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Peggy Cooper Davis, John S.R. Shad Professor of Lawyering and Ethics, won a University 2007 Distinguished Teaching Award. For details, turn to page 35.
To the Teacher, Legal Legend and Man

THE ONLY SURPRISE AT THE APRIL dedication of the 2008 NYU Annual Survey of American Law to Anthony Amsterdam was, as the journal's Editor-in-Chief Benjamin Geffen noted, that the publication hadn't done it years ago.

Current and former students and accomplished colleagues gathered to pay homage to Amsterdam's legend—as a leading law professor, advocate and litigator for capital defense and other civil rights causes. But more so, their tributes honored the man with intimate portraits of a teacher, a friend and an extraordinary human being.

Professor of Clinical Law Bryan Stevenson had only the highest praise for his colleague and mentor, who has taught at NYU since 1981. "I don't believe there's any lawyer, any litigator who has had a more profound influence on social justice in this country in the last 40 years," he said, adding, "He is a very uncommon person."

Nearly everyone mentioned Amsterdam's typical practice of sending emails in the wee hours of the morning. Seemingly apocryphal stories of legal brilliance—like that cheeky feat of citing a Supreme Court case, volume and page number included, before a skeptical judge, or dictating perfect legal briefs via the phone—were confirmed true. And try as they might to each say something different about the man, all were in awe of his dedication and caring.

David Kendall, known for representing President Bill Clinton during the Monica

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Late to the Academy, But Sharing a Lifetime of Learning

CHARLES L. DENISON PROFESSOR OF LAW Emeritus and Judicial Fellow Theodor Meron was chosen to give the American Council of Learned Societies' Charles Homer Haskins Prize Lecture in May to reflect on "A Life of Learning." Indeed, Meron's accomplishments and contributions have not been limited to the academy, as he didn't begin teaching full time until he was 48. Instead, he confessed to the hope "that in some small way these endeavors have contributed to our thinking critically about how to create a more humane world."

Born in Poland in 1930, Meron lost six years of his childhood to ghettos and work camps, and most of his family to the Holocaust. He emerged from World War II hungry for learning. Later, he became determined to apply his legal studies at Hebrew University, Harvard Law School and Cambridge University to "working in areas which could contribute to making atrocities impossible and avoiding the horrible chaos, the helplessness, and the loss of autonomy which I remembered so well."

Despite the humble tone of his lecture, Meron has made immense contributions—during 20 years as the legal adviser for the Israeli Foreign Service, four years as Israel's ambassador to Canada, a year in the U.S. State Department as a counselor on international law, two years as president of the U.N. International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and, since 2001, as appeals judge to the Tribunal. As a judge, Meron has felt privileged to write what he calls the "most exciting literature of all," the jurisprudence of international criminal law in the "seminal Srebrenica case of General Krstić, for instance, which established that genocide can be committed even in a circumscribed geographical area."

In introducing Meron, ACLS President Pauline Yu emphasized his "sustained effort to move beyond boundaries—both those of nations and of disciplines—to bring people together to explore common concerns and causes." She described him as "a leading figure in the scholarship of international law but also deeply committed to its practice and development today."

Meron attributed his success largely to "chance and seized opportunity," but his belief that crimes against humanity can be avoided is also a factor. He cited from his 2006 book, Humanization of International Law: "It seemed to me obvious that repression of human dignity occurs in a continuum of situations of strife, ranging from normality to full blown international wars, and that all these norms must be treated as a whole to provide for a maximum of protection to human beings." □
He leads, and teaches by example.

Amsterdam treats everyone, regardless of their age or career status.

In fact, his short speech exemplified all of the qualities attributed to him—modesty, humor, intelligence and sensitivity. "It's staggering to see so many friends and so many good people so deluded," he said, but as the audience stood to applaud him, Amsterdam couldn't hide the fact that he was truly grateful and deeply moved.

When the honoree finally accepted his award, he tried to dismiss the kind words. In fact, his short speech exemplified all of the qualities attributed to him—modesty, humor, intelligence and sensitivity. "It's staggering to see so many friends and so many good people so deluded," he said, but as the audience stood to applaud him, Amsterdam couldn't hide the fact that he was truly grateful and deeply moved.

Dworkin Tributes Held

Prominent legal theorists gathered in Norway and New York to honor Professor Ronald Dworkin, winner of the prestigious 2007 Ludvig Holberg International Memorial Prize for outstanding scholarship. (See "Dworkin Wins Holberg Prize," page 7.) Dworkin, who is Frank Henry Sommer Professor of Law and Philosophy at NYU and Emeritus Professor of Jurisprudence at University College London, is renowned for his work tying together philosophy and moral, legal and political issues.

At both day-long events, scholars gave presentations focusing on themes central to Dworkin's work, and he, in turn, commented on each. At the Norway symposium, held last November at the University of Bergen, Professor Jeremy Waldron explored Dworkin's theory of the role that integrity plays in the law. Waldron, who had Dworkin as his doctoral mentor at Oxford, noted Dworkin sees the legal enterprise as "primarily keeping faith with a coherent body of principle that governs all of us in the exercise of power over one another."

The NYU seminar, in April, included talks from Cass Sunstein of the University of Chicago Law School and Lawrence Sager of the University of Texas School of Law. Sunstein spoke on his long-held view of judicial minimalism, the idea that judges should avoid sweeping pronouncements in their decisions. A few intellectual clashes occurred. In "Social Rights and Legal Interpretation," Sager noted Dworkin's work had influenced him, but took issue with his view that there are no social and economic rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

Dworkin's views also continued to surprise. NYU Law Professor and Vice Dean Liam Murphy, who organized the symposium, said he and others had known Dworkin a long time, yet "we all felt we had learned something new." One example: Dworkin's view about the connection between legal rights and the appropriateness of judicial review. Dworkin was clearly taken by the speakers. "There are many dimensions to the honor I'm receiving," he said at the Norway meeting, "but perhaps the most significant is the character of the people who have come to help us celebrate this occasion, and I'm very grateful."
Regulating Self-Regulation

How can employment law guarantee fair wages and working conditions and foster employee democracy within the workplace? Cynthia Estlund offered answers to both questions in her inaugural lecture as the Catherine A. Rein Professor of Law, “Corporate Self-Regulation and the Future of Workplace Governance.” Regulation works best by encouraging effective self-regulation by firms, Estlund said, and for these internal self-regulatory systems to be effective, they must give employees a genuine collective voice in governance.

The New Deal model of “industrial democracy,” said Estlund, looked to unions and collective bargaining to improve wages and working conditions. But dwindling union membership and a 50-year standoff on reforms to American labor laws have left many workers unrepresented and vulnerable to lapses in the enforcement of employee rights and labor standards.

Employment law, Estlund said, can potentially fill this void by promoting new modes of governance within corporations. Unlike a simple deterrence model that penalizes corporations for wrongdoing regardless of their internal processes, a New Governance approach offers firms a more congenial enforcement regime as long as they can maintain effective internal systems for complying with laws designed to keep workplaces safe and fair. Some examples of regulated self-regulation, Estlund said, are the Federal Sentencing Guidelines for Organizations and federal anti-discrimination laws, which allow companies to avoid punitive damages for discrimination if they maintain effective compliance and complaint procedures.

“The law promotes self-regulation not by mandating it but by rewarding it,” Estlund said. “It is based on a quid pro quo: ‘If you put in place effective self-regulatory systems, we’ll give you a less punitive enforcement regime.’”

But whether we aim simply to deter violations of the law or, as the New Governance model would have it, to promote democratic responsiveness and internalization of public values, Estlund said, workers must have an independent voice within internal compliance structures—one that not only will protect them from employer reprisals, but also will overcome the collective action problems that workers frequently face in seeking compliance. “If employees become powerful enough to claim their rights under the law,” Estlund pointed out, “then they may also become powerful enough to demand more of what they want at work, and to claim a real role in firm governance.”

How to Prevent the Next WorldCom or Enron

In a successful effort to raise $12 billion in capital through the largest bond offerings in American history, WorldCom, a publicly traded telecommunications company, “waved the magic accounting wand” in order to make a $3.8 billion operating expense in 2001 appear as a future capital expenditure. But the following year, WorldCom’s internal auditing department revealed the fiscal sleight of hand; the company filed for bankruptcy, and in 2005 former CEO Bernard Ebbers was found guilty on all counts and sentenced to 25 years in prison. WorldCom eventually paid billions in claims and settlements, and its stock became worthless.

In “Private Enforcement of the Securities Law,” his inaugural lecture as the Murray and Kathleen Bring Professor of Law, Stephen Choi argued that private securities class action suits would help deter companies from engaging in the sorts of risks that caused WorldCom’s downfall as well as provide adequate compensation to those whose net worth is wiped out in the process.

Private securities class action suits, however, can be plagued by all kinds of frivolous claims because of plaintiffs’ attorneys who “file first and ask questions later,” according to Choi. “Many plaintiffs’ attorneys may file suit even if there isn’t any smoking-gun evidence of fraud,” he said, “in the hopes of scoring a settlement from a company that wants to avoid the hassle of litigation.” Congress addressed this scourge through legislation, overriding President Bill Clinton’s veto to pass the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act (PSLRA) in 1995. In part, the PSLRA requires plaintiffs to plead with particularity—identifying the alleged fraud and explaining precisely how they were misled prior to discovery. This law has achieved the desired effect of rooting out frivolous suits while still allowing meritorious suits that lacked the hard evidence prior to discovery to proceed.

Choi urged flexibility, however, in addressing the problem of companies that cook the books. Class action suits are just one method of ensuring accuracy in corporate disclosure. Others include greater enforcement and regulation by the Securities and Exchange Commission, audits by third-party gatekeepers such as independent accounting firms, private securities arbitration, and further reforms of private litigation. The 1998 Sarbanes-Oxley Act, an ex-ante mechanism that requires certification for CEOs and CFOs, Choi said, is another solution, albeit an expensive one for innocent companies. “Ex-ante may be a mechanism, but it’s a costly mechanism, to the extent that it doesn’t just apply to the fraudsters...but to all companies,” he said.

Putting hope in one simple solution, Choi said, might result in greater costs incurred by companies both big and small, valid suits being discounted and honest plaintiffs’ attorneys unable to do battle against reckless corporations.
Narula at the United Nations

Olivier De Schutter, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, named Associate Professor of Clinical Law Smita Narula to serve as legal adviser for his mandate. Narula will work in concert with economic, agricultural and nutrition experts to ensure that governments worldwide protect people’s right to food, and to identify emerging issues related to that right. The mandate comes at a particularly urgent time as the world experiences a food crisis and the growing emphasis on biofuels strains supply and increases costs.

A significant portion of Narula’s scholarship has focused on the right to food. Her paper “The Right to Food: Holding Global Actors Accountable Under International Law,” published in the Columbia Journal of Transnational Law in 2006, examined the challenges and opportunities found at the intersection of economic globalization, international human rights law and the right to food. Narula’s extensive work on the issue of discrimination against the Dalits, members of India’s lowest caste and the victims of widespread subjugation, has included discussion of the restriction of Dalits’ access to food.

Hornets’ Nest: Foreign Law and the U.S. Constitution

In “TREATING LIKE CASES ALIKE IN the World: The Use of Foreign Law in Constitutional Cases,” his inaugural lecture as University Professor, Jeremy Waldron explored the fiery debate in America over consistency—whether there should be “harmonization and standardization of the way human rights are administered in the world, [and if] American constitutional law is part of that enterprise.”

In deciding a 2004 flag-burning case, Hopkins v. Police, New Zealand Justice Ellen France referenced the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in Texas v. Johnson, in which a law forbidding the desecration of the American flag was deemed unconstitutional since it prohibits freedom of speech. France ruled that Paul Hopkinson’s right to free speech was being unjustifiably limited and overturned his flag-burning conviction. Her decision met with no resistance from that country’s citizens or its judiciary.

Reactions were the opposite in the United States when Justice Anthony Kennedy delivered his swing-vote in Roper v. Simmons, a 2005 case that held it is unconstitutional to impose capital punishment for crimes committed while under the age of 18. Kennedy received death threats; he also was harshly criticized by some justices for citing foreign law in his opinion.

Waldron said that Americans must understand that the Bill of Rights “recognizes many of the core rights that both the international documents and the other foreign charters recognize.” He added that these rights—free speech, religious freedom—help shape global human rights law. “They weren’t called ‘human rights’ when we embodied them in our constitution,” Waldron said. “We were pioneers in this common enterprise, and it is odd now that we should have such difficulty in acknowledging this.”


On November 10, 2007, former NYU School of Law Professor Sylvester Petro passed away at age 90.

Petro joined NYU as an assistant professor in 1950, shortly after earning his J.D. and LL.M. from the University of Chicago and University of Michigan law schools, respectively. He focused on labor, antitrust and contract law and also taught constitutional law. “Sylvester Petro was an unabashed libertarian, strongly maintaining that government regulation of the economy was undesirable in almost all circumstances,” says Frederick I. and Grace A. Stokes Professor of Law Norman Dorsen, Petro’s colleague for 11 years. “He also believed, and here he was in a distinct minority, that federal and state regulatory statutes were unconstitutional as exceeding the power of government.”

Dorsen remembers, however, that Petro “made his arguments vigorously but politely and with a certain sense of humor.” It is this last characteristic that distinguished Petro’s teaching, says former student Harvey Ishofsky ’71. “His love for law was reflected in how he taught in classrooms. He was both moving and witty.”

According to his family, Petro was a founder of the Conservative Party of New York in the 1960s and a member of the classical liberal Mont Pelerin Society, and worked for the Foundation for Economic Education and the National Right to Work Committee. Among many titles, he wrote The Labor Policy of the Free Society, The Kohler Strike and The Kingsport Strike.

He left NYU in 1972 to join the faculty of Wake Forest University School of Law and taught labor law there until 1978. Petro also directed an institute for labor policy analysis, which has since closed.
Laurels and Accolades
For their body of work, exceptional scholarship or dedication, our professors are acclaimed by peers and students.

AUTHORS CHOI, KAHAN, MILLER IN CORPORATE TOP TEN

FELLOWSHIP NAMED FOR DORSEN
The Society of American Law Teachers (SALT) has established the Norman Dorsen Fellowship, the organization’s first paid fellowship, in honor of Norman Dorsen, Frederick I. and Grace A. Stokes Professor of Law. Camilla McFarlane, a second-year law student at the Catholic University of America (CUA) Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C., is the first fellow. McFarlane will work with Professor Margaret Martin Barry at CUA. The fellowship trains law students in the work of activist scholars within the legal academy. Hazel Weiser, SALT’s executive director, said that “it was Norman’s vision that created SALT, and it was his generosity that created the Norman Dorsen Fellowship Fund to assure that the next generation of law school students and lawyers are committed to social justice.” SALT works to increase the inclusiveness of the legal profession, enhance the quality of legal education and ensure all individuals and communities have legal representation.

DWORKIN INDUCTED
Ronald Dworkin, Frank Henry Sommer Professor of Law, was among three NYU professors recently inducted into the American Philosophical Society, an elite scholarly organization founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1743. With around 900 current members, the society’s ranks have included George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein. Among Dworkin’s fellow inductees this year are Al Gore, New Yorker editor David Remnick, Martin Scorsese and Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens.

In its election essay for Dworkin, the society noted that Dworkin expanded the reach of moral philosophy “by essentially linking the interpretation of law with the perspective of morality, and by his unique position as a public intellectual. The position is unique in demonstrating in practice one of Dworkin’s guiding ideas, namely that freedom of speech is fundamental to that responsibility for civic conversation apart from which society cannot know itself, that is, know what it values politically.”

JOURNAL HONORS ESTLUND
Cynthia Estlund, Catherine A. Rein Professor of Law, won the Samuel M. Kaynard Award for Excellence in the Fields of Labor & Employment Law from the Hofstra Labor & Employment Law Journal. Editor-in-Chief Alexander Leonard said that Estlund’s selection by the journal’s executive board was unanimous, describing Estlund as “incredibly respected in the fields of labor and employment law….Her body of scholarship is extensive and, most importantly, puts issues of importance in labor and employment law in frequently read and respected publications that are read by scholars and practitioners outside of our field. She is a pleasure to work with…[and] selflessly guided us and gave us advice when we were creating our symposium this year.” The award honors the memory of Samuel M. Kaynard ’42, a major figure in labor and employment law who worked to increase recognition of the field. “Cynthia Estlund constantly publishes on the aging of the National Labor Relations Board, effects of pregnancy protections (or the lack thereof) on families, and other issues that we find important,” said Leonard. “She publishes her articles in prominent law reviews and journals that are read by lawyers outside of labor and employment law. She perfectly fit the spirit of the Kaynard Award.”

DISTINCTION FOR FOX
Eleanor Fox ’61, Walter J. Derenberg Professor of Trade Regulation, received the 2007 Distinguished Service Award from the American Foreign Law Association (AFLA). The award has been given for more than a decade to those who have made significant contributions to either AFLA or the broader field of international business or comparative law. Roger Goebel ’60, professor at Fordham University School of Law and chair of the AFLA’s award committee, explained that the award “was given to Eleanor Fox in view of her outstanding expertise in U.S. and international competition law. Eleanor’s specialization in antitrust law commenced as the first woman partner of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, and she continued to devote her principal academic attention to the field after she joined the NYU Law faculty. For over 30 years, she has provided the highest level of academic commentary, in particular on international and European Union competition law. For the last decade, she has particularly...”
devoted time and effort to assisting anti-trust authorities, judges and academics in developing countries as they try to create and implement competition law.”

**LAW ARTICLE WINS AWARD**

The UCLA School of Law and its Williams Institute have bestowed the Dukeminier Award on Sylvia Law ’68, Elizabeth K. Dodd Professor of Law, Medicine and Psychiatry, for her article “Who Gets to Interpret the Constitution? The Case of Mayors and Marriage Equality” (Stanford Journal of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, 2007). The award recognizes the best law review articles on issues involving sexual orientation and gender identity. Law’s article questioned whether local executive officials have the authority to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples, based on the officials’ understanding of their own state constitutions.

**MERRY’S BODY OF WORK LAUDED**

Professor Sally Merry, who holds a joint appointment to the Law School’s Institute for Law and Society and NYU’s Department of Anthropology, was awarded the 2007 Harry J. Kalven, Jr. Prize by the Law and Society Association, a multinational, interdisciplinary group of scholars. The Kalven Prize recognizes “empirical scholarship that has contributed most effectively to the advancement of research in law and society.” The Law and Society Association praised Merry’s “substantial, original and consistently high quality [work]….While intellectually rigorous, her scholarship is also socially meaningful and policy-relevant. In addressing the question of human rights and violence against women in particular, Merry demonstrates that the best of scholarship need not abandon a commitment to social justice.”

**JUSTICE AWARD FOR NARULA**

Smita Narula, associate professor of clinical law, received the 2007 Access to Justice Award from the South Asian Bar Association of New York (SABANY) for her work on behalf of South Asians. “Whether it’s Professor Narula’s work for those who suffer the indignity of caste discrimination, or are unfairly profiled in America’s ‘war on terror,’ there are few who are more deserving of an Access to Justice Award,” says Amardeep Singh, vice president of the organization. “SABANY is proud of Professor Narula’s work to ensure that our most vulnerable have access to justice.” Narula also received the 2008 Public Interest Individual Achievement Award from the North American South Asian Bar Association, which represents 25 regional South Asian bar associations in the U.S. and Canada.

In addition, the Thorolf Rafto Foundation for Human Rights awarded its 2007 Rafto Prize to the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) for its efforts to fight caste prejudice in India; Narula is a cofounder of the campaign. Rafto Foundation Chairman Arne Liljedahl Lynngård called the NCDHR’s struggle “instrumental in mobilizing international human rights organizations to combat caste-based discrimination.”

**REVESZ ARTICLE SINGLED OUT**

Dean Richard Revesz and Nicholas Bagley ’05 were honored with the Award for Scholarship in Administrative Law from the American Bar Association’s Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice for their article, “Centralized Oversight of the Regulatory State,” published in the Columbia Law Review in 2006. In the article, Revesz and Bagley examine the task of centralized review of agency rulemakings that is assigned to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and question the OMB’s assumption that agencies have an inherent tendency to overregulate, which results in an antiregulatory bias on the part of the OMB. Daniel Troy, the award committee chair, said in the citation that “the article’s analysis is sophisticated, subtle, open-minded, and careful, with an impressive mix of the theoretical and the practical,” and that Revesz and Bagley “make a compelling case” and “provide a valuable guide for improvement.” Revesz previously won the award in 1993.

Following a clerkship with Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, Bagley now is an attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice’s civil appellate division.

**STEVenson WINS LAW PRIZE**

Professor Bryan Stevenson, executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, an organization that provides legal aid to indigent defendants and prisoners, has received the first annual Katharine and George Alexander Law Prize from Santa Clara University School of Law. The prize recognizes legal professionals who have done significant work to correct injustice and to promote human and civil rights, and includes a $50,000 award. Selection criteria for the prize include the level of innovation and sustainability of the nominee’s implemented programs; courage; self-sacrifice; the number of beneficiaries of the nominee’s efforts, and other indications of the nominee’s commitment to international human rights and social justice. Dean Donald J. Polden called Stevenson “an outstanding lawyer who has made a great and positive difference in the lives of persons unjustly accused of crimes.”

**KOFLER BOOK WINS TAX AWARD**

Acting Assistant Professor Georg Kofler was awarded the 2007 Mitchell B. Carroll Prize by the International Fiscal Association for his book. Doppelbesteuerungsabkommen und Europäisches Gemeinschaftsrecht (Double Taxation Conventions and European Community Law) explores the complicated relationship between bilateral tax treaties and supranational European law, touching on a wide range of issues such as tax treaty benefits for nonresidents; exemption of foreign losses; limits to exit taxation, and the legal status of tax treaties between European Union member states and between member states and non-European countries. Hugh J. Ault, professor at Boston College Law School and chair of the Mitchell B. Carroll Prize Jury, praised Kofler’s work, saying it “will provide an important roadmap for those involved in the judicial and legislative developments in the field.”

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