Riding on the wave of enthusiasm and change brought by the Obama administration last year, many Root-Tilden-Kern alumni decided to leave their old jobs behind in order to be a part of the changes to come. Between alumni who were already working in Washington prior to last year, such as Congresswoman Diana DeGette ’82 (D-CO) and Senator Lamar Alexander ’65 (R-TN), and newcomers on the scene, the RTK Program is now well represented in all three branches of government!

The alumni profiles section in this newsletter highlights three alumni who joined the administration this past year: Commissioner Julie Brill ’85 of the Federal Trade Commission, the Honorable Marisa Demeo ’93 of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Principal Deputy General Counsel Chris Meade ’96 at the United States Department of Treasury. Additionally, Todd Edelman ’94 was appointed associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and Eric Schwartz ’85 became assistant secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration, in the Department of State.

Recent graduates have also been eager to join the federal government, a shift from the recent past when few RTK graduates went to Washington. These include Sara Johnson ’09 and Katy Mastman ’09, who joined the Honors Program in the Office of the Solicitor General in the Department of Labor; Carrie Johnson ’08, who recently became Legislative Counsel in the office of Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN); Jeanette Markle ’10, who accepted a position in the Attorney Honors Program at the National Labor Relations Board; Susanna Mitchell ’10, who became part of the Honors Program in the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of General Counsel; Siri Thanasombat ’09, who became an Honors Attorney at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and Carlos Siso ’08, who joined the Federal Aviation Administration’s Office of Chief Counsel.

Current students are also part of this trend; this past summer, eight scholars chose to do internships in Washington to gain an insider’s view of the workings of

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(continued from cover)

government. Beth George ‘10 was hired for a prestigious “pre-clerkship” summer at the Office of Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice. Matt Baca ’11 and Erin Scharff ’11 worked at the Department of Justice, Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch. Meg Powers ’11 was at the Department of Justice, Criminal Division in the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. Martha Roberts ’12 interned at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation. And three 1Ls worked on the Hill: Sara Cullinane on the Immigration Subcommittee of the House of Representatives; Tyler Jaeckel on the Senate Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development in the office of Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ); and Saerom Park on the Senate Judiciary Committee in the office of Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI).

These trends among RTK alumni and students reflect the Law School’s efforts to support federal government career paths for all of its students. To that end, we are grateful to RTK alumnus Eric Koenig ’84, who generously opened his home this summer for a networking reception for NYU students and alumni. The reception, pictured above, enabled all students working in D.C. to meet alumni who have had rewarding government careers. Martha Roberts ’12 reflected that the event “made me realize the range of important roles NYU Law alumni play in our government.”

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Greetings from the RTK program and the Law School! As reflected in the cover story, “Roots Go to Washington, D.C.,” a notable change at the Law School and in the program is the number of students and alumni working in Washington. We are extremely proud that so many current scholars and alumni have decided to pursue public service by taking on the challenges of working with the federal government. As a program that aspires to represent a broad spectrum of public service, it is wonderful to have so many graduates active on the “inside” of government.

We are eager to share with you some exciting ways in which the RTK program serves as a catalyst for public service improvements at the Law School. Over the years, one of the important hallmarks of the program has been its function as a “laboratory” for public service innovations. As the resources offered to scholars have demonstrated benefits, they have been extended to all students. Notable examples are funding for first-year summer internships, which became guaranteed for all students in summer 2003, and the Leaders in Public Interest Lecture Series, once open only to Root students but now open to all.

In the past two years, there have been two other innovations that were spurred by the Root program: a fall retreat for all public interest 1L students and a public interest mentoring program. Now in its third year, the fall retreat, which is held on a Sunday afternoon in October, has been enthusiastically welcomed as a special bonding time for public service 1Ls.

The public service mentoring program was created in 2009 by RTK students who had benefited from mentoring within the RTK community. The mentoring program they created (in conjunction with PILC) resulted in more support for 1Ls with their transition to law school and a strengthening of the public interest community. This year 197 1Ls—almost half of the class—are paired with a 2L or 3L mentor!

We hope that you enjoy reading the news of all the current scholars and alumni. As you contemplate year-end gifts, we hope that you consider a donation to the program. With tuition rising each year, our ability to continue to provide full-tuition scholarships to 20 students is dependent on giving from our loyal alumni. The most important thing we want you to know is that a gift of any amount is greatly appreciated. We thank you in advance for your generosity, and we offer a special note of appreciation to those of you who gave last year and are listed in the Honor Roll of Donors at the end of this newsletter.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Deb Ellis ’82 and Meg Satterthwaite ’99
Class of 2010 Employment Destinations

Alyssa Bell
Judge Margaret M. Morrow, U.S. District Court, Central District of California, Los Angeles
Judge Richard A. Paez, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Pasadena (2011 term)

Tess Bridgeman
Judge Thomas L. Ambro, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Wilmington

Joanna Edwards
Sullivan & Cromwell, New York

Daniel Firger
Center for Climate Change Law Fellowship, Columbia Law School, New York

Beth George
Judge Theodore A. McKee, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Philadelphia

Angela Gius
Magistrate Judge Lois Bloom, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, Brooklyn

Carmen Iguina
Judge Kiyo Matsumoto, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, Brooklyn
Judge Stephen Reinhardt, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Los Angeles (2011 term)

Beatrice Lindstrom
Arthur Helton Global Human Rights Fellowship, Bureau des Avocats Internationaux (International Lawyers Bureau), Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Jeanette Markle
U.S. National Labor Relations Board, Attorney Honors Program, Washington

Susanna Mitchell
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of General Counsel Legal Honors Program, New York

Sally Newman
Communities for a Better Environment, Oakland

Keren Raz
Law and Social Enterprise Fellowship, Jacobson Leadership Program in Law and Business, NYU School of Law, New York

Danielle Rock
Legal Services of Alabama, Huntsville

Cassandra Snyder
Prettyman Fellowship, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington

Rebecca Talbott
Judge Stanley Marcus, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, Miami

Susan Vignola
Hughes Hubbard & Reed, New York

Kara Werner
Disability Rights Advocates, Berkeley

Nathan Wessler
Judge Helene N. White, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Detroit

Sara Zier
Justice Susan J. Owens, Washington State Supreme Court, Olympia

Additional Fellowships Awarded in 2010 to Alumni

Sara Johnson ’09
U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor General Honors Program, Washington

Diana Reddy ’08
AFL-CIO Legal Fellowship, Washington
Leaders in Public Interest Series 2009–10

This past academic year, the Public Interest Law Center’s Leaders in Public Interest Series welcomed three RTK alumni to discuss their work as union leaders, public defenders, and legal and political advocates. While their paths varied, they all emphasized perseverance in their fight to challenge the status quo.

On January 25, Diane Thompson ’94 spoke about her work in East St. Louis, IL, at Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. Her lecture, titled “Suing Swamp Dawg and Other Stories of Saving Homes,” described the work she did for homeowners in East St. Louis who were victims of predatory lending and other schemes. She noted that homeownership can be a tremendous tool for wealth building but that it often is a negative experience for African Americans in places like East St. Louis because of low appreciation rates and targeted predatory lending. East St. Louis was also afflicted by rampant corruption perpetrated by some Illinois state officials. Thompson, who now works for the National Consumer Law Center, advised students to try to find work they love and that suits their temperament.

On February 1, Derwyn Bunton ’98 of the Orleans Public Defenders Office in New Orleans, LA, spoke about fighting for resources, justice, and equality in a public defense system that has been one of the most underfunded systems nationally. He detailed the three characteristics he thought were indispensable for any public defender—perseverance, pride, and hope. These three qualities have guided his work in a system that has continuously removed the public defender from the budget agenda, held public defenders in contempt without cause, and systematically discriminated against his clients. A guiding force in his work has been his unshakable belief in his clients and their communities. Despite the resistance from the city and the courts, Bunton noted, in the words of one of his clients, “We ain’t scared.”

On November 9, Jennifer Cunningham ’91 from the Knickerbocker SKD, NYC, spoke about the importance of effective messaging in political campaigns in her talk, “Unions, Politics & Public Policy.” As part of her talk she showed clips from campaigns she continues to fight, including the Employee Free Choice Act and the Paid Sick Days campaign. The former executive director of the SEIU New York State Council and executive vice president for Politics and Legislation of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East, Cunningham emphasized the value of doing policy work from the position of a membership-based, grassroots organization, not only because it keeps you honest to your base, but also because politicians treat you differently when you represent thousands of voters.
Catherine Berry

Kate graduated from Oberlin College in 2006 with high honors in Religion, with focus on Islam, and a minor in Politics. During college she studied abroad in Beirut, Lebanon, where she examined the rhetoric of the Cedar Revolution and its impact on religious division. Kate received Oberlin’s Holbrook Memorial Prize, awarded to the highest achieving Religion major.

After graduation, Kate worked on domestic civil rights and civil liberties law in the Bay Area at the National Lawyers Guild and the East Bay Community Law Center. She then moved to Washington, D.C., where she participated in high-impact civil rights cases as a paralegal at Relman, Dane & Colfax, PLLC. For the past year, Kate assisted Bilgi University’s Human Rights Law Research Center in Istanbul with the development of Turkey’s first and only legal clinic.

Kate was born in Berkeley, California. She hopes to use her legal education to continue to fight civil rights and civil liberty abuses. Kate is especially interested in exploring the effects of the war on terror on both Muslim and Arab communities in the United States, as well as on the treatment of terrorist suspects.

Yan Cao

Yan left her hometown of Gainesville, Florida, in 2004 to attend Simon’s Rock College of Bard with an Acceleration to Excellence Program scholarship. After two years of intense study, she transferred to Stanford University, where she studied History and Feminist Studies and graduated with honors in 2008. Yan volunteered in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina during college, and worked at the Eviction Defense Collaborative in San Francisco, and the Beijing Children’s Legal Aid and Research Center. She wrote her thesis on the development of legal aid as a model for social change in China.

Upon graduation, Yan won the Stanford Public Interest Network Fellowship, which she held while working at the Rackets Bureau of the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. She also worked aboard the sloop Clearwater, for the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and for the New York City Commission for Human Rights before law school.

Yan continues to be an active member of the Manhattan Borough President’s Task Force on Domestic Violence and of Building a Better Legal Profession, a student-driven nonprofit based at Stanford Law School that seeks to reform the workplace culture of large law firms.

Yan is excited about studying innovative legal solutions to complex social problems.

Leslie Coleman

Leslie grew up on a farm in northern Illinois. She graduated summa cum laude Phi Beta Kappa from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2007, with a B.A. in Environmental Studies and International Development. While at IWU, she co-founded a chapter of the Sierra Student Coalition and led a successful campaign culminating in the university president’s signing an environmental action plan. Leslie spent her summers reviewing landfills at the Illinois EPA, planting vegetables on an organic farm, and helping develop a climate change initiative at the Merck Family Fund. She was awarded the Udall Scholarship in 2006 in recognition of her environmental work.

Following graduation, Leslie served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Gambia, where she implemented an ecological monitoring program for the Department of Parks and Wildlife and led a social and environmental studies club for high school students. She then spent nine months teaching ESL in South Korea. Leslie is especially interested in the intersection of social justice and sustainability and plans to use her law degree to work for environmental justice.

Francesca Corbacho

Francesca graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 2010 from CUNY Hunter College, where she served two terms as the president of the Pre Law Society. At Hunter, Francesca pursued her interest in international human rights issues through research on topics such as the International Criminal Court, extraordinary rendition, and food security as a human right. During her junior year, she interned with Human Rights First’s Crimes Against Humanity Program and explored ways to strengthen the arms embargo in Darfur.

Francesca became interested in protecting human rights through her involvement with Tibet House in 2004, where she encountered Tibetan asylum seekers who had suffered rights abuses in their native country.

Before returning to college in 2005, Francesca spent eight years as an electrician in the film industry. She grew up in West Orange, New Jersey.

Matthew Craig

Matt graduated from the University of North Carolina in 2008 with highest
This experience inspired her to major in York City Teaching Fellows to teach in Andes in Bogotá, Colombia, where he was Kentucky, she worked in a residential Darfur. Matt also undertook independent study in Cuba, Rwanda, and South Africa, among other countries.

After graduating from UNC, Matt received a Specialization in Armed Conflict and Peace at the Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá, Columbia, where he was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. He also worked for the University of North Carolina Center for Global Initiatives and a nonprofit organization, Carolina for Kibera.

Matt views law as a perfect tool to pursue practical solutions with the analytic rigor that defines academia. He has interests in both international law and government. Matt was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Emily de León

Emily de León, originally from Bakersfield, California, graduated cum laude from Yale University in 2004. Through Yale’s Bulldogs in the Bluegrass program in Louisville, Kentucky, she worked in a residential facility for boys with behavioral disorders. This experience inspired her to major in psychology, and to continue her research and work with children who experience multiple placements and suffer from mental illness.

After graduation, she joined New York City Teaching Fellows to teach in a District 75 special education high school for students labeled emotionally disturbed. This position helped her to understand the intersection of juvenile justice, poverty, mental illness, and special education. After teaching in District 75, she led the special education and at-risk support program at the high-performing Excellence Boys Charter School of Bedford-Stuyvesant. This experience deepened her understanding and her commitment to ensuring that the special education placement process is fair and that quality placements exist for all students.

She is excited to pursue her legal education in the city where she has enjoyed living and teaching. She plans to use her law degree to bring about special education reform, particularly for students labeled emotionally disturbed who are not given access to an appropriate and quality education.

Aisha Dennis

Aisha Dennis graduated from Harvard College in 2008 with an A.B. in Government. While in college, she was recognized by the Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations for her contributions to campus diversity. She also received a Senior Leadership Award from the Black Men’s Forum for her leadership and commitment to public service. Aisha was an active participant in the Phillips Brooks House for Community Service where she served as a GED tutor for prison inmates and a senior counselor for a summer youth program in Boston’s Roxbury community.

Aisha gained valuable public interest experience through internships with her congressman and now Majority Whip, James Clyburn (SC-6), the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race & Justice at Harvard Law School, and the Honorable Ann C. Williams of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Upon graduating from college, Aisha joined the Teach for America Corps in Atlanta, where she taught 12th Grade Economics at George Washington Carver High School of Technology for two years.

Aisha is originally from Columbia, South Carolina, where she graduated from W.J. Keenan High School. She plans to use her law degree to combat issues of racial injustice and civil rights.

Elana Fogel

Elana Fogel is a 2009 graduate of NYU, where she completed a B.A. in Politics with a double minor in Business and Sociology. As a member of the NYU Women’s Basketball team she competed in the 2007 NCAA Division III Final Four and was a two-time UAA All Academic Team honoree.

During her undergraduate career, Elana was selected for the Collegiate Leadership Internship Program and interned at Congressman Anthony Weiner’s District Office. She later interned at the Kings County District Attorney’s Office in the Early Case Assessment Bureau. Before coming to law school, Elana worked in immigration law and was involved in policy work and community outreach with Girls for Gender Equity and New Yorkers for Safe Transit around the issues of gender- and bias-based violence in schools and on public transportation.

Elana’s experiences have reinforced her belief in the centrality of the law in achieving social progress and have stoked her passion for the pursuit of actualized justice and equality.

Semuteh Freeman

Semuteh graduated in 2008 with a degree in Political Science and African Studies from Yale University, where she founded the school’s first traditional African singing group, Asempa. She spent semesters studying and doing research in Mombasa, Accra, Monrovia, and Kigali.

Semuteh discovered her passion for international human rights through her
family’s experience during the civil war in Liberia. She returned to Monrovia in the summer of 2007 to intern with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and witness transitional justice in a post-conflict society firsthand.

After graduation, Semuteh taught algebra in the Mississippi Delta with Teach for America. Her teaching was reminiscent of her work in Budumburum Refugee Camp, where she taught Liberian refugees in Ghana. Semuteh sees education as one of the many human rights issues facing impoverished communities.

Semuteh was born in Monrovia, Liberia, and fled the civil war with her family in 1991. She grew up in San Francisco and attended St. Ignatius College Preparatory. She hopes to pursue a career in international human rights law and one day become a judge.

Gabriel Hopkins
DORIS C. AND ALAN J. FREEDMAN SCHOLAR

Gabriel graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Alpha Theta from Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in History in 2006.

For the past four years he has been particularly interested in international refugee and human rights issues. He worked with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) as a youth delegation leader to a program site in northern Liberia in the summer of 2007, and interned in western Thailand in the summer of 2010 at the IRC’s Legal Assistance Center, a unique program that provides legal aid to refugees fleeing from Burma.

Since November 2007, Gabriel has helped found and run Digital Democracy, a nonprofit dedicated to using information and communication technologies to empower community-based organizations doing vital work in marginalized populations. He worked primarily with Burmese organizations using his extensive personal experience in China and Southeast Asia.

Gabriel was born and raised in Jersey City, New Jersey, and is happy to be living in New York. He plans to continue working on human rights and humanitarian issues with an international scope.

Julia Kaye
JACOBSON PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLAR FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Julia graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Barnard College in 2007 with a degree in Women’s Studies. She received a student government leadership award for her involvement on campus, including serving as the vice president of the Feminist Thought club, as a writing fellow, and on the Columbia University club water polo team.

Upon graduation, Julia spent nine months coordinating the national expansion of the NARAL Pro-Choice NY’s adolescent health care provider communication program, and authored a comprehensive implementation toolkit.

From 2008 to 2010, Julia worked as a Health Policy Associate at the National Women’s Law Center in Washington, D.C., where she researched issues relating to health policy and reproductive rights and advocated for health care reform that works for women. Since 2008, Julia has also trained in capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian martial art, and secured grants for CapoeiraDC, a volunteer-run school.

Julia is overjoyed at the passage of healthcare reform and plans to work on implementation efforts, with an eye toward the unique needs of women, children, and low-income families. Julia grew up in Florham Park, New Jersey.

Tyler Kinder

Tyler completed a Master’s Degree in Modern Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford in 2009. His thesis examined land policies in rural China and the development of Chinese agriculture, with a particular focus on the ways in which local governments affected land tenure security for subsistence farmers.

Prior to that, Tyler worked for the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., as a policy and research assistant in the Metropolitan Policy Program. He researched and wrote about a wide variety of national and international urban policy issues.

Tyler graduated summa cum laude from New York University in 2006 with a B.A. in Metropolitan Studies. While at NYU, Tyler worked with the Urban Justice Center and the Correctional Association of New York to initiate an oral history project that captured the stories of LGBT young people in the New York State juvenile justice system. He was also active in New York City politics: he served as an aide to two Speakers of the New York City Council, and was asked to sit on the board of the Gay and Lesbian Independent Democratic Club. In 2005, Tyler was named a Harry S. Truman Scholar.

Evelyn Malavé
FILOMEN M. D’AGOSTINO SCHOLAR

Evelyn graduated from Yale University in 2005 with a degree in English with a Writing Concentration. Her first job after college was at the Yale Child Study Center, where she worked in the Intensive In-home Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services program, providing in-home therapy to families with children at risk of psychiatric hospitalization or juvenile detention. In 2006, Evelyn decided to dedicate more time to her writing and moved to a farm in upstate New York, where she spent eight months building up a portfolio of short stories while working at both Starbucks and the Children’s Center in Sing Sing Correctional Facility’s Visiting Room.

In 2007, Evelyn joined the Legal Action Center (LAC) as a legal assistant. At LAC, Evelyn helped hundreds of people with criminal records overcome barriers to reentry in employment and housing, and worked on building better public policy for people with criminal records, HIV/AIDS, and drug and alcohol histories.
Evelyn grew up in Queens, New York, and is an alumnus of Prep for Prep. After law school, she plans to work on criminal justice system reform, through both legal services and policy advocacy, with a focus on issues specific to women and girls.

Lindsay Miller

Lindsay graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Washington University in St. Louis in 2007 with majors in Psychology and P.N.P. (Philosophy-Neuro-science-Psychology). As an undergradu- ate, Lindsay worked as a psychology research assistant, exploring issues related to racial discrimination and stereotyping. She expanded upon this interest through her senior thesis, which examined the adverse effects of linguistic profiling on minority groups. In 2006, Lindsay served as the External Business Coordinator for Thurtene Honorary. Through grand-scale fundraising and volunteer coordination, Thurtene Honorary sponsored St. Louis SCORES, a nonprofit organization that provides students in low-income urban schools with afterschool literacy programs and organized soccer leagues.

Following graduation, Lindsay joined Teach for America in Miami-Dade, Florida, where she worked as an elementary special education teacher of students with severe emotional and behavioral disabili- ties, and as a middle school math and sci- ence teacher. Her experiences as a teacher motivated and inspired her to attend law school, and she hopes to use her law degree to improve educational opportunities for underprivileged children and families and to promote education reform.

Lindsay was born and raised in Westchester, New York, and is a gradu- ate of the International Baccalaureate program at Dobbs Ferry High School.

Candace Mitchell

SULLIVAN & CROMWELL SCHOLAR

Candace graduated as a John Kluge Scholar in 2009 with a degree in English from Columbia University, where she crafted a rich curriculum around her commitment to empowering marginalized communities. At Columbia, Candace was one of the co-founding editors of The Proxy magazine, a publication that honored the many voices of the African Diaspora, and a political columnist for Columbia’s weekly newspaper, chronicling the University’s Hunger Strike of 2008. She relished working for the Chaplain’s Office, which embraced a historically activist interpretation of its mission to serve faith communities and engaged the wider New York City community through numerous service projects with a public school, hospital, and jail facility.

After graduating, Candace worked as a New York City Urban Fellow for Programs and Discharge Planning at the Department of Correction. As a fellow, she helped coordinate services, programs, and resources for those exiting the New York City jail systems.

Candace was born in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and lived in Gainesville, Florida, for 13 years. Candace’s profes- sional goal is to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline that plagues low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

Abigail Nurse

STARR FOUNDATION SCHOLAR

Abigail graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in Economics with Distinction and a minor in Women’s Studies in 2008. Abigail won the Osterweil Prize in Economics, awarded to the most outstanding senior in Economics with a high degree of social awareness, and the Patricia Gurin Certificate for her commitment to social justice.

Following college, Abigail worked as an assistant research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, conducting research on education policy, municipal budgeting, and monetary policy. She chaired the Black History Month and Martin Luther King Day events and coordinated a team to bring Theodore Shaw, Cory Booker, an Alvin Ailey Dance group, and others to the Federal Reserve Bank.

Abigail seeks to participate in conversations aimed at resolving some of today’s vexing social problems. With a legal education, she hopes to lend her voice to advocate for positive social change and serve underrepresented communities. She is interested in educational equity and economic justice.

Abigail is a native of the Midwest: she is from the college towns of Madison, Wisconsin, and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Ali worked as a research assistant, exploring issues related to racial discrimination and stereotyping. She expanded upon this interest through her senior thesis, which examined the adverse effects of linguistic profiling on minority groups. In 2006, Lindsay served as the External Business Coordinator for Thurtene Honorary. Through grand-scale fundraising and volunteer coordination, Thurtene Honorary sponsored St. Louis SCORES, a nonprofit organization that provides students in low-income urban schools with afterschool literacy programs and organized soccer leagues.

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Lindsay was born and raised in Westchester, New York, and is a gradu- ate of the International Baccalaureate program at Dobbs Ferry High School.

Pierce Suen

WILMERHALE SCHOLAR

Born in Tapei, Taiwan, Pierce was raised in Akron, Ohio, and attended the University of Chicago, where he studied Political Science and graduated with
Relic Sun

Relic graduated summa cum laude from UCLA in 2006 with a B.A. in Political Science, concentration in International Relations, and minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures. She co-founded and led the UCLA Chapter of the grassroots organization Americans for Informed Democracy. As president of the chapter, she launched campaigns to spread awareness on human trafficking in Los Angeles and on international human rights and humanitarian causes.

In the summer of 2004, Relic reported on U.S. foreign policy toward East Asia at the U.S. Department of State, International Information Programs Bureau in Washington, D.C. Upon graduating she served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Romania, where she taught English full-time, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and organized monthly culture exchange events for local youths’ exposure to U.S. culture.

As a researcher at the nonprofit research organization ProCon.org, Relic developed and managed educational Web sites presenting nonpartisan debates on various politically controversial topics, including the right to health care, legal prostitution, and insider trading by Congress. Her work was featured by LATimes.com and referenced by CQ Researcher, NYTimes.com, and other major media outlets.

Relic was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She seeks a career in international human rights law.

Julia Torti

Julia Torti

Julia hails from the great state of Vermont, where she was exposed to a rich tradition of civic participation from a young age. While a student at Essex High School, Julia served on the board of directors of Essex CHIPS, a nonprofit focused on providing services for local youth.

Julia graduated from Duke University in 2008 with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Environmental Science and Policy. While at Duke, Julia was involved with various research projects, including a study of international aid organizations’ funding sources and a model for public health decision-making in Eastern Africa. She also served as president and captain of the Duke Women’s Rugby team.

Since graduation, Julia has been working with OpenPlans, a New York City-based nonprofit that informs and engages communities by producing journalism, new media, and open source software. In her free time, Julia serves as a counselor on a nationwide suicide prevention and crisis intervention helpline for LGBT youth. She also conducts workshops in local schools where students discuss LGBT issues and learn to identify the warning signs of suicide.

Julia is most interested in working with LGBT youth, women, and other vulnerable groups within the LGBT community.
Valerie Brender spent the summer working for Paul Hoffman ’76 in Los Angeles where she worked on a variety of international human rights cases. She helped research and co-write an opposition to cross-petition for certiorari and a supplemental brief in Presbyterian Church of Sudan v. Talisman Energy, an Alien Tort Statute case involving an oil company’s aiding and abetting of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity in southern Sudan. She also helped research civil damages claims for former Guantánamo detainees who were tortured. In her spare time she learned how to surf and ate copious amounts of Mexican food.

Sara Cullinane spent the summer with the Immigration Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives. She wrote memos on the repercussions of the BP oil spill for Gulf Coast immigrants, researched and drafted legislation for the subcommittee and prepared congressional oversight hearings on comprehensive immigration reform. She enjoyed working with the extremely talented subcommittee counsel and was happy to meet so many RTK alumni leading the way in the immigrant rights movement. She learned that when it comes to federal immigration policy, legal arguments, not to mention humanitarian and economic ones, no matter how sound, often have little clout in the political echo chambers of U.S. Congress.

Shannon Cumberbatch interned at the Bronx Defenders, which provides holistic defense in criminal, civil, immigration, and family court proceedings stemming from criminal arrests. Shannon worked in the Civil Action Practice, where she wrote legal memoranda, conducted legal research, provided immediate legal counseling during client intake, assisted attorneys in housing court hearings, and advocated for public benefits. The Civil Action Practice was a rewarding way for Shannon to diversify her practice areas yet still address the collateral effects of criminal charges. Witnessing the interdisciplinary representation offered in this dynamic office deeply affected Shannon’s approach to holistic defense.

Rachael Dizard spent her summer working at The Door Legal Services, learning from the inspiring commitment of their dedicated staff. She assisted undocumented young people, ages 12 to 21, in their pursuit of lawful immigration status. She represented clients in Family Court in the five boroughs, and fought the deportation of youth in Immigration Court. When she wasn’t presenting arguments before judges, Rachael conducted legal research on behalf of her clients and assisted in running a new social program: the Immigrant Youth Peer Educator Project, which empowers inspiring immigrant youth leaders to know and teach about navigating U.S. society as an (undocumented) immigrant.

Talia Gooding-Williams worked for Juvenile Regional Services (JRS) in New Orleans. The only stand-alone Public Defender in the country that works exclusively with juveniles, JRS focuses on the rehabilitation aspect of juvenile justice through holistic public defense. Talia had the opportunity to work closely with both the staff investigators and attorneys; however, the highlight of her summer was working directly with the clients.

Ashley Gant spent the summer learning from the talented and supportive attorneys at Advocates for Children (AFC). AFC works with low-income families of children with disabilities to help them access appropriate special education services. Ashley was exposed to multifaceted approaches to education policy, visited special education programs throughout New York City, conducted research for federal litigation and lobbied at city hall. She was especially excited to work closely with families at various stages of due process proceedings, talking regularly with parents, drafting hearing requests, prepping witnesses, and representing clients at administrative hearings and in resolution meetings with the Department of Education. The experience was invaluable and will certainly shape her future advocacy.

The class of 2012 engaged in a wide variety of public interest internships—from fighting injustice abroad and shaping international policy to addressing persistent domestic issues, such as educational inequality and indigent defense, as well as such unprecedented issues as the BP oil spill and Guantánamo.
From seeing 12-year-olds in handcuffs to watching a 16-year-old burst into tears after a judge adjudicated him delinquent, spending a summer at JRS solidified Talia’s commitment to working with youth and galvanized her desire to pursue a career fighting racial injustice through criminal law.

Adam Herling worked for the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) in Cape Town, South Africa, an organization that strives to redress and prevent widespread violations of human rights through justice-based solutions. Adam assisted on many interesting projects, including writing research memos regarding the right to truth and its interaction with human dignity and freedom of expression for an amicus brief that was submitted to the Constitutional Court of South Africa. He also helped draft a chapter of a practitioner’s handbook about security-sector reform in countries recovering from massive human rights abuses. He enjoyed learning about how transitional justice issues can be addressed in a holistic manner, and he also loved every minute of the World Cup.

Tyler Jaeckel worked for the Senate Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development within the Office of Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ). He developed policy recommendations and analysis for Senator Mendez on issues relating to the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s legislative agenda. It was an amazing opportunity to help shape policy and apply his background in community development to large-scale change.

Austin King reveled in the opportunity to come back to New Orleans and dive into cutting-edge fair housing work. As the only summer legal intern at the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, he was privileged to have a hand in all the office’s amazing work, from enforcement actions against individual discriminatory landlords to HUD administrative complaints to major policy work and a class action lawsuit against the state for racially discriminatory payments in the Road Home program. Most excitingly, he discovered that there is a plausible career path in NIMBY-crushing.

Philip Kovoor worked at the ACLU National Office in New York for the Racial Justice Program. His time was primarily dedicated to educational adequacy cases, school-to-prison pipeline litigation, indigent defense reform, a prison conditions class action, and subprime mortgage crisis litigation. In addition, he wrote a policy report about the re-segregation, special education policies, and disproportionate punishment of African-American students of a school district in Florida. Through this experience, he witnessed the often tense relationship between individual justice and social change. Outside of work, he spent his summer backpacking and visiting family and friends throughout the Midwest and New England.

Frances Kreimer spent the summer doing employment and education advocacy with Make the Road New York, a membership-led community organization. She collaborated with the Workplace Justice Committee in developing employment rights curricula for ESOL classes, and assisted members in navigating a range of legal systems and bureaucracies, including New York Criminal Court, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Mexican Consulate. She was delighted to return to community-based work, and particularly appreciated the amenities in the intern office (which was also the childcare room).

Zack Orjuela worked in India at People’s Watch, an organization that investigates, documents, and challenges
human rights abuses in India. His chief task was examining the National Human Rights Commission’s (NHRC) treatment of over 500 complaints lodged by People’s Watch. Disturbing patterns emerged. Most allegations were against police or other government authorities, and members of lower castes were disproportionately affected by the violence. The goal of his project was to reveal the NHRC’s shortcomings and thereby motivate the Indian government to more effectively address human rights abuses.

**Martha Roberts** spent the summer in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Policy, which oversees the agency’s development and economic analysis of regulations. Martha learned all about the structure of EPA, its relationship with Congress and the Executive Branch, and the variety of statutes that dictate the agency’s mission. She also participated in an interagency effort to coordinate and support climate change adaptation efforts across the federal government, focusing on developing an inventory of legal authority for incorporating adaptation efforts into Clean Water Act programs.

**Amanda Sen** spent the summer at Bangladesh Legal Aid Services and Trust [BLAST] in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At BLAST, she had the opportunity to contribute to litigation in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and to conduct field research regarding the implementation of Supreme Court judgments. She had a fantastic experience learning about the legal system in Bangladesh and exploring the ways that international instruments can be used to influence domestic work.

**Saerom Park** worked for the Senate Judiciary Committee in the office of Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) who chairs the Subcommittee on the Constitution. She enjoyed having the opportunity to help prepare for the Supreme Court nomination hearing for Elena Kagan this summer. Saerom spent most of her days researching and writing memos on a wide range of timely topics—from Miranda rights to oil spill liability to government contractor oversight—and was thrilled to realize she had actually learned a few things about the law during her 1L year.

**Nikki Reisch** spent the summer working on environmental and human rights litigation. Oil spills and climate change dominated the docket in June and July, when Nikki worked with the Center for Biological Diversity to build cases challenging offshore oil drilling and the dumping of toxic dispersants into the Gulf of Mexico, to analyze proposed climate legislation, and to estimate emissions reductions achievable under existing laws. She spent August with EarthRights International, supporting litigation against corporations and governments for human rights violations and drafting an amicus brief to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition to crash courses in U.S. environmental law and transnational litigation, the summer offered hope that the elusive work-life balance is achievable—at least in San Francisco!

**Camilo Romero** began his summer by serving as best man and emcee for a Sri Lankan wedding in Toronto. Soon after, Camilo began working with International Rights Advocates in Washington, D.C., which included Second Circuit appeals and “bananera” interviews in Ciénaga and Aracataca, Colombia. He continued his work on Alien Tort Claims Act and Torture Victims Protection Act cases with NYU Law alumnus Paul Hoffman at the offices of SDSSHH in Venice Beach, California. Camilo appreciated the opportunity to work on a team with other committed students and lawyers. Camilo received an autographed vuvuzela from the South African Football Federation and looks forward to less heartbreak in 2014.

**Shawn Sebastian** worked at the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC) with the Special Rapporteur on the Protection of Persons in the Event of a Disaster as an NYU International Law and Human Rights Fellow. The ILC works toward the codification and progressive development of international law by creating rules where there is a legal vacuum and choosing logical, coherent, and just solutions where the laws conflict. Shawn helped draft articles placing the human rights of disaster-affected persons at the center of any disaster response and affirming the sovereignty of the affected state and its primary duty to affected persons. Shawn learned that the process of making international law requires highly nuanced academic skills in order to draft articles that are effective for those who must apply and follow them.

**Elizabeth Spector** spent her summer working in the Administrative Trials Unit (ATU) for the New York City Department of Education (DOE). The ATU is one of the DOE’s largest legal units, and is devoted to prosecuting school employees accused of misconduct. Liz wrote legal memoranda, interviewed witnesses, traveled to school sites to meet with principals, and tried her hand at cross-examining witnesses at trial. A former teacher herself, Liz found it fascinating to work in collaboration with the always friendly and helpful ATU attorneys. Most importantly, the experience solidified her commitment to using her law degree to improve educational outcomes for students in public schools.
Despite the rainy weather, the group got to know one another by learning to juggle, playing board and card games, and participating in discussions about “The Pressure to Cover” and “Law School Without Fear.” On Monday evening, scholars sat around a fire, made s’mores, and placed items in the Class of 2013 time capsule, which they will open at the end of their law school years. When the sun finally came out on Tuesday, the group enjoyed kickball and a hike around the campgrounds.
Alumni Working in Federal Government

Each year we profile several alumni working in a specific area of public interest law. As you’ve seen from our cover story, the theme of this year’s newsletter is alumni working in federal government. The three profiles below highlight some of the important work our alumni are doing in Washington.

U.S. FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Julie Brill ’85

Julie Brill used her time in law school to explore a wide range of public interest issues: she worked on labor issues, participated in a community advocacy clinic centered on housing issues, and even took time off from school to work at a human rights organization in Mexico. After graduating, Brill clerked for the Federal District Court Judge Franklin S. Billings Jr. and worked as an associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York.

Brill quickly established roots in the legal practice of consumer and antitrust protection. In 1988, she became an Assistant Attorney General at the Vermont State Attorney General Office, a position to which she devoted herself for the next two decades. As an Assistant Attorney General, Brill pioneered Vermont’s litigation and legislative efforts in a variety of areas affecting consumers, which often entailed testimony before Congress and participation in litigation over federal preemption of state consumer protection. In 2007, Brill took a position as the Senior Deputy Attorney General and Chief of Consumer Protection and Antitrust for the North Carolina Department of Justice. In that same year, she embarked on the interview and nomination process to be a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

In April 2010, Brill was unanimously confirmed by the Senate as a Commissioner at the FTC. While she has only had a few months to settle into her position at the FTC, Brill is already reviewing and rendering decisions on a diverse and large case load, involving every crevice of consumer and antitrust protection, including debt settlement, pharmaceutical issues, Internet privacy, and anticompetitive practices of monopolies. While Brill’s road to the federal government may not have been direct, her unconventional path has provided her with expertise and a unique perspective on federal practice. When asked to provide words of wisdom to current scholars, Commissioner Brill encouraged students to be open to exploring all that the legal profession has to offer, including local and state government, and to consider the legal paths less traveled.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Honorable Marisa J. Demeo ’93

Marisa J. Demeo was sworn in as an Associate Judge at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on May 10, 2010. Before being appointed judge, Demeo had a distinguished career in public service as a civil rights litigator, a professor, and a criminal prosecutor.

Born and raised in Washington, D.C. to immigrant parents—her mother is Puerto Rican and her father is Italian—she had an affinity for justice and equality from an early age. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in Politics and Latin American Studies from Princeton in 1988, she worked as a paralegal at the Department of Justice (DOJ) to ensure that immigrant communities exercised their voting rights. Her work at the DOJ showed her that “law could be used to improve lives and create changes for the better for historically disadvantaged people,” and it inspired her to become a public interest lawyer. At NYU, Demeo served on the board of Law Review and participated in the Juvenile Justice Clinic. After graduating, Demeo became a trial attorney at the DOJ’s Civil Rights Division. While there, she prosecuted public employers for discrimination and received two national awards for her accomplishments.

In 1997, Demeo became a litigator for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and headed their D.C. office. At MALDEF, she advocated for a wide array of Latino civil rights issues nationally and was recognized by numerous agencies, including the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia, the Congressional Black Caucus, NYU School of Law, and the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Census Bureau, for her contributions to civil rights. In 2004, Demeo joined the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia (USAO). During her time at the USAO, she handled 45 criminal trials and presented over 30 felony cases to the grand jury. Not surprisingly, she was annually recognized for her exceptional work by the USAO.

In 2007, Demeo was appointed as a Magistrate Judge, which allowed her to preside over 120 trials involving criminal traffic and minor misdemeanor charges, and handle over 300 preliminary and detention hearings for misdemeanor and felony cases. During this time, she also taught Criminal Procedure and Immigration Law at Howard University School of Law.

Even with such a bounty of success, Judge Demeo remains humble and encourages 3Ls to resist external pressures and to “pursue your passions” because “you will be more successful in the field you feel passionate about, whatever that may be.” Judge Demeo lives in Washington with her partner, Angela Arboleda.
Christopher Meade’s job description is impressive enough, but his duties as Principal Deputy General Counsel at the United States Department of Treasury regularly exceed it. “Treasury touches many more things than I would have imagined,” says Meade.

Meade manages a legal department of approximately 250-300 lawyers and provides legal advice to the department on a range of issues—from domestic finance to international affairs to enforcement and national intelligence. He is even involved in helping to implement the health care law, which is administered in part through the tax code.

Meade is spending the bulk of his time these days implementing the recently passed regulatory reform legislation. “There are so many interesting and novel issues to be worked through,” he says of the 2,300-page legislation.

Meade always knew he wanted to work in public service, and is especially excited to work in this administration. Coming into law school from a job working with the homeless in New York City, he felt that law was a place where he could make a difference. “This idea I had of spending my career serving was definitely strengthened at NYU.” Meade, who was the first Sinsheimer Service Scholar, was also inspired by Warren Sinsheimer, the scholarship’s donor, who works full-time helping children with special needs.

Since graduating from NYU, Meade has clerked for Judge Harry T. Edwards on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for Justice John Paul Stevens, spent two years as a Skadden Fellow, and has been a partner at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr. He has argued four cases in the U.S. Supreme Court, including the 2009 civil rights case, *Ricci v. DeStefano*.

When asked about where he might go from here, Meade laughs and says he has no idea. “The thing that’s wonderful about a legal career is that you can take on many different roles,” he says. “Each role can provide a different way of contributing to the public interest... We’ll just have to see what new challenges come along.”

Class of 2012 Retreats...

The class of 2011 will travel to the Hudson Valley later this year for its annual class retreat. After a fierce bidding war at NYU’s Public Service Auction, 3L Noam Biale won a weekend stay at Professor Richard Stewart’s house in upstate New York. The 3L class plans to spend a relaxing weekend enjoying outdoor games, cooking, and sharing memories about their time in law school.
Awards at Graduation

CONVOCATION, THE THEATER AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, MAY 14, 2010

FOR SCHOLARSHIP, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, AND RELATED ACHIEVEMENTS

Maurice Goodman Memorial Prize “for outstanding scholarship and character” to Carmen G. Iguina

George P. Foulk Memorial Award “for outstanding sincerity and distinguished scholarship” to Julia Wei Mun Fong Sheketoff

FOR SERVICE TO THE LAW SCHOOL

Vanderbilt Medals “for outstanding contribution to the School of Law” to Angela M. Gius Keren G. Raz

[pictured with Kathy Jacobson]

SUBJECT-AREA AWARDS

Eric Dean Bender Prize “for a third-year student who has demonstrated a working commitment to public service-orientated cause or project outside of and separate from Law School commitments” to Sara Anne Zier

[pictured with Law School Trustee Warren Sinsheimer (LL.M. ’57)]

Black, Latino, Asian Pacific American Law Alumni Association (BLAPA) Kim Barry ’98 Memorial Graduation Prize “to a member of APALSA, BALSA, LALSA, MELSA, MULSA, or SALSA who has demonstrated a commitment to international and human rights work and exhibits academic excellence in the best tradition of Kim Barry” to Beatrice Lindstrom

Christian Jarecki Memorial Prize “for outstanding work and commitment in a law clinic” to Angela M. Gius

Judge Abraham Lieberman Award “for outstanding scholarship in the area of criminal law” to Rebecca Sims Talbott

Ann Petluck Poses Memorial Prize “designated by the Dean in recognition of outstanding work in a clinical course requiring student practice” to Alyssa D. Bell Carmen G. Iguina Sara Anne Zier

Leonard J. Schreier Memorial Prize “to a law student who has exhibited academic excellence in the area of ethics” to Elizabeth L. George

Journal and Moot Court Awards

Flora S. and Jacob L. Newman Prize “to the graduating student who has written the most outstanding note for the Review of Law and Social Change” to Alyssa D. Bell

Membership in the Order of the Coif

Alyssa D. Bell Theresa Bridgeman Elizabeth L. George Carmen G. Iguina Jeanette E. Markle Julia Wei Mun Fong Sheketoff [pictured with Brian Johnson ’99]

Rebecca Sims Talbott Nathan F. Wessler

Reconnecting with Scholars

Last December, Jerry Kern ’60 met with a few Root-Tilden-Kern Scholars and Director Deb Ellis to check in with the scholars and share ideas about the future of the program.
Leaders in Public Interest Series ’10–11

September 13
Diana DeGette RTK ’82
United States House of Representatives, (D–CO)

September 20
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ROBERT ABRAMS
PUBLIC SERVICE LECTURE
Becoming Involved with the Great Issues of Our Time
Martha Coakley
Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

October 4
Using the Master’s Tools: How Law School Prepares You to Change America
Sally Kohn RTK ’02
Chief Education Officer, Movement Vision Lab, New York

October 11
Confronting Injustice
Professor Bryan Stevenson
NYU School of Law; Executive Director, Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, AL

October 18
Living a Life in Legal Services
Chris Lamb ’86
Executive Director, MFY Legal Services, New York

October 25
Expect the Unexpected: The Musings of a Department of Justice Lawyer
Gail Johnson
U.S. Department of Justice, Torts Branch, Civil Division, Washington

November 1
Social Change through the Law
Anthony Romero
Executive Director, ACLU, New York

November 8
Small Organizations Can Do Big Things: Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Reform
Lourdes Rosado RTK ’95
Juvenile Law Center, Philadelphia

January 24
GUARINI LECTURE
Fraud in the Troubled Asset Relief Program
Neil Barofsky ’95
Special Inspector General, TARP, Washington

January 31
Is Social Justice Best Promoted by Being a Prosecutor or Public Defender?
Robin Steinberg RTK ’82
Executive Director, Bronx Defenders
Nigel Farinha ’92
Office of the Special Narcotics at the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office
Tony Barkow
Executive Director, Center on the Administration of Criminal Law

February 7
Ending Poverty: The Lawyer’s Role
Alan Houseman ’68
Executive Director, Center for Law and Social Policy, New York

February 28
Striking the Balance in HIV Law: Protecting Civil Rights and Saving Lives
Rose Gasner
Deputy General Counsel of the New York City Department of Health
Hayley Gorenberg ’92
Deputy Legal Director at Lambda Legal, New York

March 7
Tiny Ripples of Hope: Lawyers in Public Service
Judge Amul Thapar
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky

March 21
Scholarship in the Public Interest
Professor Cristina Rodriguez
NYU School of Law
Professor Randy Hertz
NYU School of Law
Laura Abel
Brennan Center for Justice
Marne Lenox, RTK ’11
ROOT-TILDEN-KERN

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