

# Reunion 2000



Complete with barbecues, dinners and dances, this year's Reunion Weekend events resembled a family gathering in many ways. During the weekend, graduates from everywhere returned to celebrate and reflect on the achievements of the NYU School of Law family. This year, from May 18 through May 21, members of the classes of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, international alumni and classes graduating over 50 years ago gathered in New York City and in Washington Square.



On Friday, early-comers strolled through the corridors of Vanderbilt Hall, while law school students guided them through tours of the technologically refurbished law school facilities.

On Saturday morning, alumni and their families braved the cold rain with sunny smiles, assembling in Lipton Hall for the annual Awards Breakfast. The honorees sat at scattered tables, where outstretched arms embraced old friends and shook hands with strangers, amidst warm introductions.

Dean Sexton addressed the seated group before presenting the awards, speaking of

the importance of nurturing excellence not only in research, but in teaching. These efforts, he said, are crucial to creating a system of law based on reason rather than power. Not surprisingly, Dean Sexton also painted a vivid picture of our ever-progressing law school. Noting the presence of Conrad Sullivan ('26), the Dean highlighted all that has changed since 1926 – including NYU's \$90 tuition and its physical plant (the Law School's plant occupied two floors of a factory in 1926).

The Dean then presented Patricia Hewitt ('90) with the Recent Graduate

Award. Introducing his former Civil Procedure student, the Dean highlighted her achievements. A Root-Tilden scholar at NYU, Hewitt clerked with Magistrate James Francis in the Southern District of New York. She also was Executive Director of Joint Foundation Support, a consortium of foundations which makes grants in areas such as civil rights, grassroots organizing and the environment. Today, she is a senior litigation associate at the New York firm of Ingram Yuzek Gainen Carroll & Bertolotti and she is active in the non-profit and NYU Public Interest communities. For her part,

## Class of 1950 / Golden Circle



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs Frank J. Guarini, Jr. ('50, LL.M.'55), Norman Goodman ('50), Herbert Goodfriend ('50, LL.M.'53)  
 2. (L-r): George Dailey ('50), Robert Rove ('50)  
 3. (L-r): Rebecca Rolland ('29), Florence Perlow Shientag ('31)

Hewitt said that her time at NYU introduced her to groundbreaking thinking. She paid special tribute to Professors Randy Hertz, Marty Guggenheim, and the late Tom Stoddard.

The next public service award went to Zachary Carter ('75). Carter, a trustee of the Law School and a partner at the firm Dorsey & Whitney has dedicated much of his life to public service. From 1982 to 1987, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, where, among other things, he developed programs in community service sentencing and oversaw all



Recipients at the LAA Awards Breakfast (l-r): Norman Goodman ('50), the Judge Edward Weinfeld Award; Zachary Carter ('75), the Public Service Award; Patricia Hewitt ('90), the Recent Graduate Award; William Nelson ('65), the Legal Teaching Award; and Max Messmer ('70), the Alumni Achievement Award.

## Class of 1955



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs George Lowy ('55), David Washburn ('55), and John Creedon ('55, LL.M.'62)



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2. (L-r): Milton Schwartz ('55, LL.M.'61) and Orestes Mihaly ('55)



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3. (L-r): Lorna and Robert ('55), Levy with Charles ('55), and Ellen Conley



investigations and prosecutions involving police misconduct. He later served as New York's Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Administrative Judge for the Courts, as a Criminal Court Judge, as a Magistrate for the Eastern District of New York, and, coming full circle, as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District.

After Dean Sexton fostered the family atmosphere of the event by calling Carter's young daughter, Chandler, to the podium to present her father with the award, Carter paid tribute to classmates who work tirelessly and anonymously for the public interest.

These NYU graduates, he said provide "extraordinarily high quality legal services to the poor and disadvantaged."

This year's Legal Teaching Award was presented to Professor William Nelson ('65). Nelson, after receiving his degree from NYU, clerked for Judge Edward Weinfeld and then for Justice Byron White. Before returning to NYU in 1979, he taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard and then Yale. At the Law School, Professor Nelson has taught Constitutional Law, Federal Court, Contracts, Property, Torts and Lawyering, and along with NYU

## Class of 1960



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs Lewis Stein ('60), James Exum ('60), Jerome Kern ('60), and Martin Payson ('60)

2. (L-r): Jon Lafaver ('60) with Arthur Landever ('60)

3. (L-r): Norman Klein ('60), Regina and Joseph ('60, LL.M.'65) Einstein, and Philip Edelbaum ('60)



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Professor John Philip Reid, he founded the Legal History Colloquium, thereby becoming mentor to over fifty professors who now teach law and history. In accepting the award, Professor Nelson said that the honor and gratification of receiving the Legal Teaching Award paled “next to the honor and gratification of being associated with this institution for nearly four decades.”

Another distinguished public servant received the Judge Edward Weinfeld Award. Norman Goodman ('50) has served since 1969 as County Clerk of the Supreme Court, maintaining court records, court



Dean Sexton brings alumni up to date at his State of the Law School address.

## Class of 1965



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs Leonard Baum ('65), Peggy Bernheim ('65), Paul Tagliabue ('65), and Marvin Lerman ('65, LL.M.'70)

2. (L-r): Cecelia ('65) and Ken Cutler

3. (L-r): Professor Julius Jay Marke ('37) with Robert Straniere ('65, LL.M.'69)

transcripts, and historical legal records. Most notable is Goodman's commitment to NYU, where he has served as a trustee and president of the Law Alumni Association, and to New York City, where he has worked as President of the State Association of Commissioners of Jurors, and Chair of New York State Bar Courts and the Community.

Accepting his honor, Goodman venerated the late Judge Weinfeld, whom he described as, "simply the judge who always got it right." Goodman said that it was a privilege to work with the judge and learn from him. Remembering brisk daily

walks across the Brooklyn Bridge with Weinfeld, Goodman described the jurist's intelligence and dedication to his profession. Goodman remembered Judge Weinfeld once saying: "We as lawyers are servants to the public, and if we are to achieve success, we must have a deep understanding for our role."

Harold "Max" Messmer, Jr. ('70), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Robert Half International, the world's largest specialized staffing firm, received this year's Alumni Achievement Award. In his short-and-sweet acceptance speech,

Messmer recognized the importance of free enterprise in a stable society.

A Root-Tilden scholar at NYU, Messmer went on to be an associate and then a partner at the California firm of O'Melveny & Myers, where he specialized in mergers and acquisitions. He became CEO of Half in 1986.

As the breakfast came to a close, the Reunion weekend continued across the street in Vanderbilt with the Dean's State of the Law School Address. Highlighting good news on topics as diverse as faculty hiring and admissions, the Dean engaged in over

## Class of 1970



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs Steven Miller ('70), Sandra Landau ('70), Kenneth Feinberg ('70), and Robert McDermott ('70, LL.M.'74)

2. (L-r): Frederick Richman ('70), Kenneth Feinberg ('70), and Max Messmer ('70)

3. (L-r): Carole Sobin ('74), Jon Levison ('70), and Joel Adler ('70)

4. (L-r): Barry Robinson ('70) and Michael Martin ('70)

an hour of dialogue with alumni, answering their questions with vigor and candor. For example, on financial aid, the Dean noted that every student admitted to Harvard or Yale effectively receives an automatic \$5,000 scholarship – since tuition in those schools is less than that at NYU; but the Dean explained that the university’s current policy is to divert money from Financial Aid into the most generous loan repayment assistance program in the nation in order to guarantee students freedom of career choice at graduation.

He also said that the Law School was

making available scholarships for disadvantaged students who could not be expected to embrace “a \$150,000 capital investment.” As the Dean put it: “why should they trust someone who tells them to borrow \$150,000 because they will get it back later.”

The guests maintained a familial air as they milled through the halls during the break after the Dean’s presentation and moved to Greenberg Lounge for presentations by faculty and alumni.

The first panel, entitled, “Campaign Financing: Is the Government up for Sale,”

produced a lively discussion. NYU professor, Burt Neuborne, Director of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU, led the discussion, which included panelists congresswoman Diana DeGette ('82) and former congressman Frank Guarini, Jr. ('50, LL.M.'55). The story of the twentieth century, said Neuborne, will be that, “when the smoke cleared, the only institution left standing was democracy.” Yet, he noted, there are many warning signs that “all is not perfect with American democracy.” He noted that only 50% of eligible Americans voted in the last election, and he predicted

## Class of 1975



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs Richard Posen ('75), Zachary Carter, ('75), Nancy Lowe Henry ('75), Kenneth Munoz ('75), Joseph Collins ('75), and Evan Chesler ('75),

2. (L-r): David Knudson ('75) and Scott Wenner ('75)

3. (L-r): Barry Cozier ('75), Mitzi and Dean ('75) Yuzek, and Arthur Felsenfeld ('75)



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Professor Burt Neuborne, Congresswoman Diana DeGette ('82), and Frank Guarini, Jr. ('50, LL.M.'55) discuss campaign financing with alumni.

that, as the commercialization and corruption of political campaigning increase, the American public will lose faith in the democratic process. DeGette, Representative for the First Congressional District of Colorado, disagreed somewhat with Professor Neuborne's predictions. She argued that the cynicism of the American public stemmed from their lack of faith in the ability of politicians, rather than from the money involved in political campaigning. However, she asserted that, as a Congresswoman, she felt forced to devote an undesirable amount of her own energy

## Class of 1980



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs Eduardo Padro ('80), Martha Olson ('80), Susan Upton Douglass ('80), and Jose Maldonado ('80)
2. (L-r): Annie Wong ('80) with Calvin Cheng
3. (L-r): David Weisenfeld, Tina Stark ('80), and Robin Spear ('80)

and resources to campaign financing. And she admitted that the reason why many leaders are ineffective is that they are obliged to honor promises made to their contributors.

DeGette advocated the abolition of soft money – the uncontrolled funneling of undisclosed money into campaigns – and the reversal of Buckley’s cap on individual amount contributions. This cap, she argued, makes it harder for people without initial access to wealth to raise money – something crucial in a field where the United States Senate seat cost \$4.5 million in 1998.

Frank Guarini, today a partner at Guarini & Guarini and formerly a Congressman from New Jersey, agreed that financing plays too much of a role in political campaigning. Guarini, too, advocated a ban on soft money. He also advocated a rapid disclosure system via the Internet and said that, above all, honesty in Congress is needed. On the issue of individual contribution limits, Guarini seemed aligned with DeGette. Explaining that, under *Buckley v. Valeo* free speech equals money and therefore cannot be limited in political campaigns, he noted the dangers of a political system where



## Class of 1985



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs John Harris ('85), Catherine Foti ('85), Bruce Yannett ('85), and Lisa Davis ('85)
2. (L-r): Thomas Czik ('86) and Duane Kumagai ('85)
3. (L-r): Daniel Kramer ('84), Judith Mogul ('85), James Steiker ('85), and David Kohane ('85)



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Vice Dean Stephen Gillers ('68) examines legal ethics.

money is tied to speech. "Troops and money equal elections," Guarini said. "The Republicans have money; the Democrats have troops." But ultimately, whoever has the ability to marshal financial contributions, Guarini said, will triumph in an election. Thus, campaigners with ties to big business often win, limiting the chances of other agendas to reach the American public.

All speakers agreed that issue ads – soft money-sponsored ads which do not explicitly endorse one candidate over the other – present a serious problem. DeGette argued

that these ads can lead to serious abuses, since television is an extremely persuasive medium and there is no limit to the use of such ads, even though they may indeed benefit a particular candidate significantly.

Professor Neuborne explained that, under Buckley, political contribution can be regulated, while campaign spending cannot be regulated. From an economic perspective, he argued, this allocation of money-making limits creates a black market. Professor Neuborne, while recognizing the importance of free and balanced speech, warned that free speech itself should not dominate solely. "We

## Class of 1990



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1.(L-r): Class Co-Chairs Lisa Colautti ('90), Patricia Hewitt ('90), L. Londell McMillan ('90), R. May Lee ('90), Robin Krause ('90), John P. Hall, III ('90), and Jacqueline Tepper ('90)

2.(L-r): Ben Shanker, Alesia Selby ('90), and Beth Goldstein ('90)

3. (L-r): Hencock Kejela, Jote Kassa ('90), Priscilla Almodova, Eric Dinallo ('90), and Rosanne Rotenberg Vinson



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should not guarantee liberty only to the extent that it allows groups with money to express their views," he said.

The day's events at NYU came to a close with a panel entitled "Some Legal Ethics Issues in the Investigation of President Clinton." Vice Dean and Professor Stephen Gillers led the discussion.

Gillers began by noting that the imminent decision whether to disbar President Clinton for his evasive answers during the Monica Lewinsky scandal makes that fiasco still relevant.

Gillers suggested that a recognition of

the malleability of language should not induce lawyers to avoid the truth. "To the extent that we excuse behavior like the President's, we condone it," said Gillers. "We give up something in the soul of our profession."

After the final panel, alumni and their families left the law school campus. But the Reunion continued that evening at the Waldorf Astoria, where each Class convened for cocktails and dinner, and then enjoyed an all-reunion dance until the wee hours on the Starlight Roof – a celebration of community. ■



## Class of 1995



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs Mark Marmer ('95), Cheryl Nelson ('95), Emily Campbell ('95), and Omid Zareh ('95)

2. (L-r): Jonathan Klarfeld ('95), Joseph DiMiceli ('95), Alison ('95) and David Bauer, and Scott Yarbrough ('95)

## M.C.J. and LL.M. C.J.



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1. (L-r): Class Co-Chairs Carole Aciman (M.C.J.'90) and Elizabeth McClintock (M.C.J.'81)

2. (L-r): Horacio Lopez-Portillo (LL.M.'95) with Ellen and Philip (LL.M.'95) Comberg