

## The Rose Sheinberg Lecture Program

The Rose Sheinberg Lecture Program is endowed by Jill and Richard Sheinberg, Dale J. and Arthur Galston, and the estate of Joel Dolkart to honor the memory of Rose Sheinberg. Each year the Sheinberg Committee, a joint student-faculty committee, invites a scholar working on cutting-edge issues of gender, race, and class to participate in a day of informal discussion, classroom teaching, and formal lecture to expose the Law School community to a variety of ideas, insights, and initiatives.

Tax-deductible contributions are welcome. Please make checks payable to NYU School of Law and note "Sheinberg Lecture Program."

### Acknowledgements

Sponsored by Latino Law Students Association, Law Students for Economic Justice, Law Women, Public Interest Law Student Association, Unemployment Action Coalition, Immigrant Rights Project, and *NYU Review of Law & Social Change*.

### Members of the Sheinberg Committee

Sylvia Law, Chair  
Alina Das, Associate Professor of Clinical Law  
Melina Healey, Lawyering Professor  
Naomi Sunshine, Acting Assistant Professor  
Edie Joseph '18 Tyler Walton '18  
Miriam Marks '19 Kayla Vinson '18  
Nora Searle '19

New York University School of Law  
Rose Sheinberg Lecture Program  
c/o Professor Sylvia Law  
40 Washington Square South, Room 411  
New York, NY 10012

### Past Sheinberg Lectures

#### 2016 Linda Sarsour

Executive Director, Arab American Association of New York

#### 2015 (Fall) Andrea Ritchie

Co-Founder and Senior Policy Counsel, Streetwise & Safe

#### 2015 (Spring) Ai-jen Poo

Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance; Co-Director, Caring Across Generations

#### 2013 (Fall) Winona LaDuke

Founder and Co-Director, Honor the Earth

#### 2013 (Spring) Kathy Boudin

Director, Criminal Justice Initiative: Supporting Children, Families and Communities, Columbia University School of Social Work

#### 2011 (Spring) Debbie Almontaser

Founding Principal, Khalil Gibran International Academy

#### 2011 (Fall) Dolores Huerta

Co-Founder and First Vice President, United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO (UFW); President, Dolores Huerta Foundation

#### 2010 Anthony "Van" Jones

Senior Fellow, American Center for Progress; Policy Advisor, Green For All

#### 2008 (Fall) Monica Roa

Programmes Director, Women's Link Worldwide

#### 2008 (Spring) Tracie Washington

President and CEO, The Louisiana Justice Institute

#### 2007 Eva Jefferson Patterson

President and Co-Founder, Equal Justice Society

#### 2005 Ellen Barry '78

Founder, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

#### 2004 (Fall) Esther Chávez Cano

Founder and Director, Casa Amiga in Juárez, Mexico

#### 2004 (Spring) Constance Rice '84

Co-Director, Advancement Project

#### 2003 Baroness Helena Kennedy

Queen's Counsel

#### 2001 Vivian Stromberg

Executive Director, MADRE

#### 1999 LaDoris Hazzard Cordell

Judge, Superior Court, Santa Clara County, California

#### 1998 Constance Baker Motley

Senior Judge, Southern District of New York

#### 1997 Julianne Malveaux

Economist and Journalist

#### 1996 Dessima Williams

Professor, Brandeis University

#### 1995 Gay McDougall

Executive Director, International Human Rights Law Group

#### 1994 Bernardine Dohrn

Director, Children and Family Justice Center at Northwestern University School of Law

#### 1993 Antonia Hernández

President, Mexican American Legal Defense Fund

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The 24th Annual  
**ROSE SHEINBERG LECTURE**

Building Bridges Not Walls:  
**The Intersection  
of Immigration  
and Labor**

Monday, October 16, 2017

 **NYU | LAW**

## Maria Elena Durazo



Maria Elena Durazo is vice president for UNITE HERE international labor union, which represents more than 270,000 hospitality workers in the hotel, gaming, food service, manufacturing, textile, distribution, laundry, transportation, and airport industries in the US and Canada. Under her leadership in 2016, UNITE HERE and its Las Vegas local, the Culinary Union, led an unprecedented citizenship drive, helping more than 2,000 residents apply for citizenship. This campaign launched the union's large-scale door-knocking campaign in Nevada, the only swing state to go blue. In Phoenix, Maria Elena and UNITE HERE helped lead the campaign in which voters defeated the anti-immigrant Sheriff Joe Arpaio. She has served as Democratic National Committee vice chair since 2013.

Maria Elena started organizing with Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 11 in 1983 and was elected its president in 1989 after she launched a campaign to transform the local into an accountable democratic organization. In 1996, Maria Elena was the first Latina to be elected to the executive board of HERE international union, and in 2003, she led the national the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. From 2006 through 2014, she was the first woman secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, representing the interests of more than 300 local unions and over 600,000 workers. Maria Elena secured allies on the Los Angeles City Council and County Board of Supervisors to push through a minimum wage law that requires large Los Angeles hotels to pay workers at least \$15.37 an hour—one of the nation's highest base wages. In 2010, Maria Elena was elected vice president of the National AFL-CIO Executive Council.

Maria Elena has been elected to numerous national positions within the Democratic Party. She served on several City of Los Angeles commissions. Maria Elena is a graduate of Saint Mary's College of California and earned a law degree from Peoples College of Law in 1985.

Maria Elena Durazo is the proud daughter of Mexican migrant farmworkers.

## John Wilhelm



John Wilhelm was elected president for the Hospitality Industry segment of UNITE HERE at the union's founding convention on July 9, 2004. He was elected president of the overall organization on June 30, 2009, at the union's first constitutional convention.

Previously, John became president of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (HERE) in 1998. During his HERE presidency, John furthered the union's reputation as an organizing union and achieved net growth after more than 25 years of membership decline. The union also substantially diversified its national leadership, including election in 2001 of the union's first women general officers, its first general officer of color, its first Asian-American vice president, significant increases in the number of African-American, Latino, and women vice presidents, and its first elected Canadian director.

From 1999, John was the chairman of UNITE HERE HEALTH. He is a trustee of the National Retirement Fund, the Consolidated Retirement Fund, and the Southern Nevada Culinary & Bartenders Pension Fund. John currently serves as a board member of the Brookings Institution and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., and he is a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Committee and Executive Council.

John retired from UNITE HERE in 2012, closing out 40 years of union work and leadership for working people and families.

## Rose Sheinberg

Rose Sheinberg received her JD from NYU School of Law in 1950, when she was 45 years old. She was drawn to the law while teaching mathematics in high schools of New York City. In 1940, the Rapp-Coudert Committee started to ferret out progressive, "leftist" teachers in New York City schools. Motivated in part by the committee's activities, Sheinberg began taking classes at NYU in the evenings while she continued to teach full-time. After graduating from NYU School of Law, Sheinberg entered into a small legal partnership and practiced in New York City.

Born on August 13, 1904, Sheinberg refused to follow the conventions of her time. During the 1940s, New York City prohibited its teachers from marrying, so Sheinberg became the lifelong unmarried partner of Herbert Williams. Her partnership with Williams, originally from Jamaica, scandalized the educational authorities of her time. Undaunted, Sheinberg and Williams continued to share their lives until Williams' untimely death.

In addition to her work as a lawyer and teacher, Sheinberg traveled widely and retained a global perspective all her life. She was a wise mentor and role model. She died in May 1988, and the memory of her life inspired the establishment of the Rose Sheinberg Lecture Program at New York University School of Law.

### Event Schedule

**12:45–2:00 p.m.**

Lunch with Maria Elena Durazo and John Wilhelm in Vanderbilt Hall, Room 208. First-come, first-served. RSVP to Miriam Marks, mem986@nyu.edu if you would like to attend.

**5:00 p.m.**

Keynote Speech by Maria Elena Durazo

Introduction by John Wilhelm

Lipton Hall, 108 West 3rd Street

Reception in the foyer immediately following the lecture.