984

*"When I was looking for a clerking position, it was hard for students to get a job, as most of the jobs went to students from the University of Miami and the University of Florida. Now, there are NSU Law Center alumni throughout our legal and business communities and political systems. The Law Center has always been respected for developing working lawyers, and it still has that reputation today."*

—Bernie Moyle

#### Where are you from?

I was born in Washington, D.C., but grew up in Wheaton, Maryland, which is where I lived until I moved to Florida in 1981.

#### What is your background?

My family is predominately Irish and German on my father's side. On my mother's side, we're not totally sure, because my grandfather was an orphan. However, we believe my mother's family is predominantly English and French.

#### Are you the first law school graduate in your family?

My uncle, Bill Hudson, was a lawyer. However, I am the first lawyer in my immediate family.

#### When did you first gain an interest in law?

My grandfather challenged me to obtain a graduate degree of any kind. I have always been interested in both economics and law.

#### Why did you want to pursue law as a career?

I always admired my Uncle Bill. Also, my grandfather stressed the importance of an education, so that was my motivation to pursue a law degree.

#### Why did you choose NSU for law school?

Having lived in a suburb of Washington, D.C., my entire life, I had never traveled to the Southeast coast of Florida and was intrigued by the opportunity to attend law school there. The Fort Lauderdale area had, and still has, a wealth of outside activities, including fishing, diving, softball, and golf, as well as the beach.

#### Who was your favorite professor and why?

My favorite professors were Phyllis Coleman, who taught Contracts, and Marilyn Cane, who taught Secured Transactions. I also enjoyed classes with the late Larry Kalevitch, who taught Bankruptcy.

#### What was your favorite class and why?

One of my favorite courses was Secured Transactions, because it was taught in a small-class atmosphere by Marilyn Cane, who was a new professor at the time. She told the class that she was assigned this course because the dean understood that she had been a securities lawyer. She was in a position where she had to learn the law as we learned the law. This resulted in some lively conversations and a lot of open discussion and disagreements.

My other favorite class was Bankruptcy, because Larry Kalevitch was extremely challenging. I wrote my senior paper for him, even though he advised me that it would not be a good idea, as he would be difficult on me. But I enjoyed the challenge. In the end, I wrote a pretty good paper.

#### What is one piece of advice from a professor that helped you most during law school and afterward in your career?

I received some great advice from professors while at the NSU Law Center. Joel Berman, former professor and current vice president for legal affairs at NSU, advised that, when a lawyer marries a non-lawyer, the lawyer should be sure to leave the courtroom logic at work. Another piece of advice came from Ron Brown. He stressed learning to come to your own conclusions. Phyllis Coleman stressed the logic of looking to the statutes, the contract, and the facts in a progression. Lastly, Larry Kalevitch demanded that my writing have structure, depth, and a clear and logical path, with a well-supported conclusion.

My first bosses out of law school included the late Bill Benson, founding partner of Benson, Mucci, and Weiss P.L., and Raymond Ray, judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Florida. They taught me that "first I must consent to be a drudge" and, where appropriate, don't merely ask the court for the desired relief, but tell the court that the desired result is the right result.



What is your favorite memory of the Law Center?

I have several favorite memories of law school, including teasing Phyllis Coleman whenever we got a chance and getting thrown out of class by Ron Brown because we “weren’t smart enough to be lawyers.” Another favorite memory is making friends with Rick Block (’85), Mitch Garfinkle (’84), Henry Doherty (’84), Fred Braun (’84), Layne Verebay (’84), Glen Garrett (’83), Doug Jovanovic (’84), Andrea Kessler (’86), Dorry and Steve Knoerr (’86), and a lot of others in Section C.

How did the opportunity come about to start Vantage Hospitality Group?

During law school, I played softball on a recreation league and met some friends. After I graduated, my friends from the team became my clients and some of them were in the hotel, real estate, and construction businesses. While I practiced law, those friends and I created a small investment group that eventually became the company through which we acquired our first hotel. The opportunity was intriguing, especially because I had observed many of my clients build their non-law businesses. I wanted to find out if I could achieve the same success.

By 2001, Vantage and our first hotel brand, Americas Best Value Inn, really started to grow, and the investors in the hotel company asked if I would leave the law practice and come to run Vantage full time. Again, a piece of advice that has stayed with me through the years was from my law mentor, Bill Benson. He told me to never serve two masters, and I followed his advice. Roger Bloss, president of Vantage Hospitality Group, and I are two of the founders of the company, and we’re still working together more than 12 years later.

You helped start the Bar Gift Award. Can you explain why you wanted to provide this scholarship to graduating students?

When it came time to study for the Florida Bar Exam, my boss at the time, Raymond Ray, currently a judge for

the United States Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Florida, allowed me to take eight weeks of paid leave so that I could focus on studying. When I told my roommate, Ken Cooper, (’83) of Ray’s generosity, he told me not to pay rent for the next two months. All of this financial assistance allowed me to focus on studying for the exam. Passing the Florida Bar Exam was especially important, because I had an opportunity to become a partner in a firm, and that offer was contingent on whether I passed the exam the first time.

You have stayed connected to the NSU Law Center through the years by serving as the treasurer and president of the Law Alumni Association, as well as a member of the Board of Governors. Why was it important to you to continue to support the Law Center after graduation?

I invested a lot in law school, and I feel it is important to do my part to contribute, no matter how big or small, to make the NSU Law Center better. I am amazed and disappointed that the percentage of alumni who contribute their time, treasure, or talent to the school is relatively small. I realize that many alumni believe that they contributed by having paid their dues in the form of tuition and fighting the battle to graduate and pass the bar.

However, the value of our J.D. degree is enhanced by our efforts as alumni to improve the school. The law school marketplace is very competitive, and we have a duty as graduates to help develop scholarship funding and provide this opportunity to future law students. We need to do everything we can so that the NSU Law Center can attract and retain some of the best and brightest students.

The NSU Law Center is celebrating 40 years this year. How much has the school changed since you were a student?

When I was looking for a clerking position, it was hard for students to get a job, as most of the jobs went to students from the University of Miami

and the University of Florida. Now, there are NSU Law Center alumni throughout our legal and business communities and political systems. The Law Center has always been respected for developing working lawyers, and it still has that reputation today.

“I received some great advice from professors while at the NSU Law Center. ... [Ron Brown] stressed learning to come to your own conclusions. Phyllis Coleman stressed the logic of looking to the statutes, the contract, and the facts in a progression.”

—Bernie Moyle



Sherri L. Zack is shown with Kenneth Magidson, United States attorney, Southern District of Texas

Sherri L. Zack is an assistant United States attorney and deputy coordinator (domestic trafficking) for the Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance for the Southern District of Texas. She is tasked with the prosecution of child exploitation cases as a part of Project Safe Childhood, including the prosecution of individuals who engage in domestic minor sex trafficking. Project Safe Childhood is a Department of Justice initiative that was launched in 2006 to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children. The Department of Justice is committed to the safety and well-being of every child and has placed a high priority on combating sexual exploitation of minors. Through a network of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and advocacy organizations, Project Safe Childhood attempts to protect children by investigating and prosecuting offenders involved in child sexual exploitation.

Zack has lectured at prosecution and law enforcement training conferences and participated in Texas’s First International Conference on Human Trafficking. She has also published material about human trafficking. She is a 1987 graduate of University School and received her bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Florida. Prior to joining the United States Attorney’s Office in September 2008, Zack spent a year as an assistant district attorney in Harris County, Texas. From 1994 to 2007, she was an assistant state attorney at the Broward County Florida State Attorney’s Office where she specialized in the prosecution of sex crimes and child abuse cases. While at the NSU Law Center, she received the Best Oral Advocate Award among all Florida law schools at the 1992 Robert Orseck Memorial Moot Court Society Competition. In 2011, Eric Holder, the U.S. attorney general, recognized Zack for her “outstanding community outreach effort” for launching the program Internet Safety—It’s Not Just the Computer Anymore. This program is targeted to students and parents about cybersafety and good cybercitizenship. In 2013, she received the Stars of the Texas Bars Publication Award for Best News Article for her story, “Challenges in Federal Sex Trafficking Prosecutions.”

CLASS OF 1994  
Sherri L. Zack

Where are you from?

I was born in Royal Oak, Michigan. When I was about three years old, my family moved to Lauderhill. I grew up mainly in Plantation.

Are you the first law school graduate in your family?

My father, Robert Zack, is a lawyer and was a Broward County Court judge.

When did you first gain an interest in law?

When I was in the eighth grade, I participated in a mock trial with my friend Rafael Katz (’95). Coincidentally, we both decided to attend NSU Law Center and become lawyers.

Why did you want to pursue law as a career?

When I attended the University of Florida (UF) as an undergraduate, I initially wanted to be a veterinarian. However, after taking a few science classes, it became clear that, while I loved animals, being a veterinarian was not my calling. Many people told me throughout my childhood that I would make a good lawyer. Since I love to read and study history, I focused on that at UF.

In January of my freshman year at UF, my father, Robert Zack, was sworn in to be a Broward County Court judge. When I would come home to visit, I would go to the courthouse and watch the proceedings. It was during that time that I seriously considered becoming an attorney. My father would tell the family stories, and it was obvious that he loved the law and being a member of the judiciary. Watching the prosecutors in his courtroom led me to realize that this was the only kind of attorney I wanted to be. Once I knew that, I took advantage of all the classes at UF that would help me meet that goal.



Why did you choose NSU for law school?

Although I enjoyed my four years in Gainesville, Florida, I was ready for a change. NSU was a perfect fit. It was close to home in an area with a thriving legal community, and it had a reputation for graduating excellent trial lawyers.

Who was your favorite professor and why?

Michael Richmond was my favorite professor. Before I ever took a class with him, he was my Moot Court Society adviser for the Robert Orseck Memorial Moot Court Competition held during The Florida Bar Convention in the summer of 1992. He taught me how to present a winning oral argument. What he taught me has served me well as a career prosecutor. I have had the privilege of arguing three times before the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, Louisiana.

What was your favorite class and why?

I didn't have one favorite class, but three: Trial Advocacy, Evidence, and Scientific Evidence. Trial Advocacy gave me an opportunity to compete on an even playing field with my fellow classmates. I was not an A student or the best test taker, but Trial Advocacy was the class I excelled in. I found Scientific Evidence fascinating, and that interest has stayed with me today, as I often present DNA and other types of forensic evidence in many of the sexual assault cases brought before me. I still apply the principles I learned in that class when handling forensic computer experts in court during child pornography cases. The legal foundation Mark Dobson gave me in Evidence has served me well for more than 20 years, at two state jurisdictions, and at the federal level.

What is one piece of advice from a professor that helped you most during law school and afterward in your career?

Always be prepared. You have the upper hand when you are confident that you have prepared your case to the best of

your ability. This includes being able to anticipate what your opponent may do in any given situation. You must also think on your feet and be able to rely on a strong foundation in the rules of evidence.

I often hear stories from law students and young lawyers interested in becoming prosecutors claiming they could never be a defense attorney and expressing hostility toward those who choose the defense path. This kind of thinking is narrow. Defense attorneys are there to protect the rights we all share and ensure that prosecutors follow the law and the U.S. Constitution. Even criminals have rights.

As lawyers, we all have a duty to uphold justice and do the right thing, even when that means not being able to go forward with a case. I have been given a lot of power as a prosecutor to affect people's lives. With that power comes much responsibility. You must respect the power you have as an attorney, be mindful of it, and use it wisely.

What is your favorite memory of the Law Center?

I have so many great memories of the NSU Law Center, but participating in the Moot Court Society and mock trial competitions were my favorite.

Do you still keep in contact with classmates from the Law Center?

I keep in touch with many of my classmates. For more than 13 years, I worked as an assistant state attorney in Broward County with many fellow NSU Law Center graduates. Being a new prosecutor with nearly 10 of my former classmates was a great experience. I enjoyed working in South Florida, as there were so many NSU Law Center alumni. Some of my best friends today are those that I met while attending law school. Many of my friends still live in the area, and I see them every time I return to South Florida.

The NSU Law Center is celebrating 40 years this year. How much has the school changed since you were a student?

I know there have been many changes, but one thing that hasn't changed is that everyone there is committed to making great lawyers who are involved not only in their careers, but in their communities as well.

What advice can you give current students about law school and their law careers?

Do what works for you, and don't study a certain way because that is how everyone is doing it. Figure out what area of the law you love and follow your passion. I couldn't imagine being anything but a trial attorney. I love being a prosecutor, and I am so grateful that I get to go to work every day to seek justice on behalf of victimized children.

What was your career path?

While in my third year at NSU, I participated in an externship with the Broward County State Attorney's Office. It was amazing and solidified my interest in becoming a prosecutor. Following graduation from law school and passing the Florida Bar Exam, I was hired by Mike Satz, state attorney for the 17th Judicial Circuit.

My first few years in the office followed the normal course. I became a misdemeanor prosecutor, then misdemeanor supervisor, felony prosecutor, and lead felony prosecutor. When I knew I was getting close to working with a special unit within the court system, I approached the administration and indicated I was interested in working in the Sex Crimes Unit. At that time, few attorneys expressed an interest in that area.

Working in the Sex Crimes Unit provided lots of opportunities, not only for trials, but to teach (for the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association). I taught about jury selection in sex crimes cases and he said-she said cases, as well as working with DNA experts and presenting DNA evidence. I also taught for the National District Attorneys Association.

My career goal was to become an assistant United States attorney. I had considered joining the FBI as an agent as a pathway to that goal, but, a friend of mine introduced me to an assistant

United States attorney who gave me some guidance. So I did not join the FBI.

In 2005, I got married and my husband accepted a job in the Medical Center in Houston. So, we relocated to Texas. Again, my goal was to become an assistant United States attorney, but the United States Attorney's Office was not hiring at that time. I waived into the Texas Bar and was hired by the Harris County State Attorney's Office. There, I was assigned to misdemeanors and a judge introduced me to his sister, an appellate assistant United States attorney. She encouraged me to apply, and I did. Two days later, I received a call from the United States Attorney's Office asking if I would be interested in working with Project Safe Childhood, because they had just received funding to hire another attorney.

Since working at the United States Attorney's Office, I've had the most amazing opportunities. I continue to work passionately for the child victims of sexual exploitation. I feel strongly that children need a voice; the crimes committed against them can, and often do, haunt them for the rest of their lives. A murder victim's suffering ends with death, but victims of sexual violence and exploitation live with their experience every day. If my prosecution can reduce a child's suffering in any way, then I have achieved something. Thankfully, sentences in this area are justifiably high, and there are conditions that follow these offenders forever. The system is not perfect, but I am proud to be a part of it.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment or what are you most proud of so far in your career?

In 2005, I married a wonderful man and, in 2012, we had a son. Our son is the light of our lives. Many people told me that I would not be able to continue prosecuting sex crimes and child exploitation cases after having a child, but I am more passionate now that I am a mother.

Professionally, I have had the opportunity to argue before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on three separate occasions.

On the state level, I am most proud of the prosecution of a man who was on

the Bahama's Top 10 Most Wanted list, as he was a serial rapist and murderer from the Bahamas who then came to Florida to victimize women. He committed two separate, armed home invasions in Broward County, one involving three young women and one involving a family. Both cases were tried to guilty verdicts. However, one case was overturned on appeal because the court did not allow the defendant to represent himself. Because he was serving life in prison on the other case, the victims decided they did not want to endure another trial.

At the federal level, I am most proud of prosecuting two cases in which there was child pornography production. One of the cases was unusual because the offender challenged our evidence, claiming he had a right to privacy in meta data contained in the photographs he posted online.

Beyond my legal career, I am proud of my contribution to several philanthropic endeavors. While at the Broward County State Attorney's Office, I was the silent auction chair for the Up the River Cruise, an American Cancer Society fund-raiser that I worked on with fellow alumna, Sarahnell Murphy ('95), who is currently the chief of the misdemeanor section of the Broward County State Attorney's Office and one of my best friends. In Texas, I found my way to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) Special Attractions

Committee, where I have volunteered my time every spring since 2010 at an attraction called Fun on the Farm. It teaches children where their food comes from and about agriculture around Texas. The HLSR raises millions of dollars for scholarships every year.

*“For more than 13 years, I worked as an assistant state attorney in Broward County with many fellow NSU Law Center graduates. Being a new prosecutor with nearly 10 of my former classmates was a great experience. I enjoyed working in South Florida, as there were so many NSU Law Center alumni.”*

—Sherri L. Zack

RICHMOND'S DREAM TEAM

On June 24, 1992, four Nova students competed in the preliminary rounds of the moot court competition sponsored by the Young Lawyers Section of The Florida Bar. All four had just finished their first year of law school and faced students who had completed at least two years of law school. Yolanda Fox, Julie Priestes, Angi Stanton, and Sherri Zack all finished among the top 10 oralists in the competition. Zack was named the best oralist. Professor Mike Richmond coached the YLS team. Nova alumni Gary Sherman '83, and Valerie Shea, '84, provided financial assistance for the team's trip to Orlando.



From left to right: Yolanda Fox, Angi Stanton, Mike Richmond, Sherri Zack, and Julie Priestes.

From Nova Lawyer, 1992



## CLASS OF 2004

### Alexander D. Brown



Left: Alexander D. Brown shows off trophies for the First Place Team and Best Oral Advocate at the E. Earle Zehmer Moot Court Competition (2002).

Right: Alexander D. Brown, director of the Tripp Scott law firm (2014)

Alexander D. Brown, director of the Tripp Scott law firm, focuses his practice on complex business litigation and intellectual property litigation. Brown is AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Since 2009, *Florida Super Lawyers* has identified Brown as one of the Top Young Lawyers in Florida. His peers have recognized him in *Florida Trend* magazine as one of Florida's Legal Elite lawyers.

Brown has been involved with many cases as trial counsel where he has handled issues ranging from insurance coverage disputes to false advertising claims, federal Lanham Act claims, and trade secret misappropriation claims, as well as trademark, copyright, and patent infringement claims. Brown's expertise has also led to him being published by many respected publications, such as *Forbes*, *Law 360*, *NewsMax*, and the *Daily Business Review*, among others. He is also a frequent guest on nationally syndicated radio and television shows, discussing groundbreaking legal issues, such as the recent decision by the United States Patent and Trademark Office regarding the cancellation of the National Football League Washington Redskins' trademark. His litigation successes include a three-year-long patent infringement litigation against Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., where he successfully proved that Home Depot engaged in willful patent infringement. The jury awarded the client \$15 million following a nearly monthlong

jury trial, followed by additional awards in the amount of \$3 million in punitive damages, \$2.8 million in attorneys' fees, and \$3.1 million of prejudgment interest that was imposed on top of the jury's verdict by the presiding federal district court judge. Ultimately, the case was appealed to the Federal Circuit Court of Appeal in Washington, D.C., where the trial court's decision and jury verdict were affirmed in all respects, and Home Depot was required to pay the entire verdict amount of nearly \$25 million. (See *Powell v. Home Depot*, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, Case No. 07-80435-CIV-Hurley/Hopkins.)

Brown also recently prosecuted a trade secret misappropriation and copyright infringement claim against a large, New York-based corporation, successfully proving that the defendant companies intentionally misappropriated his clients' intellectual property. That case resulted in a \$26-million jury award that included \$10 million in punitive damages. This case was recognized as the number one largest intellectual property litigation verdict in New York for 2011 and the number five verdict overall in 2011. This case was also acknowledged as one of the top 100 verdicts in the United States in 2011. (See *Member Services v. Security Mutual*, United States District Court, Northern District of New York, Case No. 3:06-cv-01164 [TJM/DEP].)

In addition to his trial work, Brown has handled several appellate cases. Brown's skills as an appellate lawyer emanate from his serving as a staff attorney for Melanie G. May, class of 1981, chair of the NSU Law Center's Board of Governors and a judge with Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal. Prior to joining Tripp Scott, P.A., Brown served as law clerk for Linnea R. Johnson, a U.S. magistrate judge with the Southern District of Florida, and thereafter as a litigation clerk with the economic crimes section of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami.

Outside of his legal work, Brown remains an active member of the Broward County business community. He is a member of the Jim Moran Youth Automotive Training Center Board of Directors, a charity geared toward training and educating at-risk youth in basic automotive repair skills, academic remediation, job readiness, and life-management skills. He is also involved with the Broward Bar Association and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and Nativity Catholic Church Men's Club.

During law school, Brown was the senior staff editor for the NSU Law Center's *Journal of International and Comparative Law*, and served as the competitions coordinator for the Moot Court Society. In addition, he was the recipient of the Leo Goodwin Sr. Endowed Scholarship, a full academic scholarship awarded to those with high academic excellence and strong community involvement. He was also awarded first place for Best Oral Advocate at the E. Earle Zehmer Moot Court Competition in 2002, and was nominated as Best Individual Attorney at the William W. Daniel National Mock Trial Competition in 2002. Brown holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, and graduated magna cum laude from Barry University in Miami Shores. He lives in Hollywood Hills with his wife and four children.

#### Where are you from?

I was born at North Miami Medical Center—the facilities are now home to Johnson & Wales University. I moved to Hollywood Hills when I was 14 years old and still reside there today.

#### What is your background?

My mother is from Uruguay, South America, and my father is from Corpus Christi, Texas. My mother moved from Uruguay to South Florida when she was 15 years old, and my dad's family had relocated to the same area just before that time. My parents met in high school. I still have family in Uruguay and enjoy visiting with them, especially my Tio Luis and Tia Rosa, who are like grandparents to me.

#### Are you the first law graduate in your family?

I am the first and only law student in my family. In fact, of four brothers, two are in

academics—one is an elementary school principal and the other is a director of theology and teacher at a high school.

#### When did you first gain an interest in law?

My eldest brother, Robbie, and I always sought to follow in the footsteps of our father by joining local law enforcement. My father was a homicide detective and recently retired as a lieutenant after 30 years with the North Miami Police Department. Unfortunately, just before Robbie was going to apply to the police academy, he was killed by a drunk driver. He was on his way to Sunday Mass on Super Bowl Sunday. Robbie never got to live his dream, but I continued in pursuit of it. Little did I know that, one day, I would take a turn toward a different aspect of the law.

*“The school has continued to stay on the cutting edge of technology in the classrooms and courtrooms. Professors continue to implement new ways to incorporate technology into the instruction—a key component in the practice of law in today's electronic environment!”*

—Alexander D. Brown

#### Why did you choose NSU for law school?

Upon graduating number one in my accounting class at Barry University, I was determined to attend an Ivy League law school. As is the standard process, I submitted my applications directly to the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) to be sent to the various law schools. After several weeks of not receiving a response from anyone, I called LSAC and was told that my applications were not remitted due to lack of payment. Upon proving that I had made payment, LSAC immediately corrected the issue, but then I received notices from law schools rejecting my application for untimely submission. I was devastated. I immediately applied to the NSU Law Center as it was the only Florida law school that I was aware of that would still accept my application.

Meanwhile, I received an acceptance letter, with a modest scholarship offer, from Penn State. On the way to the



airport to attend Penn State’s new student orientation, I received a call from Michael Richmond, a professor at the Law Center, offering me the Leo Goodwin Sr. Endowed Scholarship. Having a close friend who I consider a brother—and that is now a client—who makes a very good living at pranking unsuspecting people, I was convinced that the phone call was a joke. After conducting some research of my own and receiving another phone call from Richmond, he convinced me that he was legitimate, as was the scholarship offer. After visiting Penn State’s campus, I decided to meet Richmond in person. Once at the NSU Law Center, I saw that there was no reason to leave my roots in South Florida.

**Who was your favorite professor and why?**

I had so many great experiences with professors at the NSU Law Center, it is hard to name just one. The professors I think about most are Michael Richmond, Linda F. Harrison, Catherine Arcabascio, Michael Dale, Mark Dobson, and Florence Shu-Acquaye. As a student, I was amazed how each of these professors possessed an understanding and grasp of the law. To this day, I remember the way in which they each had the ability to educate in a manner that gave students encouragement and confidence. I still stay in touch with many of these professors and consider them my friends and colleagues.

**What was your favorite class and why?**

My favorite classes at NSU were Civil Procedure and Trial Advocacy, because I enjoyed the practical skills courses that gave insight into the courtroom. In these classes, you were treated like a young lawyer preparing for a deposition or trial.

**What is one piece of advice from a professor that helped you most during law school and afterward in your career?**

I received a lot of wonderful advice and direction from NSU Law Center professors. One piece of advice that I have carried with me is from Linda F.

Harrison. She encouraged me to “be involved outside of the classroom.” This advice is where NSU gave me an advantage over the competitive marketplace. She encouraged me to join a journal and compete on the intrascholastic and interscholastic competition teams. The lessons and experiences I gained by participating in these “outside of the classroom” activities provided me with strong fundamental skills that remain with me today.

**What is your favorite memory of the Law Center?**

My favorite memory of the NSU Law Center was competing on the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) (now Nova Trial Association) and Moot Court Society travel teams. For ATLA, my coaches included two NSU Law Center professors and accomplished trial lawyers, Mark Dobson and Michael Dale. In 2002, they coached me to a near win at the William W. Daniel National Mock Trial Competition, an ATLA competition, at which I was nominated as the Best Individual Attorney. Also in 2002, Linda F. Harrison, another amazing professor (and now friend) with amazing lawyering skills, coached me and my teammate, Jared Spingarn (’04), to win First Place and the Best Oral Advocate Award at the E. Earle Zehmer Moot Court Competition.

**What advice can you give current students about law school and their law career?**

I always give the same advice to prospective law students. First, make sure you have an interest in the law before you go to law school, as you will invest three years of your life there.

Second, where you go to law school does not necessarily matter as long as you attend a respected institution with a quality faculty, like NSU. In the end, what you get out of law school depends on what you put into it. I am consistently underwhelmed by the practical skills of my Ivy League opponents in the courtroom, and consistently impressed whenever I work with or against fellow NSU Law Center alumni. In court, no one on the jury knows or cares about what law school

you went to. Your job is to help the jury understand and believe you and your client. The NSU Law Center teaches you these critical skills and lawyering attributes.

**What was your career path?**

My father encouraged me to earn my accounting and law degrees, and then use them to apply to the FBI. My first job was as an emergency police dispatch officer. That was how I put myself through undergraduate school, and then through law school. During law school, my focus was on criminal law, but I did not know if I wanted to be a trial lawyer. Instead, I looked for every opportunity to engage in activities that would make me more attractive to FBI recruiters. Then, I had the opportunity to intern for the United States Attorney’s Office, Economics Crimes Division, which is when I turned my attention from the FBI and toward trial practice.

Then, during a clerkship opportunity in my last year of law school for Linnea R. Johnson, a now-retired United States magistrate judge, I met my first professional mentor, Melanie G. May, class of 1981, chair of NSU Law Center’s Board of Governors and a judge with Florida’s Fourth District Court of Appeal. She and I commuted daily via the Tri-Rail system, and we came to know each other.

During our commutes, I learned that she would be in need of a judicial law clerk at the time of my graduation. I applied and worked with her my first year as a lawyer. Then, I applied to be an assistant United States attorney, but was advised that there was a hiring freeze. Knowing that, I applied and interviewed at many private firms. However, my best fit was with my current firm, Tripp Scott, P.A., where I have been since 2005 and worked as a summer associate during law school.

**Do you keep in contact with classmates from the NSU Law Center?**

I do still connect with several classmates on at least a monthly basis including Rania (Fared) Shehata (’04) and Christal Fish (’04). We get our families together when able, and regularly share

clients through referrals. Also, I have formed a close working relationship with Scott Smiley (’03), who is an adjunct professor at the Law Center and is a practicing registered patent lawyer at his firm, The Concept Law Group. Smiley and I regularly work together on client files, and he routinely joins me as my special patent counsel in my patent litigation cases. I also have had to litigate against former classmates, and each time, I have faced great lawyering skills and professionalism from my alumni adversaries.

**The NSU Law Center is celebrating 40 years this year. How much has the school changed since you were a student?**

The school has continued to stay on the cutting edge of technology in the classrooms and courtrooms. Professors continue to implement new ways to incorporate technology into the instruction—a key component in the practice of law in today’s electronic environment! I enjoy visiting NSU and assisting in volunteer events as a judge for mock trials and serving as a mock interviewer to prepare students for upcoming job interviews. I have also been invited to be a guest lecturer and teach classes. I feel that we all have an obligation to ensure that we mentor students and young lawyers whenever and wherever possible in order to preserve and strengthen the integrity of our profession.

**What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment or what are you most proud of so far in your career?**

I cofounded my law firm’s intellectual property litigation practice group with Peter Herman (’82) and have been able to help clients pursue their rights. One such client is Michael Powell, who had a patented invention stolen by Home Depot.

In 2004, upon a dramatic increase in the liability costs of injuries caused by Home Depot’s use of in-store radial arm saws to provide custom-lumber cutting for its customers, Home Depot’s chief executive officer issued a mandate to make the

saws safe or remove them from each of their nearly 2,000 locations.

Powell, an 18-year independent contractor for Home Depot, who serviced and installed the radial arm saws for Home Depot, learned of the mandate and created a solution. He created Safe Hands®, a safety device that is installed onto the existing radial arm saw table and functions to prevent operator injury. The unit also provides an efficient means to contain sawdust generated during the sawing process—a problem Home Depot also desperately needed to correct.

Home Depot purchased eight of Powell’s Safe Hands® units for installation in some of its higher traffic area stores. The unit was a success, and Home Depot included the new device in its safety manuals and training video for its associates. Home Depot did not purchase additional units from Powell and instructed Industriaplex to measure, copy, and reproduce one of the units. Over a two-year period, Industriaplex produced and installed more than 2,000 units in every Home Depot store throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

I recruited Smiley to join as special patent counsel in the case, and his skills as a registered patent attorney complemented the trial skills of Herman and me. Our team consisted of three NSU Law Center grads working on the case. After three years of contentious litigation, the jury returned a verdict in Powell’s favor of \$15 million. Later, the federal district court judge added \$9 million on top of that award as sanctions and prejudgment interest—the ultimate award, upheld on appeal, totaled nearly \$25 million. This was the most publicized case of my career. The result in that case significantly impacted my client and allowed him to achieve vindication. And, because the case had national exposure, it has allowed me to reach other clients across the nation, as well as in Canada, and represent them and their businesses.

*“I am consistently underwhelmed by the practical skills of my Ivy League opponents in the courtroom, and consistently impressed whenever I work with or against fellow NSU Law Center alumni. In court, no one on the jury knows or cares about what law school you went to. Your job is to help the jury understand and believe you and your client. The NSU Law Center teaches you these critical skills and lawyering attributes.”*

— Alexander D. Brown





## CLASS OF 2014

### Citra Registe

*“It’s one thing to read about and discuss cases pertaining to criminal procedure and the rules of evidence, but it is a completely different experience when using it in real-time interactions.”*

—Citra Registe

#### Activities, Achievements, and Awards

Graduated Magna Cum Laude

Dean’s List

*Nova Law Review*, Diversity and Membership Editor (2013–2014); Assistant Technical Editor (2012–2013); Junior Associate Member (2011–2012); Red Pen Award, Five-Time Winner

Black Law Student Association, President (2013–2014)

Nova Trial Association, Advocate (2013–2014)

Academic Disciplinary Board, Elected Student Representative (2013–2014)

New Student Adviser (2011)

Evening Student Law Association, 1L Evening Student Representative (2010)

Research Assistant to Areto Imoukhuede, J.D., professor (2012)

Book Awards: Civil Pretrial Practice (2013); Trial Advocacy (2013); Lawyering Skills and Values I (2010)

Black Law Student Association Regional Mock Trial Competition, South Region Mock Trial Team Champion (2013)

Florida Justice Association’s E. Earle Zehmer Memorial Mock Trial Competition, Competitor (2013)

National Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial National Competition, Second Runner-Up Team (2013)

Black Law Student Association Moot Court Team Oralists and Brief Writer (2011)

Krupnick & Campbell Award, Trial Advocacy (2014)

Constangy, Brooks & Smith, LLP, Diversity Scholarship (2012)

TJ Reddick Bar Association Scholarship (2012)

Citra Registe was born on the island of Dominica, which sits between two other islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique. When Registe was three years old, her family moved from Dominica to St. Thomas, one of the three main islands that comprises the United States Virgin Islands. At the age of nine, she became a naturalized citizen of the United States, along with her parents. When Registe was 15 years old, her family moved from St. Thomas to Miami.

Registe received her undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and is the first person in her family to seek graduate-level education. After college, Registe taught students in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools district through the Teach for America program, which recruits recent college graduates and professionals to teach in urban and rural communities. The organization’s goal is to provide an excellent education for children in low-income communities, make an impact by improving educational equity in these underserved areas, and lead students to reach their full potential.

In her first year teaching, Registe was able to close the achievement gap in reading by 30 percent for her students. Because of this accomplishment, she received the Rookie Teacher of the Year award in 2008 from Rainbow Park Elementary School in Miami Gardens and was recognized by Teach for America. Additionally, Registe, along with a colleague, created the Writing Calendar to help prepare fourth-grade students for the writing portion of Florida’s Comprehensive Assessment Test. The calendar proved successful for students and has been used as a basis for Florida’s grading rubric for the fourth-grade writing instruction curriculum.

Growing up, Registe set three goals for herself: become a teacher, an attorney, and a professional singer. She has completed her first goal of educating and making positive changes in the lives of children in the public school system.

“As a child, my family told me I would be a good attorney because I would always get in trouble for sticking up for others and getting involved in matters that did not concern me,” said Registe.

To accomplish her second goal of becoming an attorney, Registe needed to continue to teach, while she pursued her law degree. Working full time as a teacher, she chose to enroll at the NSU Law Center because of the part-time evening program. Working as a classroom teacher and going to law school in the evening provided a unique set of challenges for her. “Evening students have a completely different law school experience than traditional students.”

Wanting to become more involved in the law school’s extracurricular activities, take advantage of internship opportunities, and have a true law school experience, Registe resigned from full-time teaching after her second year of law school. However, she continued to work part time as an interventionist at Rainbow Park Elementary School and as a substitute teacher for Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

During law school, Registe interned with the State Attorney’s Office Special Victims Unit in West Palm Beach. This experience sparked her interest in becoming a prosecutor. In her last semester of law school, she was a Certified Legal Intern (CLI) in the Domestic Violence Unit at the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office. Her internship provided real-world experience as she met with victims, police officers, and attorneys.

As a CLI, she negotiated plea deals with defendants and spoke on record in court. Registe wrote and argued several motions, including pretrial motions, bond estreature, and the Williams rule. In one case, she was able to take a case to trial as second chair. From this experience, Registe learned about the practical application of what she learned in the classroom. “It’s one thing to read about and discuss cases pertaining to criminal procedure and the rules of evidence, but it is a completely different experience

when using it in real-time interactions,” she said. “Judges appreciate legal arguments when made with case law to support your position. As a litigator, you have to think on your feet, and frivolous arguments will get you nowhere.”

Also during law school, Registe interned for Patrick White, magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. In that role, she was able to review cases pertaining to ineffective assistance of counsel, while studying and developing professional lawyering skills. “It was enlightening to analyze the actions of attorneys in determining whether they breached their duty to their clients,” said Registe.

While obtaining her law degree, Registe was not only a role model to her students, but the entire teaching community. “One day during lunch, I was trying to complete my reading for that night’s law class. A student came to me and told me that she wanted to be a lawyer too. It made my heart smile. Also, a student’s parent told me that he decided to go back to school to finish his degree after seeing how I had balanced school and work. The fact that I inspired someone else to further himself motivated me to excel. When it came time for me to resign from the elementary school, my coworkers told me how proud they were of me, and it made me feel on top of the world!”

This fall, after taking the Florida Bar Exam, Registe will begin her position as an assistant state attorney with the Miami-Dade State Attorney’s Office. She is looking forward to prosecuting defendants and promoting public safety. Pursuit of a career in criminal justice took her from Dominica to the State Attorney’s Office. One goal she still hasn’t achieved is becoming a professional singer. Stay tuned!

Citra Registe works with students at Rainbow Park Elementary School in Miami Gardens.





1970s

1974

Nova University Center for the Study of Law opens its doors on September 5, 1974, in the Parker Building on the main campus.



“Legal education is not only important as a single discipline, but also as a part of a good liberal education. Whether individuals enter private practice, the government, corporate activity, or university work, the study of the law gives them a good foundation for logical thought and problem solving. The Center for the Study of Law at Nova University is dedicated to the highest academic standards.”

—Abraham S. Fischler, President, Nova University



“...There must be planted in the consciousness of each student a deep and sincere realization of the responsibility and dignity of the legal profession and an understanding that any deviation from the path of rectitude by a lawyer impairs in incalculable measure the proper functioning of the legal system.”

—Peter W. Thornton, Dean

1975



On August 12, 1975, the Center for the Study of Law names Laurance M. Hyde its dean.

In September 1975, tuition is set at \$2,600 per year.

The law school receives provisional accreditation from the American Bar Association (ABA).

1979

In August 1979, the law school moves into its new, 64,000-square-foot building at 3100 SW 9th Avenue, now known as NSU’s east campus.

There are 23 faculty members, with a 21 to 1 student-to-professor ratio. The incoming law class of 1979 has 210 students, higher than the previous year.

1980s

1982

On August 11, 1982, Nova University Center for the Study of Law receives full ABA accreditation.



1984

The Law Center celebrates its 10th anniversary. Several faculty members who currently teach at NSU’s Law Center were part of the staff in 1984.

Pictures obtained from the 1984 *First Amendment* yearbook.



Phyllis Coleman



Joseph Grohman



Donna Litman



Joel Mintz



Michael Richmond

1988

The Law Center is accepted into the Association of American Law Schools.

Shepard Broad provides the law school with a generous, \$3-million gift. Abraham Fischler, the university’s president, announces that the law school will be renamed the Shepard Broad Law Center of Nova University. Plans to move the Law Center back to the university’s main campus begin shortly after.



Shepard Broad was a legal and business pioneer in South Florida. An orphaned Russian immigrant, Broad came to the United States in 1920. He graduated from New York Law School and moved to Miami in 1940.

1990s

1990



On November 12, 1990, construction of the new Shepard Broad Law Center begins on the university’s main campus. The building will be named the Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall to honor a \$5-million contribution from the Goodwin Unitrust.

1992

The Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall is completed.

A dedication ceremony is held on November 11, 1992. More than 500 people attend and tour the 122,000-square-foot, \$8.5-million building.

1994

Nova University merges with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences to form Nova Southeastern University. As a result, the law school is renamed the Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center.



The Law Center celebrates its 20th anniversary.



1996

Joseph D. Harbaugh, Law Center dean, begins the school’s innovation of new technology.

A part-time, evening J.D. program begins. The inaugural class has more than 70 students.



1999

*The National Jurist* magazine ranks the NSU Law Center as the number one “Most Wired Law School in the United States.”

The Florida Bar presents the NSU Law Center with its 1999 Technology Award.

2000s

2001

The online Master of Science in Health Law program launches with the NSU Law Center being the first ABA-accredited school in the country to provide a master’s degree-level online health law education program to non-lawyers.

With an official signing at the University of Barcelona, the NSU Law Center’s dual-degree program gives students the opportunity to study the U.S. common law system and the civil law system in Spain.

2002

*Hispanic Business Magazine* names the NSU Law Center as one of the top 10 law schools for Hispanics.

2004

The NSU Law Center celebrates its 30th anniversary.

The Law Center institutes the Critical Skills Program.



2011

The NSU Law Center announces the creation of South Florida’s first Veterans Law Clinic.

John Paul Stevens, a retired U.S. Supreme Court associate justice, addresses NSU Law Center students, alumni, and faculty and staff members. This marks the second time Stevens has visited the NSU campus in five years.

2012

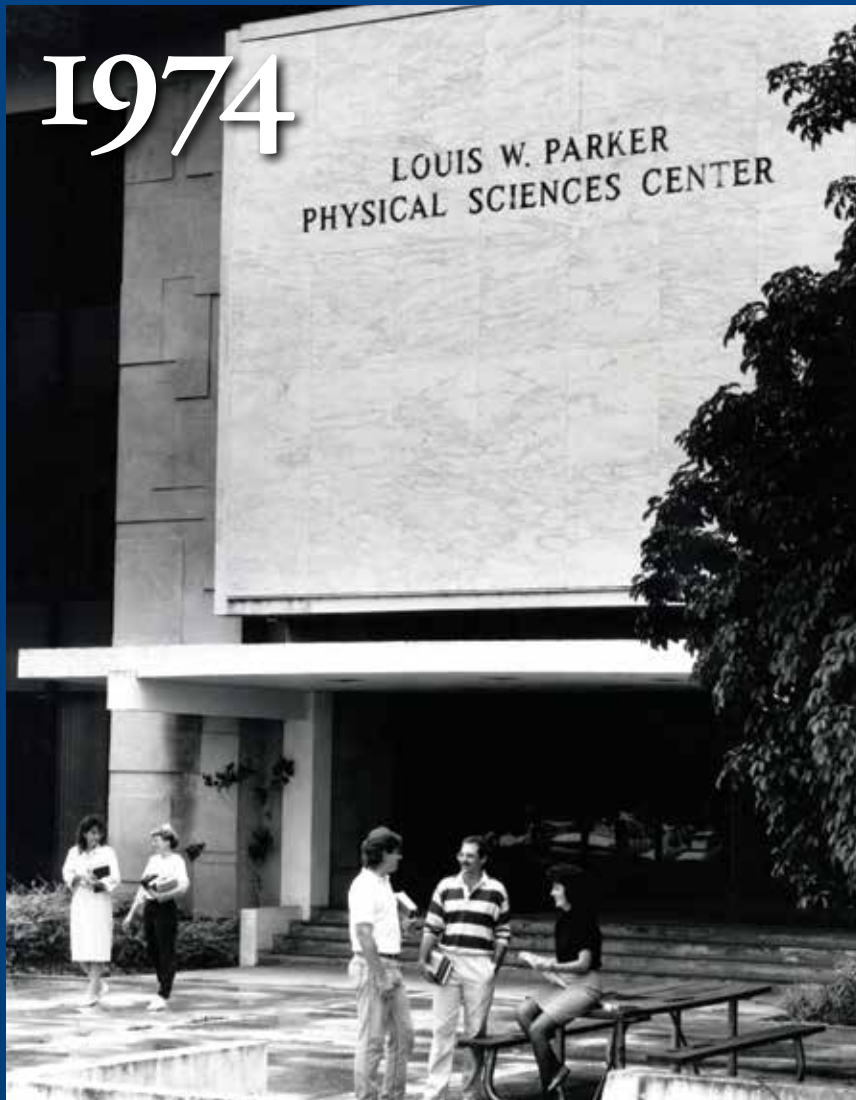
In its February 2012 issue, *The National Jurist* names NSU Law Center as one of the top 10 law schools in bar exam performance.

The NSU Law Center receives a donation from the Salah Foundation, allowing technological upgrades to the school’s courtrooms, jury room, and judge’s chambers.

2014

NSU celebrates its 50th anniversary and the Law Center celebrates its 40th anniversary.





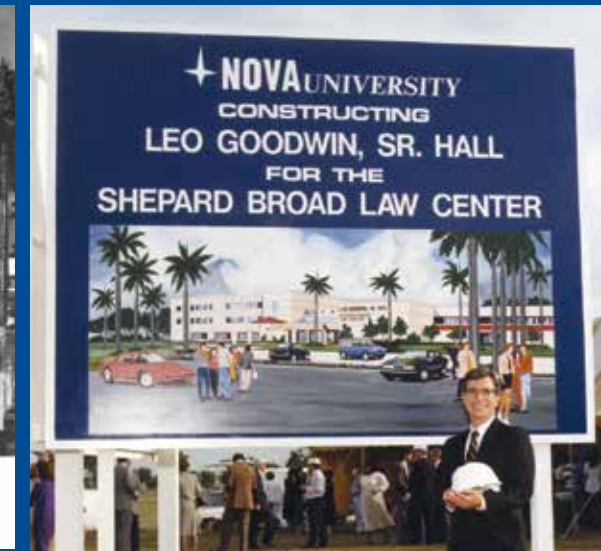
1974



Shepard Broad



THE SHEPARD BROAD LAW CENTER OF NOVA UNIVERSITY  
LEO GOODWIN, SR., HALL  
JAMES M. HARTLEY - ARCHITECTS



Groundbreaking ceremony with Roger Abrams, Law Center dean



Former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens visits NSU Law Center.



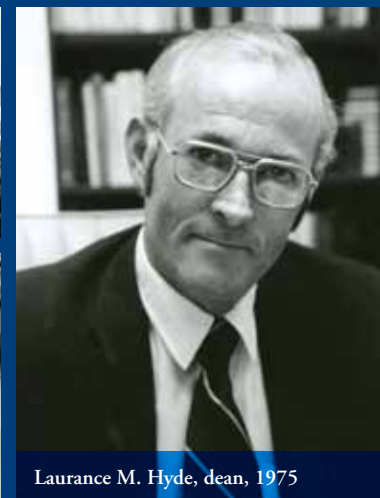
Groundbreaking ceremony, 1990



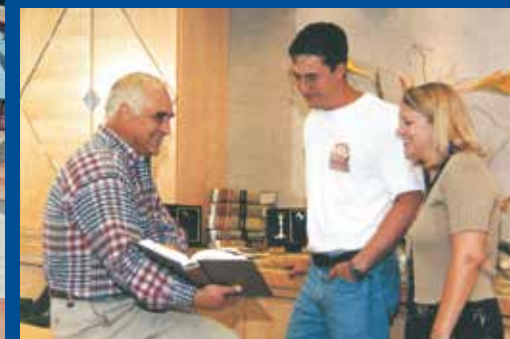
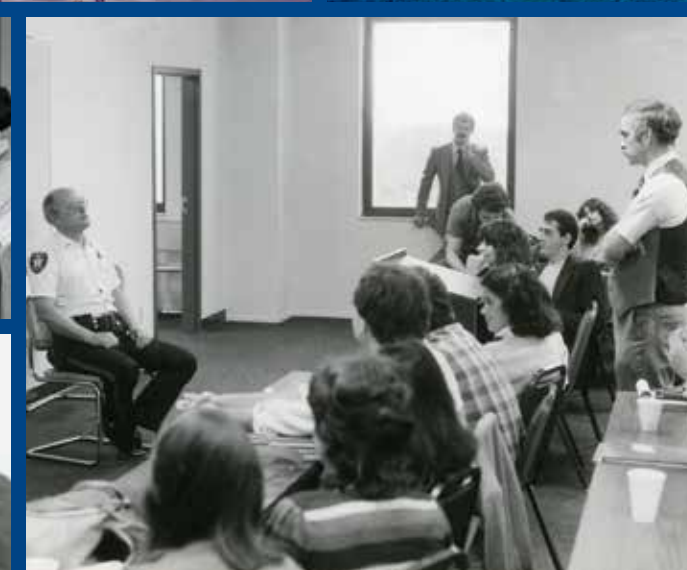
# NSU LAW CENTER THROUGH THE YEARS



Peter W. Thornton, dean, 1974



Laurance M. Hyde, dean, 1975



2014

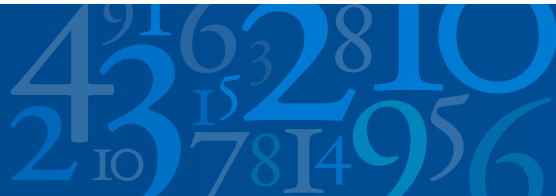


Shepard Broad Law Center dedication ceremony, 1992





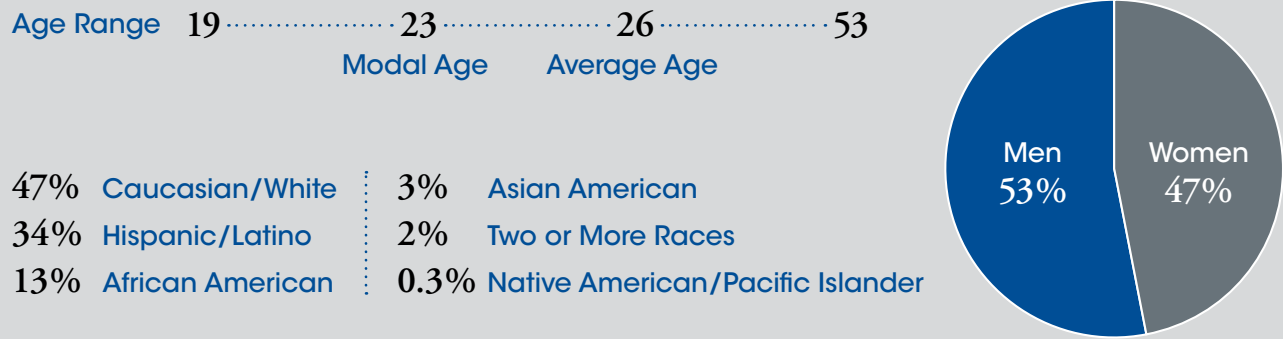
NSU LAW CENTER BY THE NUMBERS  
40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



Then and Now

1974	Nova University Center for the Study of Law	6	Faculty Members	154	Graduates in Class of 1977
2014	Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center	59	Full-Time Faculty Members	259	Graduates in Class of 2014

Class of 2013\*



\*Information based on entering class of 2013

Clinics

- 8 clinics are available to students.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
  - Business Practice
  - Children and Families
  - Criminal Justice
  - Environmental and Land Use
  - International Practice
  - Personal Injury Litigation
  - Veterans Law

Alumni

More than 9,000 alumni  
reside in 48 states and 8 countries.

Bar Passage

82 percent of Law Center  
graduates passed the July 2013  
Florida Bar Exam on their first  
attempt. This number is higher than  
the state average of 77.2 percent.

FALL 2013 • NSU LAW CENTER EVENTS



Event Held at Florida Bar Annual Convention

In conjunction with The Florida Bar Annual Convention, the Law Alumni Association hosted a networking event for local alumni and friends at the Boca Raton Resort and Club on June 27, 2013. More than 150 alumni, friends, and faculty and staff members reconnected at this event.



Mentoring Picnic Hosts Minority Law Students

Minority student organizations attended the 10th annual Kozyak Minority Mentoring Picnic in Miami at Amelia Earhart Park. The picnic provided minority law students from all over Florida with an opportunity to network with other minority students, as well as with judges and lawyers. There were approximately 3,000 attendees at the event.

Public Health Law Summit Promotes Justice

On September 20, 2013, the Law Center and Health Professions Division, in a partnership with the Broward Sheriff's Office and Ginger Lerner-Wren ('83), adjunct professor and county court judge, Broward's 17th Judicial Circuit, held a Public Health Law Summit, Problem-Solving Justice and Reducing Recidivism: The Power of Public Health Collaboratives. Through this collaboration, the NSU community strategized ways to promote social justice, encourage healthy communities, and restore lives, as well as strengthen partnerships with law enforcement, the courts, and the community, to lead Florida to a new era in criminal justice and law reform through public health promotion and collaboration.

Creator of the nation's first mental health court, Lerner-Wren was elected Broward County Court judge, 17th Judicial Circuit, in 1997. She is responsible for leading a specialized criminal problem-solving court that is designed specifically to respond to the complexities of people with nonviolent mental illness and related neurological disorders who are arrested on nonviolent misdemeanor offenses. Lerner-Wren speaks nationally and internationally on a wide variety of topics, including therapeutic



jurisprudence, mental health policy, and cultural change leadership and the law. She has received numerous awards and has been honored for her pioneering work in the promotion of justice and human rights for individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system.



Lunch for Graduates Taking the Bar Exam

To support new graduates sitting for the Florida Bar Exam, the dean and senior administrators traveled to Tampa to offer encouragement and nourishment. Lunch was offered to students on both days of the exam. Additionally, arrangements were made with area hotels to offer a significant discount to graduates taking the exam who needed overnight lodging.



Swearing-in Ceremony

On September 24, 2013, the NSU Law Center held a swearing-in ceremony to honor recent graduates for accomplishing their goals—becoming attorneys and successfully completing law school; passing a stringent character and fitness evaluation by the bar; and passing the Bar Exam. Judges Robert Diaz ('84); Thomas Lynch ('77); Melanie May ('81), ex officio member of NSU's Board of Trustees and the Law Center's Board of Governors; Mary Robinson; and Michael Robinson presided over the ceremony.

Inter-American Center for Human Rights Presents Documentary

On October 21, 2013, the Inter-American Center for Human Rights presented a screening of *The Abominable Crime*, followed by a question-and-answer session with Maurice Tomlinson, who is featured in the film. The documentary explores the culture of homophobia in Jamaica through the eyes of gay Jamaicans who are forced to choose between their homeland and their lives after sexual orientations are exposed. In Jamaica, being gay is a crime and violence against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community is widely approved and accepted. Tomlinson is one of the individuals documented in the film who had to choose between exile and death. Tomlinson, Jamaica's leading human-rights activist, was outed shortly after filing a lawsuit challenging his country's anti-sodomy law. After receiving death threats, he escaped to Canada, and then risked everything to return to continue his activism. He answered questions after the screening and shared his experience with the audience.



Winter Graduation Ceremony

The NSU Law Center held its winter graduation ceremony for graduates and their families on December 15, 2013, at the Don Taft University Center Arena. The ceremony included awarding the Juris Doctor degree to 21 students and Master of Science degrees in Education, Employment, or Health Law to 54 students. The winter graduation ceremony allows each graduate receiving a J.D. degree to choose to be "hooded" by a family or faculty member who significantly influenced his or her academic career. A reception at the Don Taft University Center Arena followed the ceremony.

Fall CLE Seminars and Networking Events

The Tampa Bay Chapter of the Law Alumni Association hosted a CLE seminar, Best Practices in the 13th Judicial Circuit Hillsborough County, Florida: What Judges Want You to Know. Judges Ronald N. Ficarrotta; Richard L. (Dick) Greco, Jr.; Claudia R. Isom; Lawrence M. Leffer; Peter (Nick) Nazaretian ('88); and Christopher C. Sabella were panelists.

A CLE seminar on professionalism was held during Orientation Week for 1L students at the NSU Law Center. Mitchell W. Berger, a member of NSU's Board of Trustees and the Law Center's Board of Governors and a founding partner of Berger Singerman, was the keynote speaker. Alumni had the opportunity to serve as panelists in interactive exercises with fellow alumni.

The NSU Law Center Alumni Association and the South Florida Center for Jewish Ethics presented



Pictured from left at the Gun Control in American and Jewish Law CLE seminar: Abraham Vais, law student; Areto Imoukhuede, J.D.; Peter Weinstein, J.D.; and Rabbi Akiva Zweig

a CLE seminar, Gun Control in American and Jewish Law, at the NSU Law Center. Areto Imoukhuede, NSU Law Center professor; Peter Weinstein, chief judge of the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida; and Rabbi Akiva Zweig, Outreach Director at Talmudic University, presented.

A CLE seminar on Managing Cognitive Decline in the Chronically Ill was held at the NSU Lifelong Learning Institute. Kathy Cermalara, NSU Law Center professor; Adam S. Goldberg ('95), attorney; Naushira Pandya, M.D.; and Michelle Gagnon Blodgett, Psy.D., presented.



Alumni Socialize at YOLO

The Law Alumni Association hosted a fall social at YOLO restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, letting law students, alumni, and the local bench and bar meet in a casual, social setting. More than 60 people attended the mixer.

Tampa Bay Alumni Hold Networking Event

The Tampa Bay Chapter of the Law Alumni Association hosted a social event at Champions Sports Bar inside the Tampa Marriott Waterside. Chapter president Dominic Fariello ('02) welcomed alumni for a night of networking, drinks, and hors d'oeuvres.

NSU Law Center Alumni and Dade County Bar: Annual Bids for Kids Event

NSU Law Alumni Association partnered with the Dade County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section, led by its president, Ethan Wall ('07), for its annual Bids for Kids charity event at The Stage in Miami's Design District. The purpose was to raise money for charity programs that focus on children's civic education and development. Guests enjoyed music, interactive games, a food truck, an artistic performance, an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, a sampling of Midtown's finest restaurants, and a silent auction.





**Law Alumni Association Celebrates the Holidays**

NSU Law Center faculty and staff members, friends, and alumni gathered at the Grande Oaks Golf Club on December 12, 2013, to celebrate the holidays. More than 200 people took the time to catch up with each other over food in a festive setting, enjoying a night of music and dancing.



**Tampa Bay Alumni Attend Holiday Party**

The Tampa Bay Chapter of the Law Alumni Association held a holiday party at the Hillsborough County Bar Association. More than 40 Tampa Bay-area alumni and friends attended the event.



**Palm Beach Law Alumni Gather, Collect Books**

The Palm Beach Chapter of the Law Alumni Association celebrated the holidays at Gunster Law Firm in West Palm Beach. Eunice Baros ('80) arranged for alumni book donations to the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County.



**Central Florida Alumni Celebrate the Holidays**

The Central Florida Chapter of the Law Alumni Association celebrated its first holiday party at 310 Lakeside Restaurant at Lake Eola. Justin Seekamp ('11), president of the Central Florida Chapter, celebrated with alumni.

**U.S. Supreme Court Clerk Visits NSU Law Center**

On January 24, 2014, the NSU community was invited to two special events featuring William K. Suter, clerk for the U.S. Supreme Court. That morning, Suter visited and chatted with NSU's students and faculty and staff members about life on the U.S. Supreme Court. Friday evening's event included a discussion; a reception; and a private, docent-led tour of the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale.

As clerk of the highest court in the country, Suter witnessed oral arguments brought before the court from 1991 to 2013 on cases concerning the death penalty, search and seizure, abortion, immigration, intellectual property, religious freedom, right to die and assisted suicide, free speech, and the Affordable Care Act, as well as the memorable *Bush v. Gore*, *Citizens United v. FEC*, and *Arizona v. United States*. Prior to his service as clerk, Suter had a distinguished career in the U.S. Army, where he rose to the level of assistant judge advocate general with the rank of major general. He earned a Bronze Star, a Distinguished Service Medal, and the Parachutist Badge for his service during the Vietnam War.



**Groups Kick for a Cause**

On February 16, 2014, NSU students organized the Kick for a Cause charity kickball tournament. More than 400 people attended the event. Students from NSU's College of Dental Medicine, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Center for Psychological Studies, and Shepard Broad Law Center participated in the event. Student organizations from the NSU Law Center that participated in the event included the Student Bar Association, Public Interest Law Society, Sports and Entertainment Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta, Hispanic Law Student Association, Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, Nova Trial Association, and PULSE! The event raised more than \$13,000 to benefit Miami Children's Hospital and the Bachmann Strauss Dystonia and Parkinson Foundation.



**Black History Month Celebrates Lawyers**

In February 2014, the NSU Law Center presented a Black History Month event, *Being a Lawyer and Changing the World*, to celebrate the contributions of African American lawyers.



**Public Interest Law Day Attracts More Than 200 Students**

Since 1993, organizations and individuals have come together on Public Interest Law Day to share information with NSU students about the public interest community and how they might get involved. On February 20, 2014, more than 200 students came out to get information from more than 30 South Florida public interest and government organizations. The goal of the event was to educate students about how they might contribute, through summer internships and other volunteer opportunities, to the legal needs of those individuals who are traditionally underserved or underrepresented in the community. Participating organizations looking for interns on campus included Legal Aid; the public defender's office; local state attorney's offices; and other federal, state, and local government agencies.





**Charity Auction Raises  
More Than \$15,000**

On March 14, 2014, the Public Interest Law Society raised more than \$15,000 at a charity auction held at the NSU Law Center. The money raised funded fellowships for students to work in public interest law during the summer. Among the items auctioned, favorites included opportunities to dine and play golf with professors, the chance to become dean and associate dean for a day, bar preparation courses, and a coveted parking spot in the faculty lot.



**Nova Law Review Holds Inaugural Alumni Brunch**

The *Nova Law Review* board of editors held its inaugural brunch for former members on April 11, 2014, at the NSU Law Center. Joseph Morgese, editor in chief, and law student Michelle Nichols DeLong, alumni relations editor, organized the event. There were more than 80 people who attended the brunch, including 35 former members of the *Nova Law Review* staff.

Robert W. Kelley (of Kelley/Uustal in Fort Lauderdale), class of 1981 and member of the Law Center’s Board of Governors, was the keynote speaker. As former editor in chief, Kelley discussed the significance of *Nova Law Review* membership, how the organization influenced his career, and the importance of alumni relations and mentoring students as a practicing lawyer. *Lawyers USA* recognized Kelley as one of the top 10 lawyers in the United States. He has been a board-certified civil trial lawyer for more than 20 years. Over the course of his career, Kelley has tried more than 100 jury trials and has won more than 25 multimillion-dollar jury verdicts in a wide variety of cases.



**Alumna Leads Swearing-in Ceremony**

On April 15, 2014, NSU Law Center graduates were sworn in to The Florida Bar at a special ceremony at NSU. Melanie May (’81)—judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal and an ex officio member of NSU’s Board of Trustees and the Law Center’s Board of Governors—presided over the ceremony. Family, friends, faculty and staff members, and administrators were present to help the new inductees celebrate.



Will A. Gunn, J.D.



**Retired Air Force Colonel Addresses 2014 Commencement Ceremony**

Will A. Gunn, J.D., was the keynote speaker for the 2014 NSU Law Center Commencement Ceremony. Gunn, a retired United States Air Force colonel, received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree, which was presented by Elena B. Langan, who was serving as the Law Center’s interim dean. Bruce Rogow, Law Center professor, and Shire Patel, law student, also spoke at the May 10 ceremony. “We were honored to have Colonel Gunn give the commencement address to our 2014 class of graduates,” said Langan.

The son of a high school teacher and a social worker, Gunn knew as a young child growing up in Fort Lauderdale that he wanted to be a defense lawyer. “I always had an ability to identify with the underdog,” said Gunn. In 1980, he earned a B.S. degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy, and in 1986, graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and was elected president of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. He joined the Air Force’s legal team and, two years later, he became a defense attorney. In 1990, Gunn was selected as a White House Fellow and served in the Executive Office of the President in the Office of Cabinet Affairs. He earned a Master of Laws degree in Environmental Law from the George Washington University School of Law and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University.

When faced with a controversial appointment in 2003, he brought a profound sense of understanding to the fundamental principles expressed in the preamble to the U.S. Constitution, “to provide for the common defense ... and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.” He took to heart the motto of the Joint Task Force Guantanamo, honor bound to defend freedom, and with distinction, as the first-ever chief defense counsel for the Department of Defense Office of Military Commissions, where he led teams of talented, rigorous lawyers charged with defending enemy combatants and Guantanamo detainees.

After serving in various positions within the Air Force—including executive officer to the Judge Advocate General, U.S. Air Force JAG Corps and chief defense counsel, U.S. Air Force—he retired from the military in 2005. Following his retirement, he took an active role in the community as president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, one of the largest affiliates of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. In 2008, to better serve those who dedicated their lives to our country, he founded the Gunn Law Firm to provide representation to military members and veterans in a range of administrative and civil law matters.

In 2009, Gunn was sworn in as the general counsel for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), where he continues to transform the VA into a more people-centric, results-oriented, and consumer-friendly department.

In addition, he served as chairman of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Youth at Risk and has served on the boards of Christian Service Charities and the Air Force Academy Way of Life Alumni Group. His service to the profession, our nation, and our nation’s veterans has been acknowledged through numerous awards, including the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau’s Outstanding Alumni Award and the American Bar Association’s Outstanding Career Military Lawyer Award. He has also received many honors, such as election to the National Bar Association’s Military Law Section Hall of Fame.



Spring Seminars, Events Offer Insight

Jene Kapela Leadership Solutions presented a CLE seminar, Leadership, A Workshop for 21st-Century Lawyers. This half-day workshop taught lawyers and law students how to discover and develop their own leadership style to effectively manage relationships with colleagues and clients. Although the seminar was aimed at young lawyers and graduating law students, it was also helpful for seasoned lawyers who wanted to learn more about how to effectively manage the attorney-client relationship.

A CLE seminar, Best Practices in the 17th Judicial Circuit and Fourth District Court of Appeal, was presented at the Broward County Courthouse. The afternoon seminar included judges from county and circuit courts, as well as the Fourth District Court of Appeal. Alumni gained insight into how to practice before the various courts in Broward County, such as county criminal and civil, circuit criminal and civil, complex litigation, foreclosure, probate, family, and domestic violence courts. They additionally gained insight on how to practice before the Fourth District Court of Appeal.

The NSU Law Center hosted the CLE seminar, NITA's Building Trial Skills. Recent graduates and seasoned professionals



From left: Elena Rose Minicucci, director of Alumni Relations at the Law Center, is pictured with judges from the 17th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida—Sandra J. Perlman, Jack B. Tuter, Renee Goldenberg ('84), and Dorian K. Damoorgian (chief judge)—at the Best Practices in the 17th Judicial Circuit and Fourth District Court of Appeal CLE Seminar.

perfected their skills in making opening statements, closing arguments, impeachment, direct and cross examinations, and introducing and using exhibits at trial. Mark Dobson, NSU Law Center professor, directed the program.

Law Students Get the Perfect Pitch

The Law Center's Career and Professional Development Office presented The Perfect Pitch, a fast-paced, round-robin format networking event where law alumni met current law students to discuss the ins and outs of finding a job and practicing law. Informal and fun, law alumni were encouraged to volunteer their time and talent, and then relax at a cocktail reception following the event.



Alumni Spring into Networking

Alumni gathered at the Fort Lauderdale Beach Hilton for a night of networking over appetizers and drinks. More than 40 alumni attended the event.



Palm Beach Alumni Chapter Mix and Mingle

The Palm Beach Law Alumni chapter gathered at Roxy's Irish Pub in downtown West Palm Beach. More than 30 Law Center alumni met at the networking event.

Timothy L. Arcaro implemented an updated curriculum and created track concentrations for the online Master of Science degree programs. As a result, the online Master of Science degree programs have experienced a 200 percent increase in enrollment in the 2013–2014 academic year. He presented Managing Growth in Distance Education at the 2014 Distance Learning Education Conference, which took place in Jekyll Island, Georgia. Arcaro co-taught the inaugural semester of the Law Center's Veterans Law Clinic.

Timothy A. Canova coauthored a book, *When Government Helped: Learning From the Successes and Failures of the New Deal* (Oxford University Press 2013). He presented his chapter, "The Bottom-Up Recovery: A New Deal in Banking and Public Finance," at How Class Works, an interdisciplinary conference held at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, New York. Canova also presented The Cost-Benefit Analysis of Central Bank Independence at the Critiquing Cost-Benefit Analysis of Financial Regulation Conference, held at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Americans for Financial Reform, Better Markets, and the Center for Progressive Reform sponsored the event.

In June 2014, Canova participated in two midyear meeting programs of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in Washington, D.C., and presented Teaching the Federal Reserve in Law School to the Blurring Boundaries in Financial and Corporate Law workshop. He also moderated a panel discussion on Teaching Equality Transnationally in U.S. Law Schools at the workshop on Transnational Perspectives on Equality Law, for which Canova also served on the AALS program planning committee.

Kathy Cerminara brought national recognition to the NSU Law Center and students interested in health law by co-coaching to victory, for the second year in a row, a law student team at the National Health Law Transactional Competition and by co-coaching the National Health Law Moot Court Society Competition team. She also advised PULSE!, the health law student society, which qualified the NSU Law Center to be an alliance school with the American Health Lawyers Association.

Additionally, the federal government has begun to request applications from hospice care providers to advance the ideas she advocated in blog postings and a series of three law review articles titled, "Hospice and Health Care Reform: Improving Care at the End of Life" (*Widener Law Review*, Volume 17, page 443, 2011), "La Caja de Pandora: Improving Access to Hospice Care Among Hispanic and African American Patients" (*Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy*, page 255, 2010, coauthored), and "Pandora's Dismay: Eliminating Coverage-Related Barriers to Hospice Care" (*Florida Coastal Law Review*, Volume 11, page 107, 2010).

Phyllis Coleman's article, "Online Dating: Murderers, Rapists, and Con Artists, Oh My," was published by the *Appalachian Journal of Law* (2014). She also published *Florida Family Law: Text and Commentary* (2014 edition). She currently serves as the senior adviser to the *Mid-Atlantic Journal on Law and Policy* and as a board member for the Mid-Atlantic Lyceum Board, which serves as the advisory board for the journal. The journal is published once a year and almost exclusively online, although a limited number of print copies are available. The executive board is composed mostly of attorneys.

The journal can be found on Westlaw and in HeinOnline, and focuses on general advocacy issues including, but not limited to, animal law. Started in

2011 as a successor to the University of Pennsylvania's *Journal of Animal Law and Ethics*, this 501(c)(3) organization employs and mentors approximately 20 students a year. Coleman's goals related to the journal are for NSU Law Center students to have their work published in the journal and become staff members or editors.

Jane Ellen Cross received an award for community service from the American Society for Public Administration at the 11th Annual Women's History Month Reception Honoring Outstanding Community Servants in South Florida. She copresented at the Jamaican Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education Weekend Seminar on the Ethics of Mediation and Negotiation: Transnational Considerations, which took place at Montego Bay, Jamaica. More than 100 participants attended the presentation, including the president of the Caribbean Court of Justice, Sir Dennis Byron. Cross was elected treasurer and registration chair for the Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference.

Debra Moss Curtis was voted as the 2013–2014 Professor of the Year by NSU Law Center students. The Florida Bar president appointed her statewide chair of the Legal Education group's Vision 2016, The Florida Bar's comprehensive three-year study of the future of the legal profession. Curtis published "Beg, Borrow, or Steal: Ten Lessons Legal Education Can Learn from Other Disciplines" in the *University of San Francisco Law Review* (2014).

Michael J. Dale taught at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) National Trial Skills Program in Boulder, Colorado. He was the co-program director at the 23rd NITA Florida Deposition Program at the NSU



STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Law Center. Also, Dale was the team leader at the NITA Texas Deposition Program in Houston; instructor in the annual NITA American Civil Liberties Staff Attorney Trial Skills Program in Orlando; instructor in the NITA, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, Trial Skills Program in Boulder, Colorado; in-house trainer at the law offices of Crowell and Moring in Washington, D.C.; and in-house trainer at Stites and Harbison in Louisville, Kentucky. Dale, along with four students from the NSU Law Center’s Children and Families Clinic, represented four children in a complex termination of parental rights case. Dale has published his article, “Twenty-Second Annual Survey of Florida Juvenile Law,” in 38 *Nova Law Review* 81 (2013).

**Doug Donoho** was a featured guest on the Miami public television show *Issues*, discussing the Fourth Amendment rights of public school students. He published a book, *International Business Transactions: Problems, Readings, and Materials Relating to Trade in Goods and Services* (Carolina Academic Press 2013).

**Olympia Duhart** serves as director of the Lawyering Skills and Values Program. She was named to *Lawyers of Color’s* 50 Under 50 list. In January, she began her two-year term as copresident of the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT). The society is a community of progressive law teachers dedicated to teaching excellence, social justice, and diversity. She serves as copresident along with Ruben Garcia, J.D., of the University of Nevada—Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law. Duhart was the keynote speaker for the SALT Breaking In program, which was held in conjunction with the Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference. She delivered the opening address in February at the

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston.

**Amanda M. Foster’s** article, “Reasonable Accommodations on the Bar Exam: Leveling the Playing Field or Providing an Unfair Advantage?” was chosen to be the lead article in the *Valparaiso University Law Review* (Spring 2014). Foster presented the same article at the Eleventh Circuit Legal Scholarship Forum at Stetson University College of Law in Tampa. Also, Foster presented Moving from Lecture to Practice: Integrating a Negotiation Exercise into a Lawyering Skills and Values Course at the Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop at the University of Baltimore School of Law.

**Pearl Goldman** served as vice chair of *The Florida Bar Journal* News editorial board. She also served on the journal’s executive committee and writing award committee. The president of The Florida Bar appointed Goldman to serve as chair of *The Florida Bar Journal* news editorial board for the 2014–2015 term.

**Richard Grosso** moderated a panel, Coastal Resilience in the Wake of Sandy, at the Fifth Annual Southeast Florida Regional Climate Leadership Summit hosted by Broward County. He co-organized the symposium, Energy, Climate Disruption, and Sea Level Rise: New Directions in Law and Policy, a collaboration between the NSU Law Center and the Center for Progressive Reform. Grosso participated in a documentary and televised panel discussion on sea level rise in South Florida that has aired on local and national public television stations. He also spoke, along with fellow panelists, at a sea level rise public forum on Miami Beach.

**Joseph D. Harbaugh** secured a U.S. patent (US 20140067707 A1) for a computer-based system called AAMPLE®, the Alternative Admissions Model Program in Legal Education. George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer, honored Harbaugh during the President’s Faculty Research and Development Grants award ceremony held on May 13.

Additionally, Harbaugh presented a negotiation workshop for Asian corporate attorneys (from China, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines) in Shanghai, China.

**Robert M. Jarvis** was awarded the Shepard Broad Law Center Professor of the Year Award for 2014, and, as a result, is a candidate for NSU’s Distinguished Professor of the Year Award. He has had the following works published:

Books

- Editor, *Teaching Legal History: Comparative Perspectives* (Wildy, Simmonds & Hill Publishing, 2014)
- Coauthor, *Florida Legal Malpractice and Attorney Ethics* (ALM Media Properties, LLC, 2013)

Law Review Articles

- “Leon A. Berezniak: The Theatrical Counselor,” 54 *American Journal of Legal History* 121 (2014)
- “The Law School Admiralty Exam,” 45 *Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce* 97 (2014)
- “Charles A. Biddle, Gambling, and the U.S. Court for China,” 17 *Gaming Law Review and Economics* 728 (2013)
- “Legal History: Teaching Skills Practicing Lawyers Need,” 53 *American Journal of Legal History* 498 (2013)
- “Dog Days in the Law Library: Philosophical, Financial, and Administrative Issues Raised by Faculty

Summer Grant Programs,” 37 *Nova Law Review* 309 (2013), coauthored

Case Note

- Gambling Ships: A Vessel Sailing from the United States Cannot Legally Open Its Casino Until It Reaches the High Seas, 44 *Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce* 339 (2013) [*United States v. Diamond Casino Cruise, LLC*, 2013 WL 103563 (S.D. Ga. Jan. 4, 2013) (No. 4:12-CR-141)]

Op-Eds

- “Local Option Still Best Hope for True Gambling Reform,” *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, Apr. 15, 2014, at 9A
- “Gambling Amendment a Sensible Solution,” *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, Jan. 3, 2014, at 14A

Jarvis has been quoted in the media as an expert on 4 radio programs, on 6 television shows, and in 48 newspaper stories, including a feature piece in *The New York Times*.

**Shahabudeen Khan** wrote a chapter for the 2014 *Society of American Law Teachers’ Consumer Guide* titled, “Revealing the Truth Behind Law School Admissions.” He presented his published article, “The Threat Lives On: Why Expecting Mothers May Still Be Prosecuted for Mere Exposure of HIV to Their Fetuses in Utero, During Childbirth, and After Childbirth,” at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools New Scholars Workshop at Amelia Island, Florida.

**Camille Lamar’s** article, “Timing is Everything: Teaching Essential Time Management Skills for Real-World Legal Writing,” was published in the winter 2014 edition of *Perspectives*. She chaired the NSU Law Center’s Lawyering Skills and Values Outreach Committee, which is tasked with

providing enrichment programming for first-year students. The committee sponsored five programs during the 2013–2014 academic year. Lamar was named the NSU Law Center’s Professor of the Month in March.

**Donna Litman** was a coach for student teams for two transactional law competitions: the 2014 National Health Law Transactional Competition and the 2014 Transactional LawMeet (Southeast Region). Litman served as a faculty adviser for the Jewish Law Students Association and the Transactional Law Practice Group. She was also a member of the Tax Certification Committee for The Florida Bar.

**Jani Maurer** served as director and law school liaison to the Craig S. Barnard Inn of Court. She also represented the NSU Law Center on The Florida Bar CLE Committee.

**Joel Mintz** was the Shepard Broad Law Center Professor of the Year for 2013, in recognition of his significant contributions to research and scholarship and exceptional instruction. Mintz co-organized the symposium, Energy, Climate Disruption, and Sea Level Rise: New Directions in Law and Policy, a collaboration between the NSU Law Center and the Center for Progressive Reform. He wrote an introduction to the symposium issue of the *Nova Law Review* that contained scholarly articles from distinguished, nationally prominent legal scholars. Mintz also wrote a book chapter, “Shaping Next Generation Environmental Compliance at EPA: Lessons from the Agency’s Past and Some Post-Workshop Thoughts,” published in *Next Generation Environmental Compliance* (Island Press 2014).

**Gail Richmond** coauthored *Mastering Income Tax* (Carolina Academic Press 2014). She also authored *Federal Tax Research* (Foundation Press, Ninth edition, 2014). Richmond was appointed as the American Bar Association site inspector for Charlotte Law School’s summer program in Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Michael L. Richmond** taught at Roma Tre University in Rome, Italy, on Tortious Liability of the National Security Agency.

**Bruce Rogow** was listed in *Best Lawyers in America* for the 27th year, this year in six separate categories. He was honored by the Broward Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union at their 30th anniversary celebration with the inaugural Allan Terl/Paul Joseph Civil Liberties Award. Additionally, he was inducted into the Miami Beach High School Hall of Fame.

**Marc Rohr** served as a panelist at the annual meeting of the Broward Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, addressing The Rights of Citizens and the Press to Photograph and Record in Public. His article, “DeMinimis Content Discrimination: The Vexing Matter of Sign-Ordinance Exemptions,” was published by the *Elon Law Review*.

**John Sanchez’s** treatise update, “State and Local Government Employment Liability,” was published by Thomson Reuters.

**Florence Shu-Acquaye** published an article, “Who Is Liable for Injury Resulting from the Administration of Blood or Blood Products?” in *Medical Law Perspectives* (March 2014). She also published “The Protection of



STAFF AND FACULTY MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Investments in Emerging Markets Through the Instrumentality of Arbitration and ADR: Fair Game?” in the *Florida A&M University Law Review*. She presented Startup Documents for Your Business at the CareerEducators 4You conference, Is Entrepreneurship for You?, that was held at NSU.

Michele N. Struffolino’s article, “Limited Scope Not Limited Competence: Skills Needed to Provide Increased Access to Justice Through Unbundled Legal Services in Domestic Relations Matters,” was published by the *South Texas Law Review* (Volume 56, 2014). She contributed to the Teaching Resources Committee of the Legal Writing Institute by drafting Frequently Asked Questions for Different Skills in First-Year Courses and providing answers by way of a list of resources that address each question. Her work is available on the Legal Writing Institute’s Web site.

In March, Struffolino presented The Transformers Meet the Running of the Bulls: Teaching and Assessing Legal Research in 2014—Pitfalls, Problems, and Strategies for Success as part of a panel at the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference held at the University of Nevada—Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law. Also participating on the panel were fellow NSU Law Center professors Joseph Hnylka and Camille Lamar.

Marilyn Uzdavines received an invitation from the *Washburn Law Journal* to publish her article on code enforcement reform. She was a speaker at the Southeastern Regional Legal Writing Conference in April and a speaker at the National Legal Writing Biennial Conference in June.

James D. Wilets served as a pro bono expert witness on human rights conditions in three successful asylum cases from Latin America and the Caribbean. He had three articles accepted for publication in the *Elsevier Encyclopedia of Forensic and Legal Medicine* and three articles accepted for publication in the *Wiley Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality*.

Steve Wisotsky’s book, *Professional Judgment on Appeal*, was named as a book that “every young lawyer should own” by Dennis Owen in the March issue of *Appellate Practice*. Wisotsky also published, *Speaking with Power and Style: A Guide for Lawyers and Law Students* (The National Institute of Trial Advocacy 2013).

Want to know what your favorite NSU Law Center professor has been up to? Go to the NSU Law Center’s Web site at [www.nsulaw.nova.edu/news](http://www.nsulaw.nova.edu/news) and click the Faculty tab for all the latest and greatest information.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Student Sworn in as Florida Bar Law Student Division President

Danielle Kaye was sworn in by Peggy A. Quince, justice of the Florida Supreme Court, as the president of The Florida Bar Law Student Division for the 2013–2014 year. Throughout the year, she worked with governors of all 12 law schools across Florida. The Florida Bar Law Student Division, founded in 2007, focuses on facilitating the transition from law school to the practice of law for many Florida law students. Each year, they provide law students with networking, mentoring, legal education, and community-service opportunities with already established attorneys. One of Kaye’s goals for the 2013–2014 year was to expand the mentoring program across all 12 law school chapters and to work with the Center for Professionalism to teach Florida law students the importance of professionalism through various events.



Law Center Student Wins Legal Writing Contest

Anastasia White was the winner of the *National Law Review* Student Legal Writing Contest for her article, “Registered Provisional Immigrant Status: The Road to Citizenship Under Border Security, Economic Opportunity, Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744).”

White was born in Russia and graduated from the Law Institute of Krasnoyarsk State University in Russia with a degree of Specialist/Master of Jurisprudence in International and Comparative Law. As a student, she participated in the Legal Aid Clinic of Krasnoyarsk State University. She received an award for excellent research, writing, and presentation of a thesis, Legal Regulation of Electronic Commerce in International Aspect.

White is a junior associate of the *Nova Law Review*. She is an active member of the Immigration Law Organization at NSU. She has participated in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and citizenship workshops, helping people to file applications under the supervision of practicing attorneys. Upon graduation, she plans to practice in the area of immigration law.



Dedication to Save Key Deer Brings Recognition

Yanae Barroso wrote her Animal Law Legislation Seminar paper on the highly endangered Key deer. She is a Florida Keys native and is passionate about helping these animals. When her article was published in The Florida Bar Animal Law Committee’s Newsletter, Joe Garcia (Florida representative whose district includes the Keys), read it and contacted her with an offer to assist in publicizing her ideas. He helped her find people who were able to take her design and make her posters a reality. After more than a year of work, her life-saving message was posted on several billboards in various locations on U.S. 1, the major highway that runs through the Keys. Because of her work for the Key deer, she was the recipient of The Florida Bar Animal Law Committee 2014 Outstanding Service Award for a Law Student.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Student Wins First Place in ABA Writing Contest

**Michelle DeLong**, *Nova Law Review* alumni relations editor, won first place for her article in the Mendes Hershman Writing Contest of the American Bar Association (ABA) Business Law Education Section. DeLong’s winning article, “A Closer Look at the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act and Whether the Costs of a Corporation’s Independent Internal Investigations Should Be Included in a Criminal Defendant’s Mandatory Restitution Order,” was recognized at the ABA Business Law Section spring meeting in Los Angeles on April 10, 2014.

Additionally, DeLong received the Law Alumni Association’s Endowed Scholarship Award. DeLong wowed board members after submitting her qualifications and the required essay. Applicants are required to submit an essay describing how they would keep alumni engaged, while demonstrating their own commitment to the Law Center.

While DeLong praised the Law Center for its great student organizations, she emphasized that “the Law Center must strengthen its alumni relations through organizational outreach programs.” She believes that “each organization must make a commitment ... to reach out to former members” and encourage alumni to return to their alma mater to mentor current students. She also suggested that students be given an opportunity to mentor first-year students because such involvement early on would send a strong message of the importance of building mentoring relationships. DeLong said that by doing so, “NSU Law Center students will graduate with the idea that you are never too young to mentor another and never too old to benefit from the wisdom of another.”

DeLong partnered with the editor in chief of the *Nova Law Review*, Joe Morgese, to create her current position as alumni relations editor.



In this role, she engages alumni and encourages them to meet with students to offer guidance, share their thoughts and ideas, and pass on lessons they have learned. She has participated in activities with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, served as a member of the Craig S. Barnard Inn of Court, was active with committees of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, and has worked with the nonprofit Florida Capital Resource Center.

Students Donate More Than 12,000 Cans of Food

The Public Interest Law Society and Phi Alpha Delta collected and donated more than 12,000 cans of food to benefit Feeding South Florida (FSF) and the National Security and Law Society’s Annual Fisher House Thanksgiving Dinner. The cans were collected during the Canned Immunity food drive held in November. As part of the food drive, law students donate cans in their classes to receive immunity. Canned Immunity is a Law Center tradition where students may be entitled not to answer if called on in class by their professor. The students’ primary motivation, however, was to reach out to those less fortunate. Competition played a role in the donation process. Classes competed to have the highest number of donations and Michael Flynn’s Torts class got that honor with 5,900 cans.

FSF is part of the Feeding America network consisting of 202 food banks. It has the largest service area in Florida, serving 30 percent of the state’s food insecure population. FSF is part of the Florida Association of Food Banks, the state organization for Feeding America, and leader of Farmers Feeding Florida. It is the leading domestic hunger relief organization in South Florida, serving Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties through a network of nonprofit partner agencies,



including soup kitchens, food pantries, homeless shelters, group homes, and other emergency food service programs.

Fisher House Foundation (FHF) is a unique private-public partnership that supports America’s military members in their time of need. FHF donates comfort homes, built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times—during hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



Left: Members of PILS; Center: Carisa Champion-Lippmann; Right: Rahysa Vargas with George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and CEO.

Law Center Wins at Student Life Achievement Awards

April 2, 2014, was a night of celebration for the NSU Law Center at the 15th Annual Student Life Achievement Awards, also known as the STUEYS. The Public Interest Law Society (PILS) won Graduate Organization of the Year; **Rahysa Vargas**, Student Bar Association president, won the STUEY for the Law Center’s Student of the Year; and **Carisa Champion-Lippmann**, a Law Center and College of Osteopathic Medicine student, took home the STUEY for Overall Student of the Year. The Student Life Achievement Awards honor those who exemplify NSU’s Core Values of Academic Excellence, Student Centered, Integrity, Innovation, Opportunity, Scholarship/Research, Diversity, and Community.

Glantz Law Professionalism Award Honors Recipients

The Glantz Law Professionalism Award was established to recognize NSU Law Center students who demonstrate the highest standards of professional conduct in and out of the classroom. Ronald Glantz (’80), member of the Law Center’s Board of Governors; Wendy Newman Glantz (’82); and their daughter Lindsey Glantz (’11) recognized **Patrick Zalman** (center) at a ceremony held at the firm’s office in December 2013. **David Fry** was honored as the second recipient of the award at a ceremony in May 2014. The Glantz family is committed to professionalism in their law practice and personal lives and want to promote their values in the legal community. Recognizing that they can have the most impact by beginning with law students, the award is given to graduating students as they transition from student to practitioner.



Students Performed More Than 21,800 Hours of Legal Work

From the class of 2014 Pro Bono Honors Program, 84 students qualified for recognition by performing at least 50 hours of pro bono service at qualifying public interest government agencies. Students volunteered 21,831 hours of pro bono legal work while in law school. The total number of hours is the equivalent of more than 436 workweeks (at 50 hours per week) or more than 8 years of service (at 50 workweeks per year). The three levels of recognition were Bronze (50–124 hours) with 14 students, Silver (125–299 hours) with 42 students, and Gold (300+ hours) with 28 students. In addition, 9 graduates received summer or academic-year fellowships for a total of 1,800 volunteer hours. This is an impressive volunteer effort; its impact on the community is immeasurable.



Bar Gift Awards

**Yanae Barroso, Jessica Bartell, Anna Rot, and Charles Scott** were this year’s recipients of the Bar Gift Award. Funded through generous contributions of alumni and faculty member donors, the Bar Gift Award provides monetary assistance to graduates during their 10 weeks of preparation for the Florida Bar Exam. The award enables recipients to concentrate fully on their studies. Eligible graduates must have a qualifying grade point average, demonstrate need, agree to forgo employment between graduation and the Bar Exam, and commit to supporting the Bar Gift fund in the future.



Kaye Bender Rembaum Scholarship Awarded

**Jacob Herzek** was named the recipient of the 2013–2014 Kaye Bender Rembaum Scholarship, sponsored by the South Florida community association law firm Kaye Bender Rembaum, with offices in Pompano Beach and Palm Beach Gardens.

“Jacob Herzek’s outstanding academic accomplishments demonstrate he has the potential to become a future leader in the South Florida legal community and is well-deserving of this recognition,” said Robert L. Kaye, managing member of Kaye Bender Rembaum. To be eligible for the award, applicants must be second- or third-year, full-time students, or fourth-year evening students at the Law Center; must be in good standing; and must have a grade point average above a 3.3. They must also demonstrate community involvement and have prepared an essay on a topic relating to community association law.

“Over the years, Kaye Bender Rembaum has provided scholarship support to Nova Southeastern University Law Center students and hired our graduates,” said Elena Langan, former interim dean of the Shepard Broad Law Center. “The contribution of this firm to the continued success of our students and alumni is a great compliment, because it recognizes the quality of the educational opportunities at the Shepard Broad Law Center and our students’ accomplishments.”



The Honorable Charles I. Kaplan Scholarship Gives Student Financial Relief

**Fernanda Torres** was awarded the Honorable Charles I. Kaplan Scholarship for her outstanding contributions to the Law Center’s Children and Families Clinic. Torres, who graduated in May, said this award provided much needed financial relief as she prepared for the Bar Exam.

The Honorable Charles I. Kaplan Scholarship was established in memory of Kaplan (’88), a juvenile court judge, who was dedicated to making a difference in lives inside and outside the courtroom. Each year, the award honors a student who is committed to children and families as demonstrated through the student’s hard work, integrity, competency, and dedication while working in the Law Center’s Children and Families Clinic. Elena Langan, former interim dean, recognized Torres for her hard work, presenting her with a plaque. Along with previous recipients, Torres’ name was added to a plaque located in the clinic.

Torres is focused on helping others, “in particular individuals going through a difficult time within the family.” She said that it was this desire and particular area of law that led her “to apply to law school and subsequently become involved in the Children and Families clinical program.”

Director of the Children and Families Clinic and associate professor Brion Blackwelder nominated Torres because she “was an excellent advocate for children and families in the fall 2013 clinic.” Blackwelder also noted that Torres “showed outstanding dedication and carried out difficult assignments with high skill.”

Two Students Receive Rising Star Scholarship

The Broward County Women Lawyers’ Association (BCWLA) presented the 2013 Rising Star Scholarship Award to two NSU Law Center students—**Carisa Champion-Lippman** and **Michelle Kenney**.

Champion-Lippman is a second-year law student, but will be graduating in May 2016 from the NSU Law Center because she is currently obtaining two other degrees. When she graduates, she will have a J.D., D.O., and master’s degree in public health. Champion-Lippman developed her love for the medical field early in life. Both of her parents are nurses, and she joined them on several mission trips as a teen and young adult. Through those experiences, she determined that she wanted to help people through medicine and the law.

NSU was just the place in which Champion-Lippman could combine those fields and learn more about health policy. Her goals include advocating for necessary legislation and administrative policies in the medical field. To promote that goal while in school, Champion-Lippman initiated a task force to create a student-run clinic for the local homeless population. Since starting this project, this group has secured clinic



space, volunteers, supplies, and grant proposals with an expected opening date during the summer.

Kenney is a second-year, evening law student. She works full time as a paralegal and is the mother to a teenage daughter. Growing up, she experienced her family’s struggle with the complexity of navigating and providing necessary care for a developmentally disabled sibling. Kenney’s goal is to advocate for families with children with special needs, helping the families obtain the skills and training to properly care for the children. To help this effort, Kenney founded a not-for-profit organization called Rainy Day Disability Resources,

Inc. This organization serves the disabled community by providing funding options, along with education and specialized resources, including training and low-cost or no-cost legal aid for families who have obtained, or are trying to obtain, legal guardianship for a disabled or elderly family member. She also organized a workshop at NSU for parents of developmentally disabled children. This event helped more than 60 families in the local area. Because of her work in the community, Kenney was awarded the 2012 Broward Coalition on Aging Scholarship and the 2013 Association of Professional Businesswomen Scholarship.



NSU Hosts Big Thank You Scholarship Luncheon

NSU’s third annual Big Thank You Scholarship Luncheon, hosted by George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D., NSU president and chief executive officer, was held on March 24 in the Arena at the Don Taft University Center. Each year, administrators and students of NSU gather to honor scholarship donors at the luncheon. This year, there were 160 people in attendance. Donor honorees represent many generous people who have created endowment funds at NSU during the past several decades. These endowments provide scholarships for deserving students throughout the university, enabling them to pursue their dreams of undergraduate and graduate degrees. This financial assistance ensures NSU’s growth in teaching, research, service, and learning.



## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

### Robert W. Kelley receives Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

In November, NSU honored Robert W. Kelley ('81) at the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awards held at the Grande Oaks Golf Club. Kelley, member of the NSU Law Center's Board of Governors, board-certified civil trial lawyer, and partner at Kelley/Uustal in Fort Lauderdale, is the founding partner of the personal injury, products liability, and medical malpractice law firm. *Lawyers USA* has recognized him as one of the Top 10 Lawyers in the United States. In 2009, he obtained the seventh largest jury verdict in the entire country, as reported by the *National Law Journal*. It was also the largest products liability award in the United States that year.

A decade earlier, Kelley was the focus of national attention as a result of the verdict he obtained after a six-month jury trial against General Motors. The trial resulted in the largest personal injury and wrongful death judgment ever paid by the automaker, and it is also the subject of a book about corporate misconduct and the trial.

Over the course of his career, Kelley has been selected and continually included in the publications *Best Lawyers in America*, *Florida Super Lawyers*, and *South Florida's Best Lawyers*. The editors of the South Florida *Daily Business Review* have repeatedly selected him as a finalist for one of the Most Effective Lawyers in South Florida. He has tried more than 100 jury trials and has won more than 25 multimillion-dollar jury verdicts in a wide variety of cases involving automobile, trucking, and boating accidents; medical malpractice; construction site accidents; defective products; and brain and spinal cord injuries.

Kelley has been a board-certified civil trial lawyer by The Florida Bar for more than 20 years. He was recently named to the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a frequent lecturer on trial practice in Florida and across the country and has taught as an adjunct professor at the NSU Law Center. He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

While attending the NSU Law Center, he served as editor in chief of the *Nova Law Review*. He is the editor of the Florida Jury Selection blog, which has more than 1,000 lawyers, judges, and law professors from across the country as subscribers. He has published articles in *The Florida Bar Journal*, the *Journal of the Florida Justice Association*, the *Nova Law Review*, and the *International Information Bulletin on Variable Stars*.

He is admitted to the bars of the United States Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals of the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and the State Bar of Florida.



Elena B. Langan, J.D., former interim dean, is shown with Robert W. Kelley, J.D. ('81).

In addition to his exceptional legal career, Kelley is an active participant or significant contributor to a number of charitable organizations, both local and national. His firm has been Justice Circle Sponsors for both Legal Aid and For the Public Good. Kelley serves on the Housing Authority Board of the City of Fort Lauderdale, which provides housing for the elderly and low-income families, and has served on the boards of the United Way and the Broward County YMCA. He was the founding donor of the Kelley Boathouse at Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale and is a significant contributor to the Dolphin Research Center and the Turtle Hospital in the Florida Keys.

Kelley is a licensed United States Coast Guard captain. He worked his way through law school on commercial fishing boats. He is certified by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors as a rescue diver and dive master. In 2011, he founded The Dive Bar, an underwater bar association consisting of scuba-certified lawyers and others who are dedicated to preserving the coral reefs and marine environment of the Florida Keys and the Bahamas. Kelley and his law firm engage in a wide variety of activities dedicated to making a difference in people's lives. But the thing he values most highly is the opportunity to represent those seeking justice.

### 1977

**Joel Lazarus**, senior judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County, was honored with the Florida Law-Related Education Association's 2013 Outstanding Service Award. He was recognized by this organization for his many years dedicated to educating Florida's youth. The award is given to someone who advances and promotes law-related education and provides leadership in Florida high school mock trial programs. Lazarus has been active throughout his career in many community education programs and initiatives both locally and statewide.

### 1978

**Michael Fischler**, partner at Fischler & Friedman, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, is a member of the 2013–2014 Broward County Bar Association's board of directors. His law practice includes criminal defense and a variety of civil litigation and transactional matters.

**Ellen Leesfield**, formerly a circuit judge in the 11th Judicial Circuit for Miami-Dade County for 19 years, joined the law firm of Sanchez-Medina, Gonzalez, Quesada, Lage, Crespo, Gomez, Machado & Preira, LLP, in Coral Gables, Florida. Leesfield is the managing partner in the firm's newly formed alternative dispute resolution group. Through the years, she has won numerous awards and accolades for her integrity and community service.

### 1979

**Merrilee Ehrlich**, circuit judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Broward County, spoke about domestic violence court at the NSU Law Alumni Association's seminar, Best Practices in the 17th Judicial Circuit and 4th

District Court of Appeal: What Judges Want You to Know, on March 21, 2014.

**Rafael Suarez-Rivas**, assistant city attorney with the city of Miami, represents the city on a variety of legal issues and is board certified in city, county, and local government law. He presented Overview of the Sunshine and Public Records Laws at the Lorman Seminar, What You Need to Know About Public Records and Open Meetings, with Elizabeth M. Hernandez of Akerman, LLP.

**Beverly L. Vesel**, member of the NSU Law Center Alumni Association Board of Directors and of Beverly L. Vesel & Associates, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, participated in a seminar presented by the NSU Law Alumni Association, Rules in Action: Civility, at the Broward County Bar Association's Bench and Bar Conference on October 18, 2013. Her law practice concentrates in the area of marital and family law.

### 1980

**Eunice Baros**, of Eunice Baros Law, LLC, in Palm Beach Gardens, was elected as director of the Palm Beach County Bar Association's North County Section. She presented a mediation seminar about domestic violence at the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee's program, The Yin and Yang of Mediation: The Mediator and the Attorney. Baros represents clients in mediation, criminal defense, juvenile, and consumer fraud cases. She is also a certified mediator.

**Eleanor (Ellie) Halperin** and Jayne Regester Barkdull, formed Halperin Barkdull, PL, in West Palm Beach. Halperin is board certified in real estate law. The firm represents clients in all aspects of real estate law, business and commercial transactions, land use, and zoning.

## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

**Susan Horovitz Maurer**, managing Partner with Panza, Maurer & Maynard in Fort Lauderdale, was reappointed by Rick Scott, Florida governor, to serve an additional two-year appointment for the Florida Commission on Ethics.

**David W. Singer**, member of the NSU Law Center's Board of Governors, was reappointed to Nova Southeastern University's Ambassadors Board. He served as host and moderator for a news panel discussion on *www.EyesOnNews.com* in the wake of the George Zimmerman trial. Singer's practice areas include personal injury, professional malpractice, cruise ship liability, and nursing home cases.

### 1981

**Robert W. Kelley**, member of the NSU Law Center Board of Governors, board-certified civil trial lawyer, and partner at Kelley/Uustal in Fort Lauderdale, was named to the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is the founding partner of the preeminent personal injury, products liability, and medical malpractice law firm.

**John C. Lukacs, Sr.**, partner at Hinshaw & Culbertson in Coral Gables, focuses on complex commercial and business litigation, real estate and property rights, eminent domain, and inverse condemnation.

**Melanie G. May**, member of the NSU Law Center Board of Governors and ex officio member of NSU's Board of Trustees, served as chief judge at the Fourth District Court of Appeal (DCA) from July 2011 to June 2013. She was a panelist during a moderated discussion titled, Inside the Appellate Court: An Afternoon with the Judges of the Fourth DCA.

**Christopher Pole**, a county judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Broward County, spoke about criminal practice



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

in county court at the NSU Law Alumni Association's seminar, Best Practices in the 17th Judicial Circuit and 4th District Court of Appeal: What Judges Want You to Know, on March 21, 2014.

**Ronald E. Smith** owns The Smith Group, Ronald Ehlbert Smith, Attorney at Law, in Atlanta. His practice includes a wide variety of legal services, both criminal and civil.

**Deborah Wolford** featured her photography at the Coral Springs Art Museum on December 3, 2013. She was also awarded a grant for a public art project in Dania Beach to be completed next year.

1982

**Lucy Chernow Brown** is a circuit judge in the 15th Judicial Circuit for Palm Beach County. Brown and the Lawyers for Literacy Committee hosted a volunteer reader/recorder Open House at the Learning Ally on March 6 and 22, 2014.

**Jeffrey Colbath**, chief judge of the 15th Judicial Circuit for Palm Beach County, was featured in *Florida Weekly*. The article was written by Eunice Baros ('80) and highlights some key moments of his service on the bench.

**Holly Gayle Gershon**, of Holly Gayle Gershon, PA, in Boca Raton, is a member of the South Palm Beach County Bar Association Board of Directors. Her practice area is family law, and she is board certified in marital and family law.

**Charles M. Greene**, circuit judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit in Fort Lauderdale, served on a panel for the Broward County Bar Association's CLE seminar titled Probate Law: A View from the Bench 2013.

**Steven S. Newburgh** has joined The Ticktin Law Group in Deerfield Beach as its bankruptcy division chair.

1983

**Ellen Feld**, county judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit for Broward County, spoke about civil practice in county court at the NSU Law Alumni Association's seminar, Best Practices in the 17th Judicial Circuit and 4th District Court of Appeal: What Judges Want You to Know, on March 21, 2014.

**Ginger Lerner-Wren**, judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County, was a finalist for the Successful Innovation award presented by the Hague Institute for the Internationalization of Law Foundation.

**Rosemarie S. Roth** owns Roth Family Law in Miami. She practices collaborative family law and was elected president of the Collaborative Family Law Council of Florida Board of Directors for the 2013–2014 year.

**James S. Strauss** joined Ward Damon in West Palm Beach. He works with the real estate litigation practice group. Strauss concentrates on residential real estate property matters, assisting with every stage of real estate transactions, with an emphasis on title issues.

1984

**Robert F. Diaz**, county court judge in Broward County, was featured in the *Broward Daily Business Review* on May 3, 2013, in its Judiciary Weekly section.

**Victoria Tampone Felden**, partner at Felden & Felden in Jacksonville, focuses on bankruptcy law.

**Lisa Goldberg**, supervising staff attorney in the Family Law Unit at

Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida in Fort Lauderdale, was honored with the prestigious Commitment to Justice Award on September 27, 2013, at the For the Public Good banquet. She also received the Jewish Family Services KOLOT Coalition's 2013 Ending Abuse Award for her outstanding commitment to the provision of critical legal services to those impacted by domestic violence. Goldberg has worked in public interest law her entire career, starting as the only family law attorney for Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc. She also supervises the domestic violence unit.

**Renee Goldenberg** is a circuit judge in the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County. Goldenberg was the Keynote Breakfast Speaker at the Broward County Bar Association's 2013 Bench and Bar Convention, where she presented Top Ten Societal Shifts that Affect Legal Ethics and Professionalism. She was featured on the cover of the March 2014 *Broward Barrister* and presented What Nonfamily Lawyers Should Know About Florida Family Law and Procedure at the West Broward Bar Association luncheon on March 27, 2014. On March 21, 2014, Goldenberg spoke about family court at the NSU Law Alumni Association's seminar, Best Practices in the 17th Judicial Circuit and 4th District Court of Appeal: What Judges Want You to Know.

**Susan Healy**, founding partner of Vernon Healy in Naples, Florida, was voted by her peers to be included in *Best Lawyers in America* for 2014. Her practice area includes securities regulation, where she represents individuals and business owners locally and nationwide in cases involving financial disputes. Healy was also appointed by the Florida Association for Women Lawyers to serve as its representative to the National Association of Women's Bar Associations.

**Cindy Woodward** practices with Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South

Florida in Fort Lauderdale. She received the Jewish Family Services KOLOT Coalition's 2013 Ending Abuse Award for her outstanding commitment to the provision of critical legal services to those impacted by domestic violence.

1985

**Leslie Carson Marlowe**, president of Lacar Writes, Inc., in Reno, Nevada, performs research and writing for attorneys in the surrounding areas of Reno and Carson City, Nevada.

1986

**Kenneth A. Cutler**, partner at Cutler Rader in Deerfield Beach, is in his 13th year as a volunteer judge for the Broward County Teen Court Program. His practice areas include personal injury and wrongful death.

**Steven J. Hammer** joined Schlesinger Law Offices, PA, in Fort Lauderdale. His practice includes medical malpractice, and he won a \$30-million verdict in Broward County, Florida.

**Shelley Punancy**, judge of compensation claims at the Division of Administrative Hearings in West Palm Beach, was a panelist at the Not Just Comp CLE offered by the Palm Beach Bar Association.

**Rodney Romano**, founder and owner of Matrix Mediation in West Palm Beach, a full-service dispute resolution firm, published "How Mediators Can Help Instill Civility and Professionalism" in the May/June issue of *American Inns of Court Benchers*.

**David Weiss** is CEO at uVu Technologies in Boca Raton. The company's headquarters in Boca Raton is LEED certified and includes electric vehicle charging stations in

its parking lot. uVu Technologies was awarded a United States utility patent for container closure functionality that is suited for use with state-of-the-art polypropylene and HDPE olefin ecologically preferred resins.

**Matthew Weissing**, shareholder at Farmer, Jaffe, Weissing, Edwards, Fistos & Lehrman, PL, in Fort Lauderdale, was selected as a Top Lawyer in the 2014 edition of the *South Florida Legal Guide*. A decorated former U.S. Marine, he has won numerous awards for his legal accomplishments and is actively involved in various charitable causes in the South Florida community. His practice includes personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death, among other areas.

1987

**Anna Mae Walsh Burke** published her 15th book, *Small Town Boy*. The book is a collection of short stories about her husband's experience of growing up between the Great Depression and World War II. Her books are available on various online book sites.

**John Dodig** is a trial attorney and partner at Feldman Shepherd Wohlgelelnter Tanner Weinstock & Dodig, LLP, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His firm was selected by *U.S. News & World Report* as a 2014 Best Law Firm. The firm also ranked in Tier 1 for medical malpractice and personal injury law. He represents plaintiffs in a variety of complex litigation matters, including medical negligence, products liability, construction accidents, and consumer class actions. He won a \$31-million verdict on behalf of someone injured in an accident due to a dangerous highway. He handles catastrophic cases nationwide and personal injury cases in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and has won professional accolades.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

**Michael Fichtel** was named chief executive officer of Kelley Kronenberg in Fort Lauderdale. He will also retain his title of firm-wide managing partner.

**Robert R. Reynolds IV**, partner at Goldstein, Schmitt, Cambron and Reynolds in Stuart, Florida, is a board-certified, civil trial lawyer and focuses on personal injury law.

**Howard Wander** is chief operating officer and principal partner at Kelley Kronenberg in West Palm Beach. He is also the managing partner of the firm's West Palm Beach office and maintains his litigation practice in insurance defense and workers' compensation.

1988

**Scott Mager** of the Mager Lawyers, LLC, has merged his firm with the Arias Law Group, PA, in Hollywood, Florida. Mager joined the firm as senior counsel.

**Vanessa Reynolds**, partner at Broad and Cassel in Fort Lauderdale, is board certified in health law and a member of the firm's health law practice group. A veteran with more than 20 years of experience in health law, she has handled many cases involving medical malpractice, complex litigation, and insurance defense. She also provides institutional and individual health care provider and multihospital public health care system representation.

1989

**Mary Alice D'Ambrosio**, judge of compensation claims at the Division of Administrative Hearings in West Palm Beach, met with students at S.D. Spady Elementary School in Delray Beach, Florida, as part of the Justice Teaching Program. The students spent time exploring how rules and laws are written and interpreted. They were also



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

provided with strategies for writing a good rule or law and examined what a rule or law really means. Additionally, D’Ambrosio was a panelist at the Not Just Comp CLE offered by the Palm Beach Bar Association.

1990

**Cindy Guerra** is chief operating officer of courts and official records of the Clerk and Comptroller of Palm Beach County.

1991

**Marisa D. Ajmo**, of counsel at McGlinchey Stafford in Fort Lauderdale, represents clients in consumer financial services and commercial litigation.

**Arlene Lakin**, owner of Arlene Lakin, Esq., Attorney at Law, in Margate, received the 2014 *Lifestyle Magazine* Leaders in Law award in wills, trusts, and estates in January 2014. She also cohosted a CLE event at the Broward County Bar Association, A View from the Agencies, in September 2013. Lakin is a board-certified elder law attorney who handles a variety of legal needs for her clients.

**Robin Sobo Moselle**, member of the NSU Law Center’s Board of Governors and partner at LAW CRAFT, was the convention cochair for the Broward County Bar Association’s Bench and Bar Convention held October 18, 2013. She is also the treasurer of the Broward County Bar Association Board of Directors for 2013–2014. Her law practice is focused on state-wide debt collection and can handle claims that arise in or out of litigation.

**Beverly A. Pohl**, partner at Broad and Cassel in Fort Lauderdale, is the chair of the firm’s statewide appellate law practice group. She is board certified

in appellate practice and handles a variety of appellate matters, including commercial litigation, criminal defense, and cases involving constitutional issues, such as First Amendment rights and police misconduct litigation. She has presented numerous seminars and CLEs, mentors law students, and often lectures at the NSU Law Center.

**Stephanie Schneider** of Stephanie L. Schneider, PA, in Plantation, is a board-certified elder law attorney who published a case note in the *National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys* journal titled “The Demise of the Defense of Marriage Act: Time of Death Still to be Determined.” The case note examines the *United States v. Windsor* case concerning the Defense of Marriage Act that was decided by the Supreme Court of the United States in 2013. Schneider practices elder law and represents elderly clients and disabled clients of all ages. She also assists lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender clients and domestic partners with estate and long-term care planning.

**Frank P. Terzo**, of GrayRobinson in Miami, joined the 38th annual Alexander L. Paskay Bankruptcy Seminar Advisory Board. The board is composed of individuals who are selected for their prominence in the area of insolvency law.

1992

**Sue-Ellen Kenny**, attorney with the Law Offices of Scott Glassman, PA, in West Palm Beach, provided Inside the Appellate Court: An Afternoon with the Judges of the Fourth DCA, the opening remarks at a CLE, at the Boca Raton Country Club. Kenny practices in the area of family law and also handles civil and criminal appeals. She is an adjunct professor at the NSU Law Center, as well.

**Audra Simovitch**, member of the NSU Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and a solo practitioner in Boca Raton, participated in a seminar

presented by the NSU Law Alumni Association, Rules in Action: Civility, at the Broward County Bar Association’s Bench and Bar Conference on October 18, 2013. She holds an LL.M. in Taxation and an LL.M. in Banking, Corporate, Finance, and Securities. She received both from the Boston University School of Law. Her practice areas include tax, estate planning, banking, bankruptcy, and appellate work. She is licensed to practice law in Florida and Massachusetts.

1993

**Katrina Workman Berger** is deputy assistant director for domestic operations for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration, and Customs Enforcement in Washington, D.C.

**Leon M. Biegalski**, director of the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation’s Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering in Tallahassee, Florida, is charged with the regulation of Florida’s pari-mutuel, card room, and slot machine gaming industries.

**Timothy A. Dunbrack**, managing partner with Kelley Kronenberg in Orlando, Florida, was admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States. His practice includes civil liability matters.

**Roberto Gutierrez** was appointed to the federal judiciary as an administrative law judge with the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA) in Miami, Florida. Prior to working with OMHA, Gutierrez was in private practice for 18 years.

**Juliette Lippman**, partner at Kirschbaum, Birnbaum, Lippman and Gregoire, PLLC, in Fort Lauderdale, was reappointed to a three-year term with The Florida Bar Foundation, a statewide charitable organization that provides leadership and funding for justice in Florida. Her law practice is

devoted to family and matrimonial law, and she has been actively involved with various legal and charitable organizations in the South Florida area for many years.

1994

**Steven R. Braten** opened Steven R. Braten, PA, in Boynton Beach. The firm will focus on community association law.

**Edwina Kessler**, of Catri, Holton, Kessler & Kessler of Fort Lauderdale, received the Committee Chairperson Award (Publicity and Publications) at the 2013 Broward County Bar Association’s annual meeting in June. She is a member of the 2013–2014 Broward County Bar Association’s board of directors.

**Matthew Nelles**, partner at Broad and Cassel in Fort Lauderdale, is a member of the firm’s commercial litigation and intellectual property practice groups. A registered patent attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, he has litigated numerous patent, copyright, and trademark cases across the country.

**Orestes Perez**, partner with Baker Zimmerman & Perez in Parkland, practices in the area of personal injury.

**R. Brian Shutt** joined the Law Office of Glen J. Torcivia & Associates in West Palm Beach. He is board certified in city, county, and local government law and practices local government law.

**Scott M. Solkoff**, of Solkoff Legal in Delray Beach, spoke at the Florida Council on Aging Conference in Orlando on the Affordable Care Act on Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. Solkoff also served on the Purple Ribbon Task Force detailing a state report and plan for dealing with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

1996

**David Bazerman**, director of the Tracey McPharlin Pro Bono Dependency Initiative at Legal Aid Service of Broward County, Inc., in Plantation, won the Purpose Prize Fellow Award in 2013 for his work representing the legal rights of children. He was also awarded Attorney of the Year by Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida in Fort Lauderdale at its annual For the Public Good banquet on September 27, 2013.

**Lu-Ann Dominguez**, shareholder with Gunster Law Firm in Fort Lauderdale, presented at an American Bar Association Webinar titled The ABC’s of Summons Enforcement. This seminar addressed the Internal Revenue Service’s use of administrative summons and the role of the IRS Counsel and the Tax Division.

**Brian Kopelowitz**, of Kopelowitz Ostrow in Fort Lauderdale, was appointed to Nova Southeastern University’s Ambassadors Board. He is cofounder of his firm, which handles real estate litigation, general commercial litigation, and corporate transactions.

**Andrew J. Weinstein**, managing partner at the Weinstein Law Firm in Coral Springs, was appointed by President Obama to the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Weinstein is active in various community organizations, serving on the American Association for Justice Board of Governors and the Florida Panthers Advisory Board. In 2011, Florida Trend named him among the Legal Elite. His practice includes personal injury and insurance litigation.

1997

**Michael J. Chrusch**, senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Signature



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Consultants, LLC, in Fort Lauderdale, handles a variety of corporate matters for the company.

**Tana R. Sachs Copple** and **Ryan S. Copple** ('98) have formed the law firm of Copple Sachs Copple in Jupiter, Florida. The firm's practice areas include marital and family law litigation, community association law, and real estate and civil litigation matters.

**Carrie E. Lademan**, of counsel to Hahn Loeser & Parks in Naples, Florida, focuses on real estate and corporate law.

**Stacy Ross** was appointed by Rick Scott, Florida governor, to the 17th Judicial Circuit Court in Fort Lauderdale. She is also a Broward County Young Lawyers Section judicial liaison for 2013–2014. She served as assistant state attorney in Broward County, Florida, from 1998 to 2005. Ross previously served as county judge from 2005 to 2013 in the same circuit court.

**John M. Stewart**, partner at Stewart Evans Stewart & Emmons, PA, in Vero Beach, was honored by Gwynne Young, former president of The Florida Bar, with the President's Award of Merit for his work as the chair of the Program Evaluation Committee. As chair, his committee completed eight Florida Bar program evaluations and other major accomplishments. His practice areas include real estate and business litigation, mediation, and personal injury.

1998

**Bradley W. Biggs** opened his law practice, Bradley W. Biggs, PA, in Wellington, Florida. He is board certified in city, county, and local government law and also has a mediation practice. He currently represents the village of Golf and the town of South Palm Beach, Florida.

**Glenn Cooper**, shareholder at GrayRobinson in Miami, spoke at the NSU Huizenga Sales Institute about United States immigration options for foreign nationals, focusing on students with F-1 visas.

**Ryan S. Copple** and **Tana R. Sachs Copple** ('97) have formed the law firm of Copple Sachs Copple in Jupiter, Florida. The firm's practice areas include marital and family law litigation, community association law, and real estate and civil litigation matters.

**Anthony J. Horky** of Anthony J. Horky, PA, in Boca Raton, was elected to the Florida Atlantic University National Alumni Association Board of Directors. His firm handles real estate, commercial, and civil litigation matters.

**Joseph Santoro**, shareholder at Gunster Law Firm in West Palm Beach, copresented The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, What You and Your Clients Need to Know about "Obama Care," at a Webinar presented by the Palm Beach County Bar Association Employment Law Committee. He practices in the areas of labor and employment law for employers, including providing litigation and legal counseling to clients.

1999

**Giuseppina Miranda** was elevated from general magistrate to the County Court of the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County. She is a former assistant state attorney and served as general magistrate since 2007.

**H. Michael Muniz**, appellate counsel for Kahane & Associates, PA, in Plantation, is board certified in appellate practice.

**David Roos**, stockholder in Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, PA, in Fort Myers, Florida, was elected chair of the firm's workers' compensation

practice. He represents insurance carriers, third-party administrators, and employers in the defense of workers' compensation claims. He has authored many articles and is a frequent speaker on workers' compensation topics to clients, human resource professionals, and business owners. He is also chair of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association.

**Victor R. Smith** opened Victor Smith Law Group, PA, in Winter Haven, Florida. The firm focuses on civil litigation, with an emphasis on family law.

**John R. Whittles**, shareholder at Richman Greer in West Palm Beach, was reelected to the Palm Beach County Bar Association Board of Directors. He is board certified in business litigation. His practice includes commercial litigation, employment law, constitutional law, and election law.

2000

**Michelle J. Gomez**, attorney, arbitrator, and mediator with the firm of Saunders, Curtis, Ginestra & Gore in Fort Lauderdale, is also vice mayor for the city of Tamarac.

**Ron D. Herman**, of Herman Law, PA, in West Palm Beach and vice president of the Palm Beach chapter of the NSU Law Alumni Association, was appointed to serve as secretary for the Florida Community Alliance Board of Directors. Herman gave a presentation to the Rotary Club of Palm Beach. The presentation was on behalf of The Florida Bar Law-Related Education Committee. His practice areas include business litigation, personal injury, and criminal defense.

**Marissa Kelley**, shareholder at Stearns, Weaver, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, was inducted into the Broward College Alumni Hall of Distinction in October 2013.

**Michael D. Leader**, partner at Leader & Leader, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, is a member of the 2013–2014 Broward County Bar Association's Board of Directors. His practice includes criminal defense matters from misdemeanors to felonies.

**Keith Ligori**, partner at Ligori & Cappy in Tampa, is focused on personal injury, wrongful death, and workers' compensation matters. His firm also handles criminal defense, social security disability, and family law cases.

**Elizabeth Ricci**, partner at Rambana & Ricci PLLC, in Tallahassee, fought a two-year battle to assist her client in obtaining a green card from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Her client was a male-to-female Dutch citizen who married an American citizen. She handles a variety of complex immigration matters.

2001

**Zascha Blanco Abbott**, of Ford & Harrison, LLP, in Miami, was named Outstanding Subcommittee Chair by the American Bar Association Section of Litigation on April 10, 2014. She was chosen for this distinction for her work during the course of her leadership year. She focuses her practice on the representation of public and private employers in labor and employment disputes.

**Amy Bloom**, attorney with Beasley Hauser Kramer & Galardi, PA, in West Palm Beach, handles complex commercial litigation, mass torts, and product liability cases.

**Javier Delgado**, of the Merlin Law Group, PA, in Coral Gables, was appointed by the New York Eastern District Court as liaison counsel on all Hurricane Sandy cases filed in the Eastern District.

**Eamonn Gunther**, attorney with the Law Offices of Mary Sue Donohue in

Boca Raton, focuses on estate planning, probate, guardianship, and trust administration work. She was formerly with U.S. Trust, where she administered trusts for high net worth families and was a litigator with a commercial litigation firm.

**Christina A. McKinnon** of the Law Office of Christina A. McKinnon, PA, in Miami, received the Dade Legal Aid Put Something Back pro bono award in the area of family law.

**Elisha D. Roy** opened the Law Offices of Elisha D. Roy in West Palm Beach, where she handles marital and family law matters. She is board certified in marital and family law and is chair of The Florida Bar Family Law Section for 2013–2014.

**David Salomon**, partner at Salomon Bravo in Plantation, was named president elect of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association. His practice areas include personal injury, insurance claims, bankruptcy, and criminal defense.

**Michael Schutt** joined Fuentes & Berrio, LLP, in Deerfield Beach. He handles personal injury, personal injury protection, property, and construction disputes.

**Gary M. Singer**, of Gary M. Singer, PA, in Sunrise, is a member of the 2013–2014 Broward County Bar Association's Board of Directors. He is board certified in real property probate and trust law.

**Matthew Thibaut**, of Ciklin Lubitz Martens & O'Connell in West Palm Beach, hosted a Webinar on March 14, 2014, that examined employment arbitration. His practice includes employment law and securities litigation.

**Nicole Topper**, of counsel to Blank Rome in Boca Raton, practices in the areas of commercial litigation and consumer finance.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

2002

**Molly Maguire Gausso** owns Gausso Law Office, PC, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She handles criminal defense, landlord and tenant, and wills and estates law, among other areas.

**Michael Gilden** of Kopelowitz Ostrow in Fort Lauderdale, is a board-certified attorney in marital and family law and received certification from the Florida Supreme Court as a family mediator.

**Martin David Kiar** was elected in 2012 as a county commissioner for Broward County. He serves District 1 in Broward County, which includes parts of Davie, Weston, Sunrise, Plantation, Lauderhill, and Tamarac. Previously, he served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 to 2012. He is in private practice with his father at the Law Offices of Monroe D. Kiar in Davie.

**Lori Lewellen**, attorney with Heath & Carcioppolo in Fort Lauderdale, presented Medical Malpractice Talk for NSU's Health Law Society and the Student Association of OB/GYN in October 2013 at Nova Southeastern University.

**Denise A. Welter**, attorney with the Shiner Law Group in Boca Raton, practices in estate planning, wills, trusts, and probate.

2003

**Jeffrey Backman**, shareholder at Greenspoon Marder in Fort Lauderdale, is a member of the firm's complex business litigation group. His practice includes commercial litigation and class action defense cases.

**Scott N. Brown**, partner at Bast Amron in Miami, focuses on creditors' rights, bankruptcy litigation, commercial litigation, and business reorganization.



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

**Sean Collin**, partner at Lyons, Snyder & Collin, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, focuses on marital and family law. He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has won numerous awards, including the *Super Lawyers* Rising Star award.

**Ricardo Gomez**, managing partner at Weissman, Nowack, Curry & Wilco in Miami, focuses on civil and general business litigation.

**Jeremy Kissel**, general counsel for GC Pivotal, LLC, in Chicago, Illinois, a telecommunications information and logistics company, is a member of the company’s executive management team and is responsible for all legal and compliance functions for GC Pivotal. He previously worked for a boutique communications law firm in Washington, D.C., where he represented clients in front of federal government agencies and congress. He also served on the Federal Communication Commission’s Media Bureau.

**Christopher Staller**, partner at Broad and Cassel in Miami, is a member of the firm’s real estate and special assets practice groups. He has extensive experience in the acquisition, disposition, financing, and development of commercial and residential real estate projects, including apartment projects, warehouse buildings, and shopping centers.

**Jill Goldman Weiss** of Sachs Sax Caplan in Boca Raton, was installed as president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. She practices in the area of complex commercial and business litigation.

2004

**Angel Arias**, of the Arias Law Group, PA, in Hollywood, Florida, assisted Miami’s NBC Channel 6 news reporter Willard Shepard and police in talking down a suicidal man who was a Vietnam

veteran. Traffic was halted November 11, 2013, at the intersection of the Florida Turnpike and I-595 in Broward County, Florida, as the veteran threatened to jump because he was distressed over his immigration status. An immigration attorney, Arias, spoke with the veteran and offered to help him sort out his immigration matters, pro bono.

**Brooke M. Barnett** of Brooke M. Barnett & Associates, PC, in Newark, New Jersey, was featured in a reality show, *Jersey Strong*, airing on Pivot. Her litigation law practice includes the areas of criminal, civil, family, and entertainment law.

**Tattiana Brenes-Stahl**, an associate with Greenberg Traurig in Fort Lauderdale, was selected as a fellow to The Florida Bar’s Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy. The academy’s goal is to train younger lawyers to be leaders in their profession and their community. She practices in the areas of probate, trust, and guardianship litigation.

**Alexander D. Brown**, director at Tripp Scott in Fort Lauderdale, was published in *Forbes* in January 2014 for his article, “Does Fighting Back Work or Is the Patent System Really Broken?” His article examines the case of *Sovereign Software, LLC v. Newegg, Inc.*, a case in which the United States Supreme Court declined to review the decision of the federal circuit court. He practices intellectual property law at Tripp Scott. Brown was honored by the South Florida *Daily Business Review* as a member of 40 Under 40, which honors South Florida’s best young lawyers.

**Amy L. Cosentino** joined the Law Offices of Paul J. Burkhart, PL, in Palm Beach Gardens, where she practices family law. Her article, “She Said What? What to Do in Civil Domestic Violence Proceedings with Child Hearsay,” was published in the September/October 2013 (Vol. 87 No. 8) issue of *The Florida Bar Journal*.

**Marta Estevez** practices with Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida in Fort Lauderdale. She received the Jewish Family Services KOLOT Coalition’s 2013 Ending Abuse Award for her outstanding commitment to the provision of critical legal services to those impacted by domestic violence.

**Andrew M. Fisher** owns Fisher Law, PA, in Orlando. He was elected as a member of the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Orlando area. He is a board-certified real estate attorney.

**Sandy T. Fox**, of Sandy T. Fox, PA, in Aventura, became board certified in marital and family law. His practice is a full-service family and matrimonial law practice that assists clients with prenuptial, dissolution, post-dissolution, adoption, and many other legal issues faced by families.

**Liliana Rincon Jurado** was sworn in as president of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association. She practices in Pompano Beach in the areas of criminal, family, immigration, and personal injury.

**Amber E. B. McMichael**, attorney with Clarfield, Okon, Salomone, & Pincus, PL, in West Palm Beach, moderated Mediator Practice Tips from the Attorney Point of View at the Palm Beach County Bar Association, where she is chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. Her practice areas include commercial and residential litigation, plaintiff foreclosures, and real estate transactions. She is also a certified mediator.

**Christopher P. Meier**, attorney with Greenspoon Marder in Fort Lauderdale, practices in the area of regulatory compliance. He hosted a Webinar, Modernized Debt Collection Communication and How to Do It Compliantly.

**Thomas F. Mullin**, associate at Nason, Yeager, Gerson, White & Lioce in Boca Raton, practices in the areas of environmental, water, and land use law.

2005

**George Andrews**, partner at Shutts & Bowen in Fort Lauderdale, is a commercial litigator representing financial institutions in cases involving the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, the Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act, the Truth in Lending Act, the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, and the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act.

**Marc Brody**, shareholder at Gunster Law Firm in West Palm Beach, is a member of the corporate and technology law practice groups.

**Colleen Colton**, associate at McGlinchey Stafford in Fort Lauderdale, practices in commercial litigation and consumer financial services litigation.

**Frank Delia** joined Ball Janik, LLP, in Orlando. The firm handles a variety of business matters, including real estate, land use, securities litigation, government contract, and governmental affairs.

**Michael K. Grife**, of Glick & Grife in Boca Raton, was selected as a 2013 *Super Lawyers* Florida Rising Star. He represents those seriously injured due to the negligence of others.

**Adam S. Woodruff**, partner at Shutts & Bowen in Tampa, practices in the areas of banking law, corporate, real estate, and business transactions.

2006

**Leila Billings**, partner at Russo, Billings and Rosen in Weston, is codirector of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association. Her practice areas include personal injury, medical malpractice, and wrongful death cases.

**Jason Chodos**, associate with Mound Cotton Wollan & Greengrass in Fort Lauderdale, was selected as a 2013 *Super Lawyers* Florida Rising Star for the field of insurance coverage.

**Meghan Maroney Clary**, a partner in her Fort Lauderdale-based firm, has changed the firm’s name to Chorowski & Clary, PA. Her practice is focused on matrimonial and family law.

**Nina DiPietro**, partner with Florida Litigation Law Firm in Fort Lauderdale, was appointed by Rick Scott, Florida governor, to the Board of Medicine for a three-year term ending in 2016. Her practice includes a variety of civil matters including medical malpractice defense.

**Lauren Fallick**, business and commercial litigator with Leopold Law, PA, in Palm Beach Gardens, was appointed to Connect Florida’s Board of Governors, where she served as cochair of the Statewide Leadership Institute for the 2013–2014 term. Connect Florida is a program of Leadership Florida, which was developed to assist young leaders in making a positive impact on Florida. She focuses her civil litigation practice on product liability and construction defect litigation.

**Natalie Giachos**, president of the NSU Law Alumni Association and attorney at Boyar & Freeman, PA, in Coral Springs, participated in a seminar presented by the NSU Law Alumni Association, Rules in Action: Civility, at the Broward County Bar Association’s Bench and Bar Conference on October 18, 2013. Her law practice includes personal injury and civil litigation matters.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

**Grace Murillo**, attorney with Schwarzberg & Associates, PL, in West Palm Beach, is chair of the Diversity Relations Subcommittee of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. She is also the secretary of the Palm Beach County Hispanic Bar Association.

**Louis Reinstein**, attorney at Bunnell & Woulfe in Fort Lauderdale, was appointed by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners to the Affordable Housing Authority Committee. His practice areas encompass a broad variety of civil litigation matters.

2007

**Annabella Barboza**, real estate attorney with the law firm of Phelan Hallinan, PLC, in Fort Lauderdale, authored “Code Liens Are Not Superpriority Liens: Is It the End of the Debate?” published by *The Florida Bar Journal*, September/October 2013 (Vol. 87 No. 8). She is a fellow member of the inaugural class of The Florida Bar Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy, whose goal is to train younger lawyers to be leaders in their profession and their community. She was also named as treasurer of the Broward County Hispanic Bar Association. Her practice areas include real estate, probate and wills, and civil litigation.

**Laura Jacobson Cohen**, associate at Benardo Levine LLP in Boca Raton, practices in business, labor and employment, real estate, wills, trusts, and probate matters.

**Michael Harris**, of Harris Law, PA, in Miami, is board certified in immigration and nationality law. His law practice concentrates on various areas of immigration, such as investment immigration, business visas, permanent residency, family immigration, deportation defense, other visas, consular processing, and citizenship.



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

**Justin Parafinczuk**, of Parafinczuk & Wolf, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, presented So You Are Graduating, What Next? to law students in NSU’s Veterans Law Clinic and Children and Families Clinic. He spoke about setting career goals, the realities of a job search, and developing skills and strategies for career success.

**Heather L. Pattok**, associate at Scott J. Sternberg & Associates, PA, in West Palm Beach, practices workers’ compensation law.

**Frederick Segal**, associate with Broad and Cassel in Miami, spoke to medical residents at John F. Kennedy Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida, about the Future of Private Practice in Medicine. Segal is the health law legal eagle in each issue of the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine’s *COM Outlook* magazine. He holds an LL.M. in Health Law from Widener University School of Law and practices in the firm’s health law practice group. He counsels hospitals, physicians, and medical providers on an array of issues.

**Vanessa Serrano**, associate with Broad and Cassel in Fort Lauderdale, is a member of the Practical Academic Cultural Education Center for Girls Board of Directors. She is also a board member of the Stephen R. Booher American Inn of Court and is a member of Leadership Broward. Her practice areas include commercial litigation and construction law.

**Carolina Y. Sznajderman**, associate at Egozi & Bennett, PA, in Aventura, practices in commercial litigation with emphasis on real estate matters. She is secretary of the North Dade Bar Association and is on the LifeNet 4 Families Board of Directors, a community-based program that helps needy families in Broward County, Florida.

**Ethan Wall**, vice president of the NSU Law Alumni Association and associate at Richman Greer in Coral Gables, is president of the Young

Lawyer’s Section (YLS) of the Dade County Bar Association. The Dade County Bar’s YLS held its annual Bids for Kids charity event in November 2013 in Miami. Proceeds funded children’s civic education and development. He practices in the area of intellectual property law, with a special focus on social media law. He was also a finalist for Alumnus of the year at NSU’s annual STUEY awards.

2008

**Jennifer Chapkin**, associate at McGlinchey Stafford in Fort Lauderdale, represents clients in commercial litigation; commercial consumer financial services litigation; real estate; and RESPA, TILA, and CDCPA claims, as well as bankruptcy and creditors’ rights.

**Nexcy De La Rosa-Monroe**, associate with Hoffman & Hoffman in Miami, is president of Miami’s Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association. Her practice area includes family law, probate, guardianship, and estate planning.

**Daniel A. Espino**, associate at Weiss Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske in Coral Gables, practices in the local government division, land use and zoning group, and government affairs and procurement group. He also serves as an assistant town attorney for Medley, Florida.

**Sara E. Graditor**, associate with Roetzel & Andress in Fort Lauderdale, presented on a panel for the Current Developments Program given by the S Corporation Committee of the American Bar Association’s Section of Taxation. She has an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Miami School of Law. She handles corporate law, including mergers and acquisitions, securities, business financing, and venture capital organizations.

**Marcie Oppenheimer Nolan**, partner with Becker & Poliakoff in

Fort Lauderdale, focuses on local government issues with a concentration on land planning projects.

**Marissa Pullano**, attorney with Brinkley Morgan in Fort Lauderdale, is president of the Broward County Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Section. Her practice areas include marital and family law. She is licensed to practice law in Florida and New York.

**Evan J. Small**, associate at Ball Janik, LLP, in Orlando, focuses on construction litigation.

**Keith Sonderling**, member of the NSU Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and associate at Gunster Law Firm in West Palm Beach, is serving a four-year term on the Fourth District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission.

**Caryn Stevens** joined Rudolph & Associates in West Palm Beach. Her practice focuses on marital and family law.

**Leisa Wintz**, attorney at Solaris Law Group in Davie, practices family, real estate, business, and bankruptcy law.

2009

**Michael T. Fraser**, associate at Saxon, Gilmore, Carraway & Gibbons in Tampa, represents individuals, businesses, and governmental entities in a wide range of complex litigation, including commercial litigation, professional liability, and construction law.

**Gina Jacobs**, managing attorney of the Orlando, office of Adelson, Testan, Brundo, Novell & Jimenez, has extensive experience in the insurance industry and workers’ compensation law.

**Robert Karpeles** is associate counsel for the NHL Florida Panthers and the BB&T Center Arena in Sunrise.

**Tara Lynn Kopp**, associate with Schuler, Halvorson, Weisser & Zoeller in West Palm Beach, Florida, focuses on personal injury protection litigation.

**Nicolette A. Kramer**, senior associate attorney at the Association Law Firm in Orlando, focuses on the representation of condominium and homeowner associations throughout Florida.

**Abigail Langweiler** is an attorney with the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, Second District, in Fort Lauderdale.

**Matthew D. Martin** joined Rudolph & Associates in West Palm Beach. His practice is focused on marital and family law.

**Kimberlee J. Otis** joined Special Counsel, a company that specializes in legal staffing services in Fort Lauderdale, as attorney search director. There, she recruits lawyers for career opportunities.

**Kayla Riera-Gomez**, associate with Fowler White Burnett in Miami, is president of the Coral Gables Bar Association. Her practice includes handling a variety of insurance matters—including bad faith, personal injury, wrongful death, premises liability, and products liability—for corporations and individuals.

**Chad T. Van Horn** owns Van Horn Law Group, PA, in Fort Lauderdale. He serves on the board of Broward County Big Brothers Big Sisters. Van Horn is founder and CEO at Impossible Connections, Inc., which helps raise money for nonprofit organizations. His law practice handles individual and corporate bankruptcy matters.

**Jeffrey Wank**, associate with Colodny, Fass, Talenfeld, Karlinsky & Abate in Fort Lauderdale, chaired the Broward County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section 26th annual charity golf tournament for the third time. Proceeds from the tournament

benefited Helping Abused Neglected Disadvantaged Youth (HANDY). His department was honored by the *Daily Business Review* as the 2014 Insurance Litigation Department of the Year for South Florida. His practice includes insurance litigation, personal injury, civil rights, and commercial litigation.

2010

**Karina Arzumanova**, owner of the Law Office of Karina Arzumanova, PA, in Boca Raton, practices in the areas of family law and immigration law.

**Rudwin Ayala**, associate with the Law Office of Jay Cohen, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, was named the regional vice president for the fourth district of the Puerto Rican Bar Association of Florida. His practice areas include medical malpractice, personal injury, and complex commercial litigation.

**Stephany Garcia**, associate attorney with the Immigration Law Offices of Richard Hujber in Boynton Beach, had her article, “Immigration: Overview of the New Provisional Waiver Regulation,” published in the Palm Beach County Bar magazine, *Bulletin*.

**Elizabeth M. (Fohl) Jones** joined Shutts & Bowen in West Palm Beach. She is a member of the real estate practice group.

**Jamaal R. Jones**, associate attorney with the health law firm Zumpano, Patricios & Winker, PA, in Coral Gables, had his article, “HIPPA Omnibus Rule for Compliance for Physician Practices,” published in the September 2013 edition of *Compliance Today* magazine.

**Scott Mitchell Klein**, attorney with Ernst & Young in its tax section, coauthored an article, “International Tax: A Quest to Resolve Overlap Between Foreign Base Company

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Sales and Foreign Base Company Services,” published in the American Bar Association’s Tax Section, *NewsQuarterly*. He is also on the tax out-bound committee of The Florida Bar Tax Law Section. Klein has an LL.M. from Georgetown Law.

**Adam M. Ludwin** joined the firm of Mark A. Kaufman & Associates in Fort Lauderdale. His practice areas include personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, and products liability litigation.

**Patyl Oflazian**, assistant state attorney in Broward County, earned her LL.M. in Trial Advocacy, with honors, from Temple University School of Law in May 2013. While there, she received the Edward D. Ohlbaum Award for Commitment to the Art of Trial Advocacy.

**Matthew Rocco** was inducted into the Broward College Alumni Hall of Distinction. Rocco is a professor of business and administration at Broward College and the vice president of the Academic Affairs Department.

**Fausto Sanchez** joined Diaz Reus & Targ in Miami. His practice areas include family law, civil law, and property litigation.

**Stacie J. Schmerling**, associate with Colodny Fass Talenfeld Karlinsky Abate & Webb in Fort Lauderdale, was successful—along with her firm partners Howard Talenfeld and Joel Fass—in obtaining a settlement for their clients in a culpable negligence case against ChildNet, Inc., and the Florida Department of Children and Families. She represented the grandparents of two young girls who were sexually abused while the state attempted reunification with the birth mother.

**Diana Sulea** received the Paul May Young Lawyers Section Professionalism Award at the 2013 Broward County Bar Association’s annual meeting. This award is given to lawyers who display qualities



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

such as integrity, professionalism, and service to the community. She is a sole practitioner and handles general civil litigation and transactional work.

2011

**Valerie Barnhart**, attorney at Kelley Kronenberg in Fort Lauderdale, was selected as a 2014 Leader in Law and Rising Star by *Lifestyle Magazine*. She was recognized for promoting excellence in law, maintaining the highest level of ethics, showing a commitment to her community, and providing leadership. She also was judged on her outstanding skills in litigation, advocacy, counseling, and advancing the legal profession through public service, bar association activities, and pro bono service.

**Michael Blom**, associate at Seeger Weiss, LLP, in Newark, New Jersey, practices in the areas of pharmaceutical drug injury, medical device liability, and mass tort litigation.

**Lisa Callahan** was honored by Legal Aid Service of Broward County as Volunteer of the Year. She provides counsel to qualified clients on the Legal Aid Hotline.

**Brittany Chambers**, associate with the Schlesinger Law Offices, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, focuses on personal injury, products liability, and complex litigation.

**Jessica Chiappone** was invited by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to speak to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva in October 2013. Her topic was Felony Disenfranchisement as a Form of Discrimination in Violation of International Human Rights Law. Chiappone is the current vice president of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition.

**Renita F. Henry**, associate at Chorowski & Clary in Fort Lauderdale, represents clients in all aspects of marital and family law.

**Joshua T. Higgins** joined Kelley Kronenberg in Fort Lauderdale. His practice includes workers’ compensation, civil rights violations, and correctional health care.

**Aaron Karger**, associate at Kalis & Kleiman in Davie, provides counseling and litigation support in the areas of commercial and real property, landlord and tenant, and foreclosure matters, as well as in criminal defense matters.

**Sandy Khouly** was admitted to the Antigua and Barbuda Bar in July 2013. She practices in Antigua and is also a member of The Florida Bar.

**Luz R. Landa** is in-house counsel for Columbus Communications, Inc., in Fort Lauderdale. Columbus is a diversified telecommunications company with a core business that provides cable television services, digital video, high-speed Internet access, digital telephony, corporate data services, telecom capacity, and IP services in the greater Caribbean. Landa began working for Columbus’ sister company, Columbus Networks USA, Inc., during law school. Initially, her work involved English and Spanish contract drafting and negotiation in foreign and domestic markets. Now, she is involved in the general oversight of all legal affairs.

**Ava G. Mahmoudi** joined Kubicki Draper in Fort Lauderdale, where she will focus on handling personal injury protection and special investigations unit/fraud defense matters.

**Christopher Vielman** joined Reich & Mancini, PA, in Port St. Lucie, Florida. He handles personal injury and other civil matters.

2012

**Vanessa Banni-Viñas**, attorney with the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office, published an article, “Correcting a Ballerina’s Story: The Truth Behind *Makletzova v. Diaghileff*,” in the July 2013 edition of the *American Journal of Legal History* (Vol. 53 Issue 3), published by Temple University Beasley School of Law. The *Green Bag Almanac Reader* selected the article as an example of good legal writing.

**Adriana Barba** is working in Barcelona, Spain. She is a corporate attorney for the Investment Holding Services Unit and Trade Services Unit for Americorp Group. Her company works as a global team to provide private wealth and estate planning for its clients.

**Richard P. Corey** of the Law Offices of Richard Corey, PLLC, in Fort Lauderdale, published a book, *The Blueprint*, which is about achieving your vision and purpose in life. On October 12, 2013, he had a book release party to benefit Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital Foundation.

**Nikki Devidze**, associate with the Mallory Law Group, in Jupiter, Florida, focuses on commercial litigation, professional malpractice, and family law.

**Nathaniel Duft**, associate with Broad and Cassel in Orlando, practices with the affordable housing and tax credit practice group.

**Brian Engel**, associate with McIntosh, Sawran & Cartaya in Fort Lauderdale, practices in the insurance defense litigation department.

**Joseph Fahrendorf**, associate with John S. Brooks, PA, in Deerfield Beach, participated in a seminar presented by the NSU Law Alumni Association, Rules in Action: Civility, at the Broward County Bar Association’s Bench and Bar Conference on October 18, 2013.

**Jacqueline Fox**, associate with Frank Weinberg & Black, PL, in Plantation, provides a variety of civil litigation and transactional legal services to its clients.

**Ramon Guillen, Jr.**, staff counsel with Building Empowerment by Stopping Trafficking (BEST) in Miami, lobbies to create laws to stop human sex trafficking. He also participated in a seminar presented by the NSU Law Alumni Association, Rules in Action: Civility, at the Broward County Bar Association’s Bench and Bar Conference on October 18, 2013.

**Andrew T. Hendrix** joined Hightower, Stratton and Wilhelm in West Palm Beach. His practice areas include civil litigation involving negligence, insurance coverage, and contract issues, among other civil areas.

**Daniel Klenetsky**, public affairs senior coordinator for NASCAR in Daytona Beach, Florida, handles issues relevant to NASCAR in markets across the country. He participates in public policy efforts of NASCAR at federal, state, and local levels to advocate and promote NASCAR. Additionally, he handles matters that relate to policy, legislative, and regulatory initiatives; manages relationships with advocacy groups; and assists with at-track activations supporting military programs.

**Andrew Rothstein**, associate at De Varona Law in Boca Raton, practices in the areas of business litigation, transactional law, wills, trusts, probate, and appellate law.

**Leslie Rushing**, associate with Connolly, Geaney, Ablitt, & Willard, PC, in West Palm Beach, published an article, “Overboard and Unknown,” in *Travel Law Quarterly*, which is available through the NSU Law Center Library. Her practice areas include real estate and bankruptcy.

**Zachary Sloan**, associate in the Law Offices of Greenstein & Associates in

Wellington, Florida, focuses on tax and estate planning, commercial and civil litigation, financial services, and equine law.

**Crystal Valencia** joined the firm of Banker Lopez Gassler in Plantation. Her practice area includes general civil and commercial litigation.

**Thomas Zeichman**, member of the NSU Law Alumni Association and associate with Messana, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, was named to Florida Atlantic University’s Alumni Association Board of Directors.

2013

**Hope Baros** is an assistant state attorney in West Palm Beach and president of the Palm Beach chapter of the NSU Law Alumni Association.

**Rachel Brothers** joined Calevoso Law in Coral Gables. The firm is a boutique entertainment, arts, and business law firm serving South Florida.

**Whitney Carroll**, associate with Ciklin, Lubitz, Martens & O’Connell, in West Palm Beach, practices in the areas of land use, zoning, and real property law.

**Pooneh Sarah Charkhian**, associate at the Law Office of Izquierdo & Marín in Fort Lauderdale, was sworn in as vice chair of the NExT Steering Committee for the Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida and Legal Aid Service of Broward County. Her practice includes immigration and criminal law.

**Karly E. Dreker**, associate at the Law Office of Benjamin T. Hodas, LLC, in West Palm Beach, focuses on marital and family law cases.

**Cash Alexander Eaton**, associate at the Eaton Family Law Firm, PA, in West Palm Beach, focuses on family law matters.

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

**Jared Guberman**, associate at GPG Law in Fort Lauderdale, focuses on complex commercial litigation.

**Shannon Jones**, associate with Greenspoon Marder, PA, in Fort Lauderdale, focuses on commercial litigation.

**Grant Levine** joined the law firm Greenberg Traurig in Fort Lauderdale. His practice focuses on corporate law. He was featured in *The Florida Bar News* article “Greenberg Traurig Rolls Out New Grad Residency Program.”

**Katherine McGovern** joined Kubicki Draper in Fort Lauderdale. Her practice includes personal injury, products liability, and construction defects.

**Jane Woodfield Morin** is employed by the Fourth District Court of Appeal in West Palm Beach.

**Nicole Netti** joined Haber, Stief & Blank in Fort Lauderdale. Her practice includes family law and criminal defense.

**Katherine Newcomer** joined Broad and Cassel in West Palm Beach in the commercial litigation practice group.

**Gabriela A. Phillingane** joined the law firm of Hightower, Stratton Wilhelm in Miami. The firm handles a variety of civil matters and corporate defense cases.

**Jonathan P. Picard** joined Cooke & Barrett, PL, in West Palm Beach. The firm handles general liability, professional malpractice, and commercial litigation, among other civil law matters.

**Jessie Pulitzer** joined the offices of Wiederhold, Moses, Kummerlen & Waronicki, PA, in West Palm Beach. The firm handles personal injury, insurance, and civil rights cases.

**Cynthia M. Pyfrom** opened Cynthia M. Pyfrom, PA, in Boynton Beach, and handles a wide variety of family law



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS AND IN MEMORIAM

matters in Florida, primarily in Martin, Palm Beach, and Broward counties.

**Rebecca Rodriguez** joined the firm GrayRobinson, PA, in Fort Lauderdale. Her practice focuses on litigation and administrative matters, including international trade issues and regulatory compliance for multinational corporate clients. Her article, “FDA Issues Final Rule Defining the Term ‘Gluten Free’: What Food Manufacturers Need to Know for Product Labeling,” was published in the November 2013 edition of the Food and Drug Law Institute’s *Update* magazine.

**Roberto Rodriguez**, associate at Novak Druce Connolly Bove & Quigg, LLP, in West Palm Beach, practices in the area of patent prosecution, with

a focus in the areas of digital design, power distribution, cellular networks, and handsets.

**Amanda Sejba** was awarded a two-year postgraduate fellowship by Equal Justice Works, the national public interest law organization dedicated to mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice. She will continue her work with the VALOR project at Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida. There, she will address the legal needs of veterans and active duty service members.

**Michelle K. Suarez** joined Conroy, Simberg, Ganon, Krevans, Abel, Lurvey, Morrow & Schefer, P.A., an insurance defense law firm offering a full range of legal services.

**Shelby Tatum**, associate with Ocean Properties, Ltd., in Delray Beach, handles various corporate legal matters for the company, which is one of the largest hospitality management and real estate development companies in North America.

**Raul Valero**, associate with Greenspoon Marder in Fort Lauderdale, focuses on commercial litigation.

**Maria Del Mar Estrach Ventura** joined the law firm Clifford Chance, LLP, in Barcelona, Spain, and is working in the tax division.

**Alicia Zweig** joined Kubicki Draper in Fort Lauderdale. Her practice includes commercial litigation, corporate, and construction matters.

IN MEMORIUM

**Brian McCrea Boyle** (’86), of Fort Myers, passed away November 15, 2013. He was a native of Bethesda, Maryland, and practiced law in Lee County, Florida, for 30 years.

**Karen Kantner Cassidy** (’81), of Fort Lauderdale, passed away on October 30, 2013.

**Brian Fox** (’86), of Boca Raton, passed away on November 8, 2013. He spent his career defending physicians and health care providers and advocating for the rights of victims.

**Bonnie Willis Hutton** (’88) of Jupiter, Florida, passed away on March 11, 2013.

**Timothy Ryan Streett** (’86) had practiced in Bel Air, Maryland, where he concentrated on Criminal Defense. He was a member of the Maryland and Florida Bar, and an active member of the Harford County Bar Association.

**Judy Hoch** was a secretary at the NSU Law Center from 1976 to 1988, serving Ovid Lewis and Roger Abrams, both deans at the Law Center. More than a typical staff member, she was very much involved in the life of the Law Center and was a friend to many of the students. She brought brightness to the school with her extraordinary sense of humor, and, of course, she participated in all of the faculty member roasts and Halloween parties of that era.

In 2012, Hoch moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to live with her older brother. In March 2013, she learned that she had late-stage lung cancer that had already spread to her brain. After a nearly nine-month battle, she passed away in a hospice facility on December 6, 2013. She was 62 years old.

“I’m sure that many of you will remember her, as I will, as one of the greatest personalities to have ever graced the Law Center with her presence,” said Marc Rohr, Law Center professor.

The Law Center admits students of any race, sex, sexual orientation, age, color, nondisqualifying disability, marital status, religion or creed, or national or ethnic origin. ■ Nova Southeastern University’s Shepard Broad Law Center is a member of the Association of American Law Schools and is accredited by the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association (321 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60610-4714, Telephone number: 312-988-6738).

04-014-14MCP

Nova Southeastern University is integrating the protection and preservation of global resources into our everyday practices. It’s part of our commitment to be socially conscious and responsible, and to use thoughtful behavior. We are proud to offer this publication printed entirely on 10 percent postconsumer waste (PCW) paper. The use of PCW paper reduces the demand on the world’s forests.



The Career and Professional Development Office

continues to serve the needs of our alumni throughout their career. Our commitment to our students’ success extends well past graduation. We are always available and encourage alumni to visit our Web site ([www.nsulawcareers.com](http://www.nsulawcareers.com)) where they can access the job board and blog, and also register to mentor a current NSU Law Center student.



How Alumni Can Help Law Center Students

- recruit and hire NSU Law Center students for law clerk and associate positions, as well as post job openings on our job board
- be a mentor to current law students
- join our Speed Networking program
- speak about your practice area at one of our weekly Career Café presentations
- conduct mock interviews during our Mock Interview Marathon event
- participate in Public Interest Law Day
- take part in on-campus interviewing
- contribute an article to the *NSU Law Careers* blog
- lecture at CLE presentations

How We Can Help Alumni

- advertise and help recruit to fill your firms’ hiring needs
- provide access to your postings on our job board
- help with individual counseling regarding career path or job changes
- review and revise resumes, cover letters, and other application documents
- create individual personal marketing plans
- advertise local networking events on our blog
- provide access to other law schools’ job boards via the reciprocity process
- facilitate marketing and promotional opportunities for your law firm
- consult and assist with objective salary data and salary negotiation strategies





## 10 REASONS TO VISIT THE LAW LIBRARY

- 1 Law Center alumni have access to extensive electronic and print resources, including most anything law students can access. The library is open 104 hours each week, including weekends, and until midnight Sunday through Thursday.
- 2 Alumni receive free access to Westlaw during library hours. There are five computers with unlimited access to WestlawPRO. The library's subscription to Westlaw Patron Access provides alumni with extensive Westlaw resources, including case law, the United States Code Annotated, state statutes, administrative codes for selected states, Florida materials, practice guides, forms, articles from American Jurisprudence, and treatises.
- 3 Alumni get free CLE CDs and are allowed to check out up to three CLE courses at a time, for three days at a time. Check often, because the CLE collection is frequently updated.
- 4 The librarians are friendly. Helping to track down that elusive case or article makes their day. Really.
- 5 Alumni can still check out books. Most nonreference or reserve books are available for check out for a period of two weeks. Bar preparation materials can be checked out for three days.
- 6 Document delivery is offered for a small fee. Alumni may request document delivery for cases, statutes, and articles from the library's collection. The documents will be delivered by fax, email, or mail in the United States. A correct citation must be provided to a librarian to utilize this service.
- 7 There are research guides. Available through <http://nova-campusguides.com> and curated by librarians, these pages offer help on where to start researching unfamiliar topics.
- 8 The interlibrary loan system means that if the Law Center library does not have it, it will get it. Alumni can request material from the librarian at the circulation desk. Please allow one to two weeks for this service.
- 9 The librarians can help you access databases. Specialized information found in databases such as BNA, AILALink, HeinOnline, and Knowledge Mosaic are free to use. Just ask a librarian!
- 10 The library hosts programs for alumni. Each year, programs are designed to train alumni to be stronger researchers and more efficient, happy lawyers. Please check the schedule for upcoming programs.



## HONORING THE PAST, IMPACTING THE FUTURE

The impact of scholarship support is far-reaching and long-lasting thanks to generations of great lawyers who give back to their communities. Thank you for your continued support and friendship. Turn the dream of a legal education into reality. Give a student a priceless opportunity and a meaningful future.

—Rebecca Allen, Director of Donor Relations and Stewardship



[www.nova.edu/giving](http://www.nova.edu/giving)





NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
Shepard Broad Law Center  
Leo Goodwin Sr. Hall  
3305 College Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7721

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NOVA  
SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY



## Stay Connected

Did you know the NSU Law Center is on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn?

## Don't Miss Out

Are you missing out on important Law Center events, information, and benefits? Go to <https://www.nova.edu/webforms/alumni/> to update your information.



## Share Your News

We want to hear from you! Do you have a new job or a new promotion? Have you been honored with special awards or achievements? Send an email with any notes and a high-resolution photo to [nsulawcenter@nova.edu](mailto:nsulawcenter@nova.edu).