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2017

### Stein Center for Law and Ethics Annual Report 2016 to 2017

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 2016-2017 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 future lawyers to 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 Fordham Law Professors Russell Pearce, the Edward and Marilyn Bellet Chair in Legal Ethics, Morality and Religion; Jennifer Gordon; and Kimani Paul-Emile. Sherri Levine is the Center's Associate Director.

We remain grateful to the Stein family for their support of the Stein Center and the 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 and scholarly programs organized by the Stein Center, 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."

During this past academic year, the Stein Center organized and sponsored many events that fostered connections with the academy and the bar, as well as Fordham Law alumni, faculty and students. A key objective of several of these events was to encourage scholarship on ethics and the legal profession, and we are particularly proud of the special *Fordham Law Review* book that consists of the papers presented during our annual ethics colloquium. Some programs primarily involved legal academics, as was true of the **International Legal Ethics Conference VII** and **Civil Litigation Ethics at a Time of Vanishing Trials**, while other programs, such as our CLE panel, **Working Ethically with Non-Lawyer Professionals in Public Interest Settings**, were directed primarily at practitioners. Finally, some events, such as the **Pathways-to-Practice Conversations on Immigration** and **Family Law**, as well as **White House for Sale? Government Ethics Under the New Administration**, involved alumni and faculty and were organized specifically for the benefit of Fordham Law students.

With respect to the Stein Scholars Program, the Stein Center facilitated networking and connections between and among the students and graduates of the Program, by for example,

convening the Stein Alumni Advisory Board, disseminating Stein Center News, organizing the Stein Alumni Awards Reception, implementing the Stein Bar Fund campaign, and teaching the Advanced Seminar in Public Interest Lawyering.

## I. Stein Center Programs for the Academy

In addition to our annual *Fordham Law Review* ethics colloquium (see page 4), this year we also organized and convened a large international gathering of legal scholars to discuss issues having to do with ethics and regulation of the legal profession from a comparative perspective.

### International Legal Ethics Conference

The Stein Center organized and hosted the **International Legal Ethics Conference (ILEC) VII, The Ethics & Regulation of Lawyers Worldwide: Comparative and Interdisciplinary Perspectives**, at Fordham Law School on July 14-16, 2016. This international conference is presented biannually by the International Association of Legal Ethics, and this was its first time held in New York. ILEC VII was the largest international gathering of legal ethics scholars of its kind ever held, bringing together approximately 400 members of the legal profession from 60 different countries. More than 300 of those in attendance participated in one or more of the 80 panels that took place over the course of the three-day conference.



The 80 panels were clustered around eight different themes:

- Empirical Perspectives on the Legal Profession and Legal Ethics
- Rule of Law and the Legal Profession
- Globalization and the Legal Profession
- Ethics and Legal Education
- Culture, Technology, Ethics and Society
- Philosophy and Legal Ethics
- Regulation of the Legal Profession and Judiciary
- Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Legal Profession

In addition to formal programming, ILEC VII allowed for extensive informal interchange among the legal academics as well as judges and practitioners who attended. This provided opportunities to develop new collaborations and to exchange views and experiences regarding questions of common concern, such as how best to train future lawyers to practice ethically and how best to regulate lawyers.



Review the Program, Sessions and Schedule here:

[https://www.fordham.edu/info/23510/ilec\\_2016/6067/schedule\\_of\\_programs\\_and\\_sessions](https://www.fordham.edu/info/23510/ilec_2016/6067/schedule_of_programs_and_sessions)

Read the Fall 2016 Fordham Lawyer Magazine story, *The Global Face of the Ethical Lawyer*, to find out more about the important work of these eight conference participants, all of whom received travel grants from the Stein Center to facilitate their attendance at and participation in ILEC VII: Ernest Ojukwu (Nigeria); Ahmed Al-Hawamdeh (Jordan); Olga Churakova (Kyrgyz Republic); Suphamat “Bee” Phonphra and Nattakan “Ann” Chomputhong (Thailand); Zoha Savadkouhifar (Iran & Pakistan); Martin Bohmer (Argentina); and Xiaobing Liu (China).

<http://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2016/12/13/the-global-face-of-the-ethical-lawyer/>

Read the Fordham Law News article about the International Legal Ethics Conference VII, *Stein Center Hosts International Legal Ethics Conference*:

<http://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2016/07/19/stein-center-hosts-international-legal-ethics-conference/>

In order to build on the connections made at ILEC VII and to foster scholarship on the regulation of the legal profession from an international and comparative perspective, the Stein Center is hosting a follow-up conference in December 2017. Titled **Regulation of Legal and Judicial Services: Comparative and International Perspectives**, this two-day, invitation-only conference will involve 45-50 participants from around the world and result in a special *Fordham International Law Journal* book based on 15 co-authored, cross-jurisdictional papers.

You can find out more about the December 2017 conference here:

[https://www.fordham.edu/info/26666/regulation\\_of\\_legal\\_and\\_judicial\\_services\\_conference](https://www.fordham.edu/info/26666/regulation_of_legal_and_judicial_services_conference)

## Annual Fordham Law Review Ethics Colloquium

The Stein Center's collaboration with Fordham law journals began more than 20 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.

This year's *Fordham Law Review* ethics book (Vol. 85, No. 5) stems from the October 21, 2016 colloquium called **Civil Litigation Ethics at a Time of Vanishing Trials**. Throughout the day-long conference, speakers discussed how the roles, professional responsibilities and regulation of litigators are changing or might change given the diminishing importance of trials and the movement of litigators into other professional work.



The colloquium issue contains articles by a diverse group of scholars:

- Lynn Baker (University of Texas at Austin School of Law)
- Taunya Lovell Banks (University of Maryland School of Law)
- Scott Cummings (UCLA School of Law)
- Howard Erichson (Fordham Law School)
- Susan Fortney (Texas A&M University School of Law)
- Justin Hansford (St. Louis University School of Law)
- Rebecca Hollander-Blumoff (Washington University Law School)
- Andrew Pollis (Case Western Reserve University School of Law)
- Victor Quintenille (Indiana University Maurer School of Law)
- Morris Ratner (UC Hastings College of the Law)
- Theodore Rave (University of Houston Law Center)
- Danya Reda (Peking School of Transnational Law)
- Judith Resnik (Yale Law School)
- Veronica Root (Notre Dame Law School)
- Norman Spaulding (Stanford Law School)
- Adam Zimmerman (Loyola Law School)

You can find the issue here: <http://fordhamlawreview.org/issuescategory/april-2017-vol-88-no-5/>

Moreover, plans are well underway for our fall 2017 ethics colloquium, **Access to Justice and the Legal Profession in an Era of Contracting Civil Liability**, which will take place on October 27, 2017 at Fordham Law School. The articles arising from this colloquium will be published in a special spring 2018 *Fordham Law Review* book and we expect many cutting-edge articles on a wide range of contemporary issues affecting the legal profession. Specifically, the colloquium will explore the various efforts by lawyers, judges and legislators to contract civil liability - both procedurally and substantively – and the impact this has on individuals’ access to civil justice, as well as the implications for racial and economic justice and the legal profession more broadly.

Confirmed participants for **Access to Justice and the Legal Profession in an Era of Contracting Civil Liability** include:

- Nora Freeman Engstrom (Stanford Law School)
- Myriam Gilles (Cardozo Law School)
- Maria Glover (Georgetown University Law Center)
- Andrew Kent (Fordham Law School)
- Jules Lobel (Pittsburgh School of Law)
- David Marcus (University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law)
- Alex Reinert (Cardozo Law School)
- Jeff Stempel (University of Nevada Las Vegas Boyd School of Law)
- Suja Thomas (University of Illinois College of Law)
- Michael Wells (University of Georgia School of Law)
- Benjamin Zipursky (Fordham Law School)

For more information, visit [law.fordham.edu/stein](http://law.fordham.edu/stein).

### **Legal Ethics Scholars’ Roundtable and Schmooze**

Launched in 2012 by Susan Fortney, while she was at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, and Bruce Green, Stein Center Director, and now under the primary direction of Ellen Yaroshefsky, a professor at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, the **Legal Ethics Scholars’ Roundtable** nurtures the development of legal scholarship by providing opportunities for legal ethics professors to discuss their work in progress.

This year, the Stein Center hosted a Roundtable on October 27, 2016, which featured a discussion with Professor Milan Markovic of Texas A&M. He came to Fordham Law School to present early findings from the Texas Lawyers Study, a study of the incomes and career satisfaction of 11,000 members of the State Bar of Texas. He addressed such issues as pay disparities within the legal profession, career satisfaction in different practice settings, and the impact of student loan debt. He explained that early research suggests that there is substantial inequality across the legal profession and that lawyers are increasingly finding it difficult to achieve their career aspirations.

The Stein Center hosted the first **Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze**, in conjunction with Cardozo Law School, New York Law School and Touro Law Center, on June 8-9, 2015. During



the Schmooze, junior and experienced faculty members secured feedback on papers that were focused on questions of criminal procedure and professional conduct relating to prosecutors, defense lawyers and the institutions in which they work. The Stein Center has continued to help organize these gatherings since the inaugural one in 2015. Cardozo Law School hosted the 2016 Schmooze and New York Law School will host the Schmooze in 2017. The Stein Center looks forward to bringing the Schmooze back to Fordham Law School in the summer of 2018.

## II. Stein Center Programs Involving the Bar

A key area of the Stein Center's work is focused on the practicing bar. This year we organized two CLE programs, submitted two amicus briefs and honored a distinguished jurist.

### CLE Ethics Programs for Practitioners

This spring, the Stein Center participated in organizing two ethics CLE programs, both of which were opened to lawyers at no charge and both provided two CLE ethics credits at the conclusion of the program.

On March 7, 2017, the Stein Center for Law and Ethics and Cardozo Law School's Center on Corporate Governance co-sponsored a panel called **Ethical Considerations for the Business and Corporate Attorney**.

Michael H. Stone, Senior Fellow and Director of Compliance at Cardozo's Center on Corporate Governance, moderated the panel, which consisted of the following four speakers:

- George Canellos, Partner and Global Head, Litigation & Arbitration Group, Milbank
- Bruce Green, Louis Stein Chair and Director of Stein Center for Law and Ethics, Fordham Law School
- Susan Merrill, Partner, Sidley Austin
- Harry Weiss, Partner and Chair, Securities Litigation and Enforcement Practice Group, WilmerHale



Before a crowded lecture hall, the speakers engaged in a dynamic conversation and debate about the real life application of the rules of professional responsibility to matters involving corporate representation.

On March 30, 2017, the complex ethics issues faced by public interest attorneys took center stage at a CLE panel discussion called **Working Ethically with Non-Lawyer Professionals in Public Interest Settings**, which was organized and hosted by the Stein Center and featured these speakers:

- Susan Cordaro '04, Stein Scholars alum and Senior Appellate Attorney, The Children's Law Center;
- Kevin M. Cremin, Director of Litigation for Disability & Aging Rights, MFY Legal Services;
- Bruce Green, Louis Stein Chair and Director of the Stein Center for Law and Ethics at Fordham Law School; and
- Randy Retkin, Director and Founder of LegalHealth, a division of the New York Legal Assistance Group, and an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School



With more than 70 New York legal professionals in attendance, the panelists analyzed and discussed real life scenarios, in order to explore best practices when working in collaboration with other professionals to serve vulnerable clients, such as children and older individuals. The speakers shared their views on how to address complicated situations involving conflicts and confidentiality; representing incapacitated clients; allocating decision making; and encouraging autonomy by disenfranchised clients. At the conclusion of the program, participants received 2 CLE ethics credits for free.

### **Amicus Briefs**

Continuing in a long tradition of law reform and legal advocacy efforts, the Stein Center signed onto two amicus briefs this year.

The Stein Center was the lead amicus, and Stein Directors Bruce Green and Russell Pearce were individual signatories, in an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Weaver v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts* (No. 16-240). The brief argued that the plaintiff was denied his constitutional



right to a public trial – a structural defect – and was entitled to a new trial, since the plaintiff’s attorney never objected to the violation.

Additionally, the Stein Center, in conjunction with Fordham Law Professor Deborah Denno, submitted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the matter of *Johnson v. Kelley*, a method-of-execution challenge from Arkansas which raised issues having to do with judicial review in capital punishment matters and Eighth Amendment protections for death row inmates.

Learn more about the legal questions at issue in both cases in these Fordham Law News stories:

1) <http://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2017/03/28/stein-center-files-amicus-brief-with-u-s-supreme-court/> and 2) <http://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2016/12/05/stein-center-amicus-involves-professors-and-alumna/>

You can also read both amicus briefs, along with previously submitted ones, here: [http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/stein\\_amicus/](http://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/stein_amicus/)

### **Fordham-Stein Prize Dinner**

First awarded in 1976, the Fordham-Stein Prize is presented annually to a member of the legal profession whose work embodies the highest standards of the legal profession. Before a large crowd of distinguished judges, practitioners and Fordham alumni on October 13, 2016, this year’s Fordham-Stein Prize was awarded to The Honorable Judge Guido Calabresi, US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Find out more about the 2016 Stein Prize Dinner: <http://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2016/10/14/legendary-torts-scholar-circuit-judge-receives-stein-prize/>

For additional information about the Fordham-Stein Prize and a list of past recipients, please go to our website: <http://law.fordham.edu/louis-stein-center-for-law-and-ethics/1953.htm>.

### **III. Programs for Fordham Law Students**

Finally, the Stein Center organized three programs for the benefit of Fordham Law students, two Pathways-to-Practice conversations featuring Stein Scholars graduates and one discussion about government ethics that showcased Fordham Law faculty.

#### **Pathways-to-Practice Programs**

On September 21, 2016, the Stein Center helped to organize **Pathways-to-Practice: A Conversation About Legal Careers in Family Law**. The discussion featured four Fordham alumni, who offered their experiences and advice to students and recent graduates interested in the field:

- Roxana Bernal ’10, Senior Immigration/DV Attorney, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.
- George Kottas ’09, Attorney, The Bronx Defenders, Family Defense Practice
- Andrea Vazquez ’12, Senior Legislative Attorney, New York City Council, Committee on General Welfare

•Lauren Weneprat '00, Stein Scholars alum and Director of Legal Services at Good Shepherd Services, Foster Care Division



With Stein Scholars student leader Lorena Jiron '17 as the moderator, the panelists answered questions pertaining to the nature of their practice, career paths and tips for soon-to-be practitioners. A robust Q&A session followed the presentations by the speakers.

On February 6, 2017, the Stein Center and the Feerick Center co-sponsored **Pathways-to-Practice: A Conversation on Immigration Law**, a panel discussion featuring four Fordham Law alums.



The speakers included:

- Jojo Annobil '90, Executive Director, Immigrant Justice Corps;
- Annie Chen '09, Stein Scholars alum and Associate Program Director of the Unaccompanied Children Program at the Vera Institute of Justice;

- Janice Chua '14, Stein Scholars alum and Immigrant Justice Corps Justice Fellow at Queens Legal Services; and
- Michelle Gonzalez '14, Stein Scholars alum and Immigration Defense Attorney, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem.

During the discussion, the Fordham alumni offered their experiences and advice to students interested in practicing in the field of immigration law upon graduation. They shared thoughts on a wide variety of topics, such as: what a typical day looks like; how they determined immigration law practice was the right career path; rewards and challenges of the work; and how they used their time at law school to prepare for the profession.



### **Fordham Law Faculty Panel**

On April 4, 2017, six members of the Fordham Law faculty discussed various aspects of government ethics in a program titled **White House for Sale? Government Ethics Under the New Administration:**

- Bruce Green, Louis Stein Chair of Law;
- Ethan Leib, Professor of Law;
- Aaron Saiger, Professor of Law;
- Jed Shugerman, Professor of Law;
- Zephyr Teachout, Associate Professor of Law; and
- Benjamin Zipursky, James H. Quinn '49 Chair in Legal Ethics.



The Fordham Law faculty touched on a multitude of issues during the program, including topics such as: profiteering, self-dealing, conflicts of interest, public offices as public trusts, the

Emoluments Clause, the status of *Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington v. Donald J. Trump* (SDNY), and who is the government lawyers' client.

#### **IV. STEIN SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

The Stein Scholars Program continues to play a key role in students' professional development, while advancing Fordham's mission to cultivate lawyers "in the service of others." Specifically, 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 non-profit, government and pro bono law settings. The Stein Scholars Program offers student-student, faculty-student, and alumni-student mentorship opportunities, as well as frequent workshops and conversations on career options and current issues of importance to the public interest community. The alumni network of Stein Scholars now exceeds 480 graduates and those graduates can be found throughout the country 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.

#### **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 play in each, and promote the cultivation of contacts and connections necessary when embarking on careers in public interest law.

Continuing the long-standing Stein Scholars tradition, 1L students are interning this summer at dozens of different types of government, direct service and law reform organizations:

NYLAG's Consumer Protection Project  
U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust  
Division  
Association for the Help of Retarded  
Children  
Queens Legal Services, Immigration  
The Legal Aid Society, Immigration Unit  
UFCW 770 (Los Angeles)  
Office of the Public Defender (New  
Orleans)  
Bronx Defenders

NYS Department of Environmental  
Conservation  
Public Advocates Office  
NYS Attorney General Environmental  
Protection Bureau  
NYC Transit Authority  
Legal Aid Society, Civil Law Reform Unit  
Brennan Center for Justice  
Sanctuary for Families  
The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights  
NYS Attorney General's Office

The Legal Aid Society, Prisoners' Rights  
Brooklyn Legal Services Corp A  
Advocates for Justice

Brooklyn Defender Services  
Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office  
New York City Council

### **Collaborations with Public Interest Organizations and Practitioners**

During their second year, Stein Scholars enroll in two courses focused on ethics and public interest law. In the fall semester, Stein Scholars choose between Professional Responsibility: Lawyers and Justice, which explores ethics issues in 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, while also providing opportunities to cultivate collaboration and teamwork skills. 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.



During the spring 2017 semester, Advanced Seminar students worked in teams on these six projects:

- Center for Court Innovation – to explore the use of restorative justice peace circles as an alternative to suspension/expulsion at five high-risk schools in Brooklyn and develop materials that can be used to initiate pilot programs.
- Center for Family Representation – to research the use of data analytics in child protective services cases around the country and present the findings to the staff at CFR.



- NYLAG Consumer Protection Unit – to create materials to empower prospective students to make informed decisions regarding enrollment in for-profit schools, as well as guidance on how to deal with student loan debt from such schools.
- International Refugee Assistance Project – to update and improve Request for Reconsideration materials for volunteers, attorneys, and refugees.
- ACLU-NJ – to report on the school-to-prison pipeline in New Jersey, based in part on analysis of memorandums of agreements between school districts and police departments, as well as codes of conducts.
- The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice, Special Litigation Unit – to draft a white paper about right to shelter for 16 to 24-year-olds in New York, including an analysis of alternative approaches to funding and ways to address the problem.



Additionally, each year, we bring several Stein graduates back to the school to talk with the Advanced Seminar students about issues having to do with their career paths and the legal profession, including mentoring, public interest lawyering and leadership. This semester’s Stein speakers included: **Richard Saenz ’10**, Staff Attorney and the Criminal Justice and Police Misconduct Program Strategist at Lambda Legal; **Janos Marton ’09**, Director of Policy and Campaigns at JustLeadershipUSA; **Susan Welber ’98**, Staff Attorney at The Legal Aid Society Civil Law Reform Unit; **Liz Ling ’15**, J.D./M.S.W., Brooklyn Defender Services – Family Defense Practice Staff Attorney; and **Afua Atta-Mensah ’04**, Executive Director at Community Voices Heard. These conversations expanded the students’ connections and understanding of the world of public interest law, while simultaneously providing opportunities for graduates to remain engaged with the Law School.

You can learn more about the Advanced Seminar here:  
<http://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2017/03/13/advanced-seminar-in-public-interest-lawyering/>



Read about the Advanced Seminar's unique collaboration with Fordham's Graduate School of Education: <http://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2017/03/02/grad-ed-students-talk-teamwork-with-law-students/>

### **Roundtables, Networking and Coalition-Building**

During the 2016-2017 academic year, current Stein Scholars organized roundtables and workshops on a variety of compelling legal issues. By conceptualizing and producing the panels, Stein Scholars expand their knowledge about key legal and policy issues and enhance their leadership skills, while also connecting with practicing attorneys from multiple fields and types of practices.

This year's topics included:

- Stop and Frisk and Community Lawyering (September 28)
- Women in the Workplace: Gender Norms and Professionalism in the Legal Field (November 2)
- Alternatives to Incarceration (November 9)
- Silence is Complicity: Bystander Training (February 15)
- Labor, Trump and the Fight for Economic Justice (March 29)
- Environmental Justice (April 5)



In addition, Stein Scholars invited graduates of the Program back to the Law School on January 18, 2017 for an evening of networking and socializing. It was a unique opportunity for students, particularly 1L Steins, to practice putting newly acquired networking skills into action with a friendly crowd!



Finally, Stein Scholars were instrumental this year in the formation of a new City-wide law school coalition - NYC Metro Area Law Student Coalition - because they understand that their impact as law students can be so much greater when they join forces with other activists.

## **Fundraising for the Stein Bar Fund**

The fundraising campaign initiated in 2013 in conjunction with the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stein Scholars Program continued this year, in order to raise funds to provide grants to 3L Steins (Class of 2017) to help offset the cost of the bar review and bar exam. Grants totaling approximately \$11,000 will be provided to eleven 3Ls, all of whom are committed to pursuing a public interest law career. We received generous contributions from more than 60 Stein Scholars alumni and friends of the Program during the year, which in addition to being greatly appreciated by the Stein Bar Fund grant recipients, reflects one way Stein Scholars alumni continue to give back and stay connected to the Program long after they have graduated.

## **Stein Public Service Fund**

With alumni support and in collaboration with Stein Council, the Stein Center renewed the Stein Public Service Fund again this year, and awarded three grants to help expand social justice efforts at the Law School and within the broader community. Here is a brief description of the focus of each project:

- During the Student Week Against Mass Incarceration, students focused attention on the detrimental aspects of mass incarceration, as well as alternatives to the prison industrial complex, by for example, constructing a model solitary confinement cell on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Law School;
- Participation in the Universal Justice Alternative Spring Break trip to Cuba, to conduct legal and field research and prepare a written report on the systemic discrimination and everyday microaggressions facing Afro-Cubans; and
- To lend support to a new initiative to build a NYC worker association for bicycle industry workers to help them organize for better working conditions and security.



These projects facilitated the expansion of public service undertakings by students at the Law School, in other parts of the City and beyond.

## **Recognition for 3L Stein Scholars**

Many 3L Stein Scholars (Class of 2017) received recognition for their efforts to give back to the Law School and broader community and we are pleased to highlight some of their accomplishments:

- **Derick Dailey** served as the 2016-2017 National Chair for the Black Law Students Association.
- **Lorena Jiron** was recognized by National Jurist as a “Law Student of the Year” and was selected to be an Equal Justice Works Fellow to work on domestic violence issues upon graduation.
- **Josh Liebman** received a national award (the Burton Award) given to ten law students nationally for distinguished writing, after having been nominated by the Fordham faculty based on his *Fordham Law Review* Note.
- **Sahar Moazami** was selected as Fordham Law School’s Public Service Valedictorian for her leadership roles with several student groups, including the Coalition for Concerned Students, Advocates for Sexual Health & Rights and the National Lawyers Guild.
- **Herbie Rosen** served as Student Bar Association (SBA) president this year, while also being a leader in other student groups, including Youth Advocacy Law Association and Universal Justice.
- **Kathy Walter** established Education Law Collaborative, a new student group in the Public Interest Resource Center.
- **Laura Wooley** was one of 25 students nationally to receive a 2017 Immigrant Justice Corps fellowship, which will enable her to serve immigrant youth following graduation.

## **Stein Alumni Advisory Board**

The Stein Alumni Advisory Board, which consists of one representative from each Stein Scholars graduated class, for a total of 22 Advisory Board members, continues to actively support the work of the Stein Center and the Stein Scholars Program. For a list of current alumni members of the Advisory Board, please go to our website: <http://law.fordham.edu/louis-stein-center-for-law-and-ethics/31833.htm>. The Advisory Board meets regularly and maintains contact with classmates in between in-person meetings. The Advisory Board is currently making plans to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stein Scholars Program on April 19, 2018, and the Board was instrumental in conceiving and implementing such annual events as the ethics CLE program and the Stein Alumni Awards Reception, as well as in initiating and supporting the annual Stein Bar Fund fundraising campaign.

## Stein Alumni Awards Reception



Over 100 students, graduates, faculty members, and administrators of the Stein Scholars Program came together on September 26, 2016, to celebrate the Program and honor the two recipients of this year's "*In the Service of Others*" Award:

- **Rachel Kleinman '05**, senior counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- **Alejandro Forte '99**, principal attorney with Mental Hygiene Legal Service, 9th Judicial District

Everyone in attendance was moved to learn of the day-to-day battles Alejandro confronts as he strives to help his clients live their lives with security and dignity, when society would often rather forget they exist. Participants were equally inspired to learn about the long-term struggles that Rachel engages in to combat racism and discrimination, whether that be by, for example, challenging the improper stops by police of New York City public housing residents and their guests, or objecting to inequities in the admissions process utilized to determine who gets to go to some of New York City's most prestigious high schools.



Dean Matthew Diller started the evening off by reminding us of his long history with the Stein Scholars Program, as well as the critical role the Program plays in helping to train and support lawyers in the service of others. **Deborah Mantell '07**, also an attorney with Mental Hygiene

Legal Service, presented the award to Alejandro, and **Ami Sanghvi '05**, senior trial attorney with the EEOC in California, presented the award to Rachel. **Sasha Fisher '16**, a new member of the Stein alumni community, gave closing remarks.

The Awards Reception provided a wonderful opportunity for Stein Scholars alumni to re-kindle connections with each other and the Law School, while also allowing students in the Program to meet and interact with graduates employed in jobs across the legal profession.

### **Stein Center News**

This year, the Stein Center again 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 and current students, and photos showcasing the best moments of Stein Center and Stein Scholars Program activities. During the 2016-2017 year, we featured over 18 Stein alumni discussing such diverse topics as immigration law practice, women's rights from a local and international perspective, the impact of military service on law students and lawyers, and lifelong public service careers.

Stein Center News helps to foster connections between current students and graduates of the Program, while simultaneously raising the profile of the Law School by promoting the work of the Center and the Stein Scholars Program to the broader legal community. Current and back issues of Stein Center News are accessible from the home page of the Stein Center: <http://law.fordham.edu/stein>.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

The Stein Center is proud to be a part of Fordham Law School and excited to continue to offer programs and conferences 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."