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Stein Center for Law and Ethics Annual Report 2012 to 2013

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Stein Center for Law and Ethics

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LOUIS STEIN CENTER FOR LAW AND ETHICS

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The Stein Center for Law and Ethics 2012-2013 Annual Report

The Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics serves the Fordham Law School community, the legal profession and the public in multiple ways. It contributes to developing future lawyers who are committed to promoting the public good through law reform, public service and the maintenance of high ethical standards, while at the same time helping those lawyers-to-be gain experiences and build connections in order to successfully commence their legal careers. It seeks to improve the legal profession and the legal system while modeling how to do so. It encourages scholarship that explores how ethical values inform and improve the legal profession, which, in turn, solidifies Fordham Law's reputation among practitioners and academics in the legal ethics arena.

The Stein Center is directed by Professor Bruce Green, the Louis Stein Chair. It is co-directed by Associate Dean Sheila Foster, the Albert A. Walsh '54 Chair in Real Estate, Land Use, and Property Law; Professor Russell Pearce, the Edward and Marilyn Bellet Chair in Legal Ethics, Morality and Religion; and Professor Jennifer Gordon. Sherri Levine is the Center's Associate Director and Jere Keys is the Center's 2012-2013 Dean's Fellow. Located at Fordham Law School, the Stein Center is not incorporated outside of Fordham University.

We remain grateful to the Stein family for their support of the Stein Center and Stein Scholars Program, starting with Louis Stein '26 for having had the foresight to establish these programs, and continuing with his granddaughter Sally Bellet '76, who honors his legacy and vision to this day.

This annual report describes the public programs and scholarly symposia organized by the Stein Center, several of which culminated in special law journal books, as well as the efforts taken to support, oversee and expand the Stein Scholars Program, which trains students to be leaders and prepares them for careers "in the service of others." All of our endeavors contribute to raising the profile of Fordham Law School among alumni, practitioners and the broader academic community.

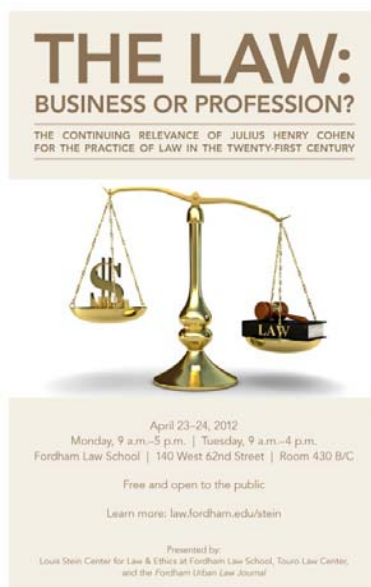
I. PUBLICATIONS

As a result of conferences sponsored by the Stein Center for Law and Ethics, two Fordham Law School journals – the *Fordham Law Review* and the *Fordham Urban Law Journal* - have recently published books containing multiple articles on two important aspects of ethics and the legal profession. One of those journals, the *Fordham Law Review*, will also be publishing the articles from a forthcoming conference called **Lawyers' Monopoly on the Practice of Law**. In fact, the Stein Center's collaboration with Fordham law journals began more than 17 years ago, when the *Fordham Law Review* committed to working with the Center's faculty to publish an

annual book on ethics and the legal profession. The articles in the *Fordham Law Review* legal ethics collections regularly lead the list of its most frequently cited articles.

A. *Fordham Urban Law Journal*

The *Fordham Urban Law Journal* recently published Volume 40, No. 1, which consists of 13 articles and an essay stemming from a two-day conference on April 23-24, 2012 called **The Law: Business or Profession? The Continuing Relevance of Julius Henry Cohen for the Practice of Law in the Twenty-First Century**. The conference, which was co-sponsored by Touro Law Center, focused on Julius Henry Cohen's landmark 1916 book, *The Law: Business or Profession?*



This *Fordham Urban Law Journal* volume contains articles written by Samuel Levine (Touro Law Center), Rebecca Roiphe (New York Law School), Ted Schneyer (University of Arizona College of Law), Bruce Green (Fordham Law School), Jane Campbell Moriarty (Duquesne University School of Law), Susan Saab Fortney (Hofstra University School of Law), Nancy J. Moore (Boston University School of Law), Sande L. Buhai (Loyola Law School), Philip M. Genty (Columbia Law School), Robert Eli Rosen (University of Miami School of Law), Rakesh Anand (Syracuse University School of Law), Steven H. Hobbs (University of Alabama School of Law), Norman Spaulding (Stanford Law School), Judith A. McMorrow (Boston College Law School), Russell G. Pearce (Fordham Law School), Pam Jenoff (Rutgers School of Law) and George W. Conk (Fordham Law School) on such important issues affecting the legal profession as globalization, professionalism, nonlawyer ownership of law practice entities, compliance, entrepreneurialism, accountability, standards for legal education and admission to the bar and prohibitions on authorized practice of law.

Information on how to order the special issue can be found on the Journal's website at: <http://urbanlawjournal.com/>. In addition, the Stein Center will be promoting the book to

hundreds of ethics professors across the country, thereby showcasing Fordham Law's contribution to serious scholarship on important issues.

B. The *Fordham Law Review*

The *Fordham Law Review* also just published an important volume (Volume 81, No. 6) that grew out of a November 30, 2012 colloquium organized by the Stein Center for Law and Ethics, **Lawyering for Groups: Civil Rights, Mass Torts, and Everything in Between**. The colloquium included discussions of adequate representation when the client is a class or group of people, conflicts of interest in mass tort lawsuits, problems of governance or decision-making within aggregate litigation, and litigating on behalf of entire communities impacted by systemic discrimination, among other topics.



The resulting *Fordham Law Review* volume contains articles by such well-regarded experts in the field as Elizabeth Chamblee Burch, Kristen Carpenter, Samuel Issacharoff, Alexandra Lahav, Troy McKenzie, Nancy Moore and Eli Wald, as well as a foreword by Fordham Law professors Howard Erichson and Benjamin Zipursky. You can find the volume here: <http://fordhamlawreview.org/issues/109>. In addition, the Stein Center will also take steps to publicize this volume to nationally-recognized faculty experts, to highlight Fordham Law's efforts to engage in important national debates.

In addition, plans are well underway for our fall 2013 ethics symposium, **Lawyers' Monopoly on the Practice of Law**, which will take place on October 18, 2013 at Fordham Law School. The articles arising from that symposium will be published in a special *Fordham Law Review* book and we expect many cutting-edge articles on a broad range of contemporary issues affecting the legal profession.

Some of the participants will include: Benjamin Barton (University of Tennessee at Knoxville College of Law), Michele DeStefano (University of Miami School of Law) Bridgette Dunlap (Fordham Law School), John Dzienkowski (University of Texas at Austin School of Law), Renee Newman Knake (Michigan State University College of Law), Leslie Levin (University of Connecticut School of Law), John McGinnis (Northwestern Law), Thomas Morgan (George Washington University Law School), Lisa Nicholson (University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law), Paul Paton (University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law), Russell Pearce (Fordham Law School), Deborah Rhode (Stanford Law School), Laurel Rigertas (Northern Illinois University College of Law), John Sahl (Akron Law), Anthony Sebok (Cardozo

Law), Carole Silver (Indiana University Maurer School of Law), Laurel Terry (Penn State Law), and Jessica Dixon Weaver (Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law).

The participants have been invited to grapple with and write about questions such as: What are the unique challenges to the unauthorized practice of law in the age of e-lawyering and web-based legal services? Are new approaches to fee-splitting, advertising and attorney-client relationships needed in the internet age? What, if any, lessons can we learn from new international models of alternative business structures? What is the relationship between lawyers' monopoly and insufficient access to legal services? Is a new response needed by educational institutions to the expansion of law-related work by non-lawyers?

The intended audience for this special legal ethics issue of the *Fordham Law Review* is also broad and includes practicing attorneys, judges, law professors and law students, in addition to our large network of professional responsibility professors across the country.

C. Stein Center News

This year the Stein Center also launched and published four editions of Stein Center News, an e-newsletter. Stein Center News includes announcements about programs and events, articles about topical issues, profiles of Stein Scholars alumni, commentary about current controversies in public interest law or legal ethics, and photos showcasing the best moments of Stein Center and Stein Scholars Program activities. In addition to reaching the Stein Scholars alumni community, Stein Center News is also distributed to thousands of contacts including all current Fordham students and faculty, lawyers involved in professional responsibility or legal ethics, area law professors, and more. In this way, Stein Center News helps to raise the profile of the law school by keeping the work of the Center and the Stein Scholars Program at the forefront of the minds of the broader legal community. The Stein Center News is accessible from the home page of the Stein Center (<http://law.fordham.edu/stein>).

II. STUDENT PARTICIPATION

A. Stein Scholars Program Plays Key Role in Students' Professional Development and Advances Fordham's Mission to Cultivate Lawyers "in the Service of Others."

The Stein Scholars program offers approximately 60 Fordham Law School students with an expressed desire to work in public interest law an opportunity to receive tailored academic guidance, mentorship, community, leadership development, support and hands-on experience in charitable, non-profit, government and pro bono law settings. The Stein Scholars Program offers student-student, faculty-student, and alumni-student mentorship, as well as frequent workshops and discussions on careers and current issues. The alumni network of Stein Scholars now exceeds 420 graduates and those graduates can be found in nearly every area of the legal profession.

Through academic coursework and exposure to a variety of public interest law practices, the Stein Scholars Program provides participating students with a firm grounding in legal ethics, the analytical tools needed to examine the role of lawyers in society, practical experience and

training, and opportunities for developing relationships with practitioners in a variety of fields. Moreover, the Program contributes to Fordham's reputation as a pioneer and leader in the fields of ethics and public interest law.

1. Internships

The Stein Scholars Program includes an internship component that gives students the opportunity to work in public interest law settings during their 1L and 2L summers. These internships, supported by stipends available through the generous support of the Stein family, facilitate the development of skills and experiences needed to be effective attorneys, provide exposure to different institutions and the role lawyers plays in each, and enable the cultivation of contacts and connections necessary when embarking on careers in public interest law.

Here are some of the places Stein Scholars will be interning this summer:

Workers Center for Racial Justice (LA)	NYPD Law Department
Community Health Advocates	NYC Metropolitan Authority
NYSAG's Office	USAO SDNY
Kings County District Attorney	American Immigration Lawyers Association
National Employment Law Project (WA)*	USAO EDNY
USAO (Washington, DC)	Brooklyn Family Defense Project
Center for Reproductive Rights	WNET/Channel 13/PBS
Manhattan District Attorney	USAO SDNY Criminal
ACLU Women's Rights Project	NYS Attorney General
Center for Court Innovation	The Door
Legal Aid Society, Criminal Division	Brooklyn Family Defense Project
Brooklyn District Attorney	US DOJ, Criminal Fraud (Washington, DC)
ACLU Criminal Law Reform Project	US House Committee on Oversight &
ACLU Racial Justice Program#	Government Reform
Southern Poverty Law Center (GA)	

*With the Peggy Browning Fellowship

#As a Revson Law Student Public Interest Fellow

2. Collaborations with Public Interest Organizations and Practitioners

During their second year, Stein Scholars enroll in two courses dealing with ethics and public interest law. In the fall semester, Stein Scholars choose between Ethics and Public Interest Law, which focuses on civil practice, and Ethics in Criminal Advocacy, which examines the ethical responsibilities of lawyers who work in the criminal justice system.

In the Spring of their second year, Stein Scholars enroll in the Advanced Seminar in Public Interest Lawyering. In the Advanced Seminar, students work in small groups on projects in conjunction with public interest law offices and practitioners in New York City. These group projects enable Stein Scholars to apply the principles considered in the classroom to real life situations. By working in conjunction with a public interest legal organization on a project

intended to protect or expand the rights of the disenfranchised, the Advanced Seminar not only helps prepare students to engage in meaningful work that will make a difference, but it fosters exposure to practicing lawyers in compelling and diverse fields.

Here is a list of the sponsoring organizations and projects recently undertaken by Stein Scholars:

One group worked with the Brennan Center for Justice, Democracy Project. After analyzing data on challenges to voters in select districts across the country in the 2012 Presidential election, the students prepared a report on the trends and basis for the challenges, along with recommendations on how to tackle this issue in future elections.

The Safe Horizon Anti-Trafficking Program sponsored another group of students, who spent the semester understanding why T-Visa holders are often denied public benefits and then drafting a know-your-rights pamphlet to assist those trafficking victims in securing the benefits to which they are entitled.

Three students worked with the Red Hook Community Justice Center/Center for Court Innovation to analyze, evaluate and make recommendations pertaining to Brooklyn's pilot Adolescent Diversion Program in light of a grant awarded to CCI to establish an Alternatives to Incarceration program for young adults.

The Legal Aid Society Prisoners' Rights Project enabled four students to collect and review data on the impact recent changes to New York State prison system's visitation rules are having on prisoners and their families.

Another group of students worked with LatinoJustice PRLDEF to review the impact on immigrants of two New York City bills having to do with the implementation of ICE's Secure Communities in the New York Police Department and the Department of Corrections, in the context of similar efforts in Washington, DC, California and Massachusetts.

Finally, two students worked with The Legal Aid Society Health Law Unit to produce a family law practitioners' guide to address situations when health coverage is included in a child support order, but there are problems accessing and/or affording that health insurance.

Exit interviews with each of the supervising attorneys revealed a high level of satisfaction with the work of all of the students and an eagerness to sponsor future projects. After observing the students' final in-class presentation, one project supervisor had this to say on his blog about the students' semester-long investigation and undertakings:

Not surprisingly, this experience yielded an equally fascinating set of observations and recommendations, a thoughtful blend of process analysis, distillation and synthesis of stakeholder interviews, and good ol' fashioned thick description a la Clifford Geertz -- with a touch of bricolage a la Claude Lévi-Strauss. As good as the substantive content was (and it was good!), I was especially taken by the students' enthusiasm and electrifying energy.

Furthermore, one example of how the relationships forged during the collaborations with law offices assist students with their legal careers is evidenced by the fact that at least one Advanced Seminar student will be working for her sponsoring organization this summer.

3. Mentorship Program with Alumni

This past year, the Stein Center initiated a Mentorship Program, whereby 2L, 3L and recently graduated Stein Scholars were matched with Stein Scholars alumni based on common areas of interest or practice. Mentors were asked to meet with their mentee at least twice during the school year and to communicate on an as-needed basis via phone, email or Skype.

Approximately 40 students participated in the Mentorship Program. Here is what one mentee recently said about the Program: “The Mentorship Program helps ensure that we don’t lose the opportunity to learn from each other.” She went on to say:

I have really appreciated having a tailored one-on-one relationship to guide me this year. The relationship is what you make of it. For me, having someone willing to answer specific questions has been ideal. [H]aving someone in my camp to offer a real world perspective has been critical.

We are in the process of growing the Mentorship Program, by securing additional alumni mentors and making the program available to rising 1L Stein Scholars, thereby continuing our efforts to support Stein Scholars as they make the transition from student to practicing lawyer.

4. 20th Anniversary Celebration

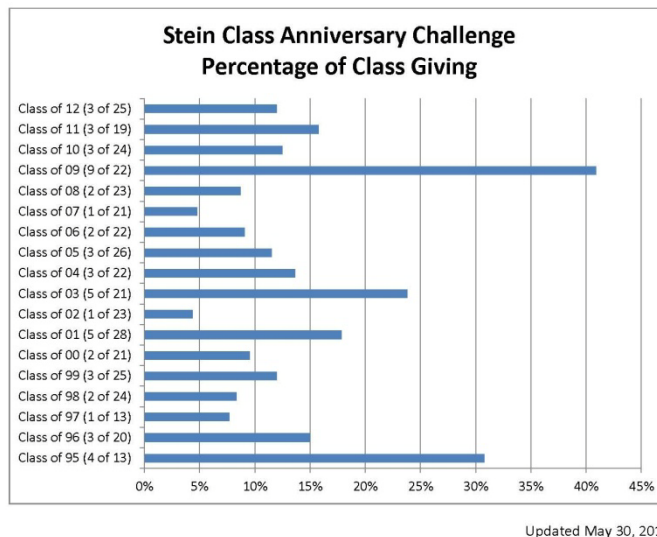


On June 6th, we will celebrate the Stein Scholars Program’s 20th anniversary with a reception at the Marianne Boesky Gallery. Marianne Boesky ‘95, a member of the first class of Stein Scholars, generously offered her gallery for the celebration and over 150 Stein students, alumni and faculty are expected to attend. The Anniversary Celebration will recognize the connections between and among alumni and students and strengthen those connections for the future.

5. Fundraising Campaign

The Stein Center, with expert assistance from Michele Galioto of the Development and Alumni Relations Office, embarked on a fundraising campaign this year to encourage alumni to give back to the Stein Scholars Program, as a way to mark the 20th anniversary of the Program. Over 60 Stein alumni and friends contributed, for a giving rate of almost 15 percent. Each donor

received a thank-you letter from a current Stein Scholar, one more way of solidifying connections between students and alumni practitioners. Moreover, the majority of the money raised went to reviving the Stein Scholars Bar Review Fund, thereby supporting recently graduated students at the critical beginning of their public interest careers.



While we do not currently have a five-year financial plan, we are excited by the challenge of converting these new donors to the Stein Scholars Program into annual contributors, at the same time we work to expand the number of donors.

III. THE ACADEMY AND THE BAR

During this past academic year, the Stein Center organized and sponsored many events that fostered connections with the academy and the bar. Some programs are designed principally for legal academics, as was true of **Lawyering for Groups: Civil Rights, Mass Torts and Everything in Between**, and will be the case with the upcoming **Legal Ethics Shmooze** and **The Legal Profession's Monopoly on the Practice of Law**, while other projects have been directed primarily at practitioners, as was the focus of the three-part CLE series, **The Business and Ethics of Managing a 21st Century Law Firm**. Some programs are designed to bring together practitioners and students, as was the goal of **Hot Topics in Law and Public Policy**, while the filing of the amicus brief in *U.S. v. Davila* aimed to impact the development of the law.

A. Lawyering for Groups: Civil Rights, Mass Torts and Everything in Between

This year's annual ethics symposium co-sponsored by the Stein Center and the *Fordham Law Review* was entitled **Lawyering for Groups: Civil Rights, Mass Torts, and Everything in Between**. Through discussions among distinguished panelists from across the country, this symposium reappraised the legal, ethical and practical issues at play in class action lawsuits. A review of topics discussed and participating academics can be found above on page 3.

B. Second Legal Ethics Shmooze

The Stein Center for Law and Ethics, Touro Law Center and the Stanford Center on the Legal Profession are co-sponsoring the second Legal Ethics Shmooze on June 18-19, 2013 at Fordham Law School.

The Shmooze is designed to provide nationally-recognized legal ethics scholars a chance to consider and discuss emerging topics in the field. In addition to collegial interchange, its object is to promote legal ethics as an important area for future scholarship, provide ideas about where such scholarship might take us, and promote Fordham Law School's reputation as the central place to discuss and debate these issues.

Participants will include:

Rebecca Aviel, University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Benjamin Barton, University of Tennessee College of Law
Lara Bazelon, University of California, Hastings College of the Law
Susan Carle, American University Washington College of Law
Elizabeth Chambliss, New York Law School
Michele DeStefano, University of Miami School of Law
Nora Engstrom, Stanford Law School
Howard Erichson, Fordham Law School
Susan Fortney, Hofstra Law
Bruce Green, Fordham Law School
Justin Hansford, St. Louis University School of Law
Renee Knake, Michigan State University College of Law
Sung Hui Kim, UCLA School of Law
Samuel Levine, Touro Law Center
Russell Pearce, Fordham Law School
Dana Remus, University of New Hampshire School of Law
Deborah Rhode, Stanford Law School
Becky Roiphe, New York Law School
Carole Silver, Indiana University Maurer School of Law
Eli Wald, University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Brad Wendel, Cornell Law School
Alice Woolley, University of Calgary, Faculty of Law
Ben Zipursky, Fordham Law School

Some of the critical and cutting-edge topics that will be discussed at the Legal Ethics Shmooze include: the intersection of law and corporate compliance; problems with settlement class actions; changes in the American legal market; whether there is a market for limited (non-JD) law school training; the costs and consequences of the "lawyer lending" industry; judicial regulation of civil litigation; and barriers to non-lawyer's involvement in the delivery and financing of legal services.

C. **The Legal Profession's Monopoly on the Practice of Law**

The Stein Center for Law and Ethics and the *Fordham Law Review* are co-sponsoring **The Legal Profession's Monopoly on the Practice of Law**, a one-day colloquium on October 18, 2013 at Fordham Law School. This colloquium will incorporate expert academics from more than sixteen law schools, who will gather to dissect and analyze topics at the core of the legal profession from historical, contemporary and international perspectives. More information about this important colloquium can be found above on pages 3-4.

D. **Hot Topics in Law and Policy**

On October 2, 2012, five Stein Scholars alumni returned to campus for a panel presentation entitled **Hot Topics in Law and Public Policy**. Before a crowd of approximately 60 students, alumni, and faculty, the speakers talked about some of today's most controversial points of public debate through the prism of their legal careers.

Kevin Carroll '01 discussed homeland security through the lens of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security's investigation into the radicalization of Islam. **Leena Khandwala '04**, an Associate with Claudia Slovinsky & Associates, talked about immigration amnesty by analyzing the Obama administration's policy establishing eligibility for deferred action status for many young immigrants. **Karen Loewy '00** offered thoughts on marriage equality by looking at the many developments in state and federal law while she was the Senior Staff Attorney at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. **Michelle Movahed '06**, Staff Attorney in the U.S. Legal Program at the Center for Reproductive Rights, discussed reproductive rights by looking at a law and lawsuit in Mississippi concerning the Jackson Women's Health Organization, the only clinic in the state offering abortion services. Finally, **Susan Welber '98**, a Staff Attorney at The Legal Aid Society's Civil Practice Law Reform Unit, shared her thoughts on how the last major attempt at welfare reform under President Clinton worked.



By bringing alumni with expertise in a variety of cutting-edge areas of law together with students interested in pursuing those and related areas of law, the Stein Center assists in the professional development of students, at the same time expanding students' understanding of different career possibilities. Plans for the next **Hot Topics in Law and Public Policy** are well underway for fall 2013.

E. Global Legal Profession Workshops

On October 17, 2012, the Stein Center teamed up with the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice to present the second **Global Legal Profession Workshop**. This workshop focused on reflections by Lucie White, Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, based on her book *Stones of Hope: African Lawyers Use Human Rights to Challenge Global Poverty* (with co-editor Jeremy Perlman). Using case studies of human rights advocates who have dealt with poverty and structural violence, Lucie White examined the way these advocates employed the tools of economic, cultural, and social rights to solve problems. After White discussed her findings, David Trubeck of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and Harvard Law, commented on the work, while Fordham Law Professor Jennifer Gordon moderated the discussion.



On February 27, 2013, The Stein Center presented **Asian Social Justice Lawyers: Reflecting on Practice**, part three of the **Global Legal Profession Workshop** series co-sponsored with the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice. Workshop speakers Louise Trubek, Clinical Professor of Law Emerita University of Wisconsin Law School, and Frank Munger, New York Law School Professor of Law, presented a paper (also co-authored by Scott Cummings) analyzing the emergence, development and transformation of social justice lawyering in 11 Asian countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand & Vietnam. Fordham Law Professors Martin S. Flaherty and Carl Minzner provided comment on the study and Fordham Law's Russell Pearce, a Co-Director of the Stein Center, moderated the conversation.



The **Global Legal Profession Workshop** series and collaboration provides the Centers a platform to advance education, networking, collaboration, research and scholarship on global legal theories and practices.

F. Business and Ethics of Managing a 21st Century Law Firm

The Stein Center for Law and Ethics teamed up with the Corporate Law Center to produce a Monday-evening CLE series focused on answering questions about how the business of law is changing and the ethical implications of those changes. Conceived as a three-part series, the presenters asked and answered questions about the struggles of big law to remain financially solvent, emerging firm structures and the constraints placed on them by rules of professional responsibility, and how technology can bridge the gap between client expectations and economic pressures.

The three panels, which were made up of practitioners, academics and experts in the field, including two Fordham Law alumni, drew more than 40 people each evening, a combination of Fordham Law students, alumni, area lawyers and academics.



On January 28, 2013, the panel **Lessons Learned and Reflections on the State of "Big Law" in 2013** featured presentations by James Bernard '95, Partner, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, Scott Green, CEO, Pepper Hamilton LLP, and Bruce MacEwen, President, Adam Smith, Esq. Fordham Law adjunct professor Silvia Hodges moderated the discussion.

On February 25, 2013, the second part in the series, **New, Smart and Ethical Business Models**, included Anthony Davis, Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP; Andy Daws, Vice President, North America, Riverview Law, James Peters, Vice President, Attorney Services, LegalZoom; and was moderated by Professor Bruce Green, Director of Fordham Law's Stein Center for Law and Ethics.

Finally, on March 18, 2013, the series concluded with **The Impact of Technology on the Future of Law Firms**, featuring Larry W. Bridgesmith, Chief Relationship Officer, ERM Legal Solutions LLC; Daniel Martin Katz, Assistant Professor of Law & Co-Director of ReInvent Law: A Law Laboratory Devoted to Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship at Michigan State University College of Law; Dr. Silvia Hodges, Director of Research Services, TyMetrix Legal Analytics; Suzie Scanlon '95, Professional, Berger Legal LLC; and moderator Ron Lazebnik, Clinical Associate Professor of Law and Director of Fordham Law's Samuelson-Glushko Intellectual Property & Information Law Clinic.



The Stein Center and the Corporate Law Center intend to collaborate on future seminars, as a way of engaging with academics and practitioners from the Fordham and New York legal communities on issues at the intersection of ethics and business in the practice of law.

G. Supreme Court Amicus Brief

The Stein Center and Professor Bruce Green, the Louis Stein Chair and director of the Stein Center, collaborated with four other law school ethics centers and with other legal ethics professors and practitioners to file an amicus brief in the Supreme Court case of *U.S. v. Davila*. The brief, prepared by Jones Day with Professor Green's assistance, addresses a prior ruling made by the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Respondent Anthony Davila pled guilty to a federal tax charge but the appellate court overturned his conviction, finding that the federal magistrate judge improperly participated in plea negotiations. In the U.S. Supreme Court, the Department of Justice argued that, because Davila never objected to the magistrate judge's conduct, Davila's conviction should not have been set aside without a finding that the conduct prejudiced Davila by causing him to plead guilty.

The brief maintains that the magistrate judge's words about the advisability of a guilty plea were inherently coercive, especially in their use of religious imagery, and constituted a clear departure from the neutral judicial role charged to him. The amicus brief addresses the federal appellate court's "supervisory authority" to establish and enforce standards of judicial conduct in federal criminal cases. It asserts that the appellate court properly exercised this authority by reversing Davila's conviction without an inquiry into whether Davila was prejudiced—an inquiry that the brief says would be burdensome and intrusive.

Read the brief at http://law.fordham.edu/assets/SteinCenter/Amici_Curiae_Brief_in_Davila.pdf.

The Stein Center has served as an amicus in a dozen cases over the past fifteen years, primarily on issues of legal and judicial ethics and other issues important to the legal profession. By doing so, the Stein Center engages in the development of law and policy, while at the same time cementing our reputation as one of the country's pre-eminent legal ethics institutions.

H. Advanced Seminar in Public Interest Lawyering Group Projects

Twenty-one 2L Stein Scholars formed six groups of two to four students per group and proposed, managed and completed public service projects with six legal non-profit organizations, as part of their spring semester academic requirement. This collaboration helps to solidify Fordham Law's reputation as a place that educates top-notch public interest attorneys, while simultaneously training students and connecting them with potential future advocates and employers.

This year's projects and organizations covered a broad spectrum of issues and deliverables, from voters' rights to benefits for trafficking survivors, and from a white paper analyzing innovative criminal law initiatives to a guide for practioners attempting to interpret new health care rules for their single parent clients. For a full list of this year's six projects, please see page 6 above.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Stein Center is proud to be a part of Fordham Law School and excited to continue to offer programs and symposia that explore contemporary issues having to do with legal ethics and the legal profession, facilitate publication of special journal issues on these critical topics, and do our part to train the next generation of ethical, proactive and proficient lawyers committed to practicing law "in the service of others."