

news & notes

ALUMNI

Judge Jack Weinstein Delivers Commencement Address

The Class of 2002 celebrated Cardozo's 24th commencement in Avery Fisher Hall of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. A festive mood prevailed as 319 men and women received J.D. degrees and 53 received

LL.M. degrees. In introducing the keynote speaker, Judge Jack B. Weinstein, senior United States district judge, Eastern District of New York, Dean David Rudenstine noted, "We feel a special connection with Judge Weinstein, as he was a founding member of the Cardozo Board of Directors. Additionally his extraordinary accomplishments, his progressive and innovative leadership on the bench,

and years of public service make him a fine example for law school graduates." At the ceremony, Judge Weinstein told the students that they are "the first line of defense in our democracy." He touched on current national concerns, such as terrorism, the Enron scandal, and the care of the mentally ill and elderly, and urged the graduates to be activists. He also offered encouraging words and

reminded them that just as the Law School's first graduating class did in 1979, they too, will succeed "as has the school and its first graduates. From its history you should take courage about your future."

Many students were honored for distinction in academics and contributions to journals, the community, and various fields of law. Sarah S. Jones received the Louis D.

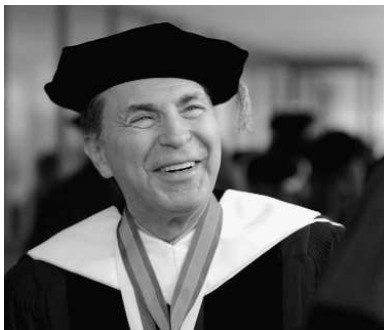
Salina Kanai received the Archie A. Gorfinkel Award



Dean David Rudenstine, Judge Jack Weinstein, and YU President Norman Lamm



Sarah S. Jones received the Louis D. Brandeis Award



Cardozo Chairman Earle I. Mack



Jeffrey Grand, winner of the Felix Frankfurter Award, and Victoria Zaydman



The Anita Walton Award was given to Judy Mender, assistant dean for student services



Valda Harper was recognized for outstanding assistance to students

Brandeis Award for best academic record over three years; LL.M. graduate Olga Statz received the Louis Henkin Award, also for superior scholarship. Jeffrey S. Grand was given the Felix Frankfurter Award for outstanding academic maturity, responsibility, diligence, and judgment; the Samuel Belkin Award for scholastic achievement coupled with exceptional contributions to the Law School was given to Christopher M. Van de Kieft. Salina Kanai won the Honorable Archie A. Gorfinkel Award, Cynthia Devasia won the Steven Eric Tanenbaum Leadership Award, and Alydra Kelly won the Stanley H. Beckerman Public Interest Award.

Assistant dean for admissions Robert Schwartz '92 was honored with the Monrad G. Paulsen Award for devoted service to the vitality, ideals, and purposes of legal education. Each year, the graduates select their favorite members of the faculty and administration. David R. Tawil, SBA president, presented this year's winners: Dean David Rudenstine and professors Melanie Leslie '91, Stewart Sterk, and Burt Lipshie. Valda Harper from the Office of Student Finance was recognized for outstanding assistance to students. The Anita Walton Award for best administrator was given to assistant dean for student services Judy Mender.



Class of 2002 Order of the Coif honorees



Prof. Michael Herz, shown here holding a "coif," presided at the Order of the Coif ceremony

Party and Order of the Coif Ceremony Preceeds Commencement

In a ceremony that took place at Cardozo the evening before graduation, the Order of the Coif, a legal honor that is given to those who finish in the top 10 percent of the class, was bestowed on 34 J.D. students. An honorary Order of the Coif award was given to David Zwiebel '79, executive vice president for government and public affairs at Agudas Israel of America, who was editor-in-chief of *Cardozo Law Review*. Immediately after the Coif ceremony, Dean Rudenstine hosted an informal reception for all graduates and their families.

Jed Lewin gave an uplifting student speech



Olga Statz received the Louis Henkin Award



ChangSik Kim and family



Terri Cohen and Joseph Subor (2nd and 3rd from left) with family and friends. Daniel Biene and his mother. Ziva Cohen, winner of a Jacob Burns Medal and an Alumni Association Scholarship, with Prof. Lela Love.

Order of the Coif Honorees

Julie A. Ahrens
Carrie A. Bassel
Corey S. Biller
Terri Cohen-Lieberman
Thomas A. Crowell
Erika Fink
Jeffrey S. Grand
Shozo Iwasaki
Laura D. Jankolovits
Simon Johnson

Sarah S. Jones
Alydra M. Kelly
Alan J. Landau
Jongun Lee
Christopher S. Lick
David Loretto
Shoshana E. Menu
Saul Mezei
Rima J. Oken
Jose Pena
Andrew S. Rodman
Jeremy S. Samson

Jaclyn Sue Schneider
Danielle Bockman Shalov
Viktoria Shatkhina
Giyoung Song
Andrew R. Strauss
Joseph N. Subar
April M. Tate
Reiko Watase
Shira D. Weiner
Elan Elyahu Weinreb
Andrew H. Weisberg
Ken M. Zeidner

Cardozo Breakfast Forum Series

Don't miss the Cardozo Breakfast Forum, established by Dean Rudenstine and the Alumni Association, to highlight and explicate issues of importance to New Yorkers. To reserve, call 212-790-0293 or email cyoung@ymail.yu.edu. All programs begin at 8:30 am in the Third Floor Lounge at Cardozo.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

William C. Thompson, Jr., NYC Comptroller

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Michael A. Cardozo, NYC Corporation Counsel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Randi Weingarten '83, President, United Federation of Teachers

Alumni Association Elects New Slate of Officers

At its first annual meeting, held at the Yeshiva University Museum in June, the Alumni Association elected new officers, who will serve two-year terms.

Dean Rudenstine attended and thanked graduates for their efforts and involvement with Cardozo. Former chair Joshua Sohn '97 spoke on behalf of the outgoing Executive Committee, noting the many accomplishments achieved during the organization's first two years. Chair Howard Abrahams '94 shared his goals of continuing the successes of the prior officers and working with Dean Rudenstine to build a stronger alumni network.

Alumni are encouraged to become more active in their Alumni Association by participating on committees. If you are interested, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 212-790-0293.

Executive Committee Members of the Alumni Association

Officers

Howard Abrahams '94

Chair

Sandy Hausler '87

Vice Chair

Howard Leib '83

Vice Chair

Marilyn Bodner '92

Recording Secretary

Tanya Kennedy '92

Corresponding Secretary

Len Ritz '96

Treasurer

Committee Chairs

Rosemary Byrne '80

Romilda Crocarno '91, '01

LL.M.

Glenda Dixon '92

Jayson Glassman '98

Lawrence Klein '94

Rachel Nash '99

David Schechtman '99

Joshua Sohn '97, *past chair*

Sarah Steiner '83

Jane Strachan '02 LL.M.

Noel Williams '89

Mark Yagerman '79

Spotlight on the West Coast: Nina Sadowsky '83



When Nina Sadowsky '83 decided to go to law school, she wasn't sure where it would lead, but she did know her true interest was in the entertainment world. She believed that law school would give her valuable skills for whatever career she chose.

Today, Nina is a successful executive at Signpost Films, a start-up film production company in Los Angeles. After working as a lawyer in New York at the Shubert Organization and then at Kaufman Astoria Studios, she discovered that her passion was in combining her creative instincts with her legal training. Before moving to California, she made independent art films in New York, one of which was featured at the Sundance Film Festival. On the west coast she became president of Meg Ryan's company, Prufrock Pictures.

In the course of working 12-hour days, Nina juggles between five and eight projects at once. One of the responsibilities Nina enjoys is selecting the films to be produced. She was anticipating the release of *Bullet Proof Monk* in August and the *House of Sand and Fog*, currently in production.

While at Cardozo, Nina was an articles editor on the *Arts & Entertainment Law Journal*. She advises law students looking to

break into the entertainment industry to be tenacious and courageous when

deciding to follow a less traditional career path.

Glenn Garber '89 Teams Up with Innocence Project

Criminal defense attorney Glenn Garber '89 recently teamed up with Cardozo's Innocence Project and successfully exonerated Hector Gonzalez, who had already served six years in prison of a 15-year-to-life sentence for a murder he did not commit. Postconviction DNA testing proved Gonzalez's innocence, making him one of 110 exonerated.

As a student, Glenn participated in the Criminal Law Clinic and Criminal Appeals Clinic. After graduating, he worked at the Legal Aid Society for three years before opening his own practice. After



10 years in solo practice, Glenn still enjoys criminal defense work, which comprises 95% of his practice. He maintains relationships with several Cardozo professors and participates as an instructor in the ITAP program.

Scholarship Honors Andrew Zucker '99

A fund has been established to memorialize Andrew Zucker '99, who died at the World Trade Center on 9/11. The scholarship, which will be awarded to admitted law students, recognizes the important role Cardozo played in shaping Andrew's life. Making a contribution to Cardozo is a special way for friends and family to honor Andrew by helping law students fulfill their dream of becoming a lawyer, as Andrew did. If you would like to make a contribution to the Andrew Zucker Scholarship Fund, please send your check to Cardozo School of Law, Office of Alumni Affairs, 55 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10003.

A memorial scholarship for Barbara Bracher Olson '89 was previously established. For more information contact the Office of Development at 212-790-0889.



Dean Rudenstine had breakfast with (from left) Esther Trakinski '89, summer associate Peter Luneau '03, and Vered Rabia '98, all of whom work at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. He shared with them an update on Cardozo's renovations.



Each year, the Black, Asian, and Latino Law Students Association (BALLSA) hosts an alumni dinner that features entertainment and provides an opportunity for alumni to socialize and for current students to network. (From left) Rashidah Siddiqui '02, Black Law Students Association (BLSA) president, and David Gross '03.

Alumni Take on Leadership Roles

There are several Cardozo graduates who teach as members of the adjunct faculty, Melanie Leslie '91 is a full-time member of the Cardozo faculty, and dozens, if not more, take on roles as admissions ambassadors, student mentors, ITAP instructors, and panelists. In recent years, a significant change has occurred as alumni have become increasingly involved with Cardozo as donors and members of the board as well.

The Cardozo board now boasts eight alumni and two more who sit *ex officio*. The newest member, elected in June, is Nathan Kacew '98. At the fall board meeting, a new slate of officers was voted unanimously and three new vice chairman were elected: Senator Frank Lautenberg, Mark Lieberman '84, and Rachel Warren '92. This marks the first time that alumni are officers of the

board. (A full list of the Cardozo board is printed on the inside back cover of *Cardozo Life*.)

Simultaneously, alumni are participating as donors to both the annual fund and the capital campaign. The list of alumni donors to the annual fund is printed on the pages that follow. Those who have stepped forward with capital pledges, which support the building fund, new scholarships, and programs include Tiffany and Evan H. Berger '92, Alan Gotthelf '01, Adam Gottbetter '92, Katheryn O. Greenberg '82, Shimmie Horn '96, Nathan Kacew '98, Jonathan Kukin '87, Mitchel Maidman '88, Jill and James Schwalbe '93, Rachel Warren '92, and Debra Weiss '90 and Stephen A. Weiss '90. Weiss and his partner, Chris Seeger '90, made a donation to name the *Law Review* office for their firm, Seeger Weiss. Nathan Kacew's capital campaign gift of \$500,000 marks the single largest gift by an alumnus/a in the history of the Law School.

REUNION

On May 30, 2002, alumni from the classes of 1982, 1987, and 1992 celebrated 20-, 15-, and 10-year class reunions at the Russian Tea Room. More than 150 alumni along with faculty, administrators, and guests filled the glittering Bear Ballroom where they caught up with former classmates and professors. (All captions read from left to right.)



Alice Liebowitz '92,
Michael Katz '92,
Glenda Dixon '92

Professor Lushing and
Peter Skolnick '87



Dean Rudenstine and Sheila Feinerman '82



Michelle Stegmann Grab '92
and Marilyn Bodner '92



Yoram
Nachimovskiy '87
and Noel
Williams '87



Julie Swidler '82,
Mark Levinsohn '82,
Meredith Kornreich '82,
Marc Lesser '82



Toby Stone '82, Shoshana Bookson '82,
Bruce Birnbaum '82

Marsha Weinstein '82,
Audrey Einhorn '82,
Alan Figman '82

