

April 2008

***Professor Penny Venetis to Receive Alumni Award of Excellence from Boston College Law School***

Clinical Professor Penny Venetis and her students in the Constitutional Litigation Clinic established new precedent in international human rights law in a case termed “a tribute to our profession” by the *New Jersey Law Journal* (Dec. 24, 2007). As co-director of the clinic, Venetis also has led significant litigation that has won important protections for New Jersey voters against unreliable electronic voting machines and that has established the constitutional right of non-residents to use municipal parks.

On April 28, Boston College Law School will present Venetis, who received her J.D. *cum laude* from the school in 1989, with the 2008 Alumni Award of Excellence in Public Service. “Penny Venetis is a tenacious advocate and outstanding teacher,” said Dean Stuart L. Deutsch. “We are delighted that Boston College Law School has recognized the many civil rights and international human rights advances achieved by the Rutgers Constitutional Litigation Clinic through her efforts.”



Prior to joining the faculty in 1994, Venetis clerked for Judge Dickinson R. Debevoise of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. She also practiced law with the firm O’Melveny & Myers in New York for four years. Her work at Rutgers focuses on civil rights and on the interplay between international human rights law and U.S. constitutional law.

***Student Journal Symposia Bring Top Legal and Policy Experts to the Law School***

The *Rutgers Law Review*, *Women’s Rights Law Reporter*, and *Rutgers Race and the Law Review* each recently hosted a symposium that addressed a significant legal and public policy issue and attracted leading scholars and advocates as participants and audience members. The *Law Review*, in conjunction



with the Rutgers Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, sponsored “The United Nations Genocide Convention: A 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration.” Among the speakers was Holocaust survivor Gina Lanceter (third from right), co-chair of the Holocaust Council of Metrowest. With her are *Law Review* members (l-r): Ireneo Bartolome ’09, Heidi Alexander ’09, symposium editor

Megha Jonnalagadda ’08, Riadh Quadir ’09, and Melanie Lipomanis ’08.

Keynote speaker for the *Women’s Rights Law Reporter* symposium, “Legal Gender? The Limitations of a Male/Female Binary,” was Dean Spade (at right), visiting professor at UCLA and Harvard law schools and founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. At left are *Reporter* editors-in-chief Asaf Orr ’08 and Moira Dillaway ’08.



*Rutgers Race and the Law Review* symposium speakers included legal scholars and activists from around the country, as well New Jersey education law and policy experts. The topic was “Equal Protection or Just ‘Separate but Equal’? The future of diversity following *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District.*”

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## FACULTY NOTES

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**Professor Frank Askin's** essay in the *Rutgers Law Review* entitled "Disenfranchising Felons (Or, How William Rehnquist Earned His Stripes)" (59 *Rutgers L. Rev.* 875, 2007) was posted on the March 17 Election Law Blog.

**Professor Vera Bergelson** presented "Consent to Harm" at the April 4 symposium, Victims and the Criminal Justice System, held at Pace Law School. Her paper will be published in a symposium issue of *Pace Law Review*.

**Associate Professor Karima Bennoune** will speak at the May 1 conference sponsored by the World Court Project to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The conference, to be held in Geneva, is entitled "Good Faith, International Law, and the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: The Once and Future Contributions of the International Court of Justice." On May 6 at Goldsmiths College, the University of London, she will give a seminar on her paper "Terror/Torture." Bennoune chaired a panel at the *Rutgers Law Review* April 4 symposium on "The United Nations Genocide Convention: A 60th Anniversary Commemoration."

As part of the March 25 ceremony marking the opening of the National Equal Justice Library at its new location at Georgetown Law Center, **Professor Jon Dubin** received his 2002 Edgar and Jean Cahn Award for writing one of the past century's top articles about equal justice for lower income persons. The article, "Torquemada Meets Kafka: The Misapplication of the Issue Exhaustion Doctrine to Inquisitorial Administrative Proceedings" was published in the *Columbia Law Review* in 1997.

The law library will host the Technology Awareness Group spring semester meeting on May 9. **Digital Services Librarian Wei Fang** and former digital services librarian Kevin Reiss, now at the CUNY Graduate School, will be among the presenters. Fang will discuss "Using Adobe Flash Technology on Library Websites for Multimedia Enhancement." On April 5, the library hosted the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Bridge the Gap legal research training program for summer

associates. The program is presented by the New Jersey Law Librarians Association.

**Professor Gary Francione** presented "Taking Sentience Seriously" at an April 14 seminar co-sponsored by the International College of Philosophy and the Veolia Environmental Institute in Paris. The focus of the seminar was his scholarship on animal rights. Francione will be a guest speaker at the Center for Ethics at Vanderbilt University on April 28 and 29. He will present the paper "The Personhood of Nonhuman Animals," which will be discussed during the two days. At the Rutgers-Newark Annual Provost's Day on April 23, he will present "Animal Rights and Our Moral Schizophrenia Concerning Nonhuman Animals."

"Domestic Bonds, Credit Derivatives, and the Next Transformation of Sovereign Debt" by **Associate Professor Anna Gelpern** has been published in the *Chicago-Kent Law Review* (83 *Chi.-Kent. L. Rev.* 147, 2008). On March 27 Gelpern participated in a panel on the political economy of sovereign debt at the International Studies Association annual convention in San Francisco, and on April 8-9 she was a panelist at the United Nations' Workshop on Debt, Finance and Emerging Issues in Financial Integration. Gelpern taught a seminar on sovereign bankruptcy at NYU Law School on April 17. The seminar is part of a course on international insolvency offered by NYU in conjunction with the American College of Bankruptcy, and simultaneously webcast at Tulane and Utah law schools. Gelpern will present her paper, "Northern Rock, SuperSIV and Memories of Seoul" at a conference on the credit crisis to be held at Seton Hall Law School on May 9. The paper has been selected for presentation at the 2008 Junior Scholar Workshop on Banking and Consumer Financial Services Law, which will take place at the University of Connecticut on May 28-29.

**Professor John Leubsdorf** was the main author of an *amicus curiae* brief in a pending U.S. Supreme Court case on behalf of a group of Civil Procedure teachers from Harvard, NYU, Cornell, University of Texas, and Seton Hall law schools. The case, *Taylor v. Sturgell*, involves issues of

claim preclusion, the lower court having held that a second Freedom of Information Act suit for the same government documents was barred because the second plaintiff used the same lawyer as the first plaintiff and had certain connections with him. The brief opposes that ruling. Leubsdorf is a Visiting Professor at NYU Law School this semester.

**Professor Emeritus Saul Mendlovitz** conducted a faculty colloquium in March on the establishment of an independent United Nations emergency peace service to prevent and/or stop genocide and crimes against humanity. On April 4 he provided introductory remarks to the *Rutgers Law Review* symposium, "The United Nations Genocide Convention: A 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration."

The Supreme Court of Georgia, in *In Re Jefferson*, --- S.E.2d ----, 2008 WL 480121, Ga., February 25, 2008 (No. S07G1208) quoted several of **Professor Louis Raveson's** law review articles extensively throughout the opinion in considering whether an attorney's contempt conviction should be overturned. The court adopted verbatim a list of factors suggested in the articles for determining whether an attorney's courtroom advocacy and conduct is contumacious, and remanded the case in light of those factors.

**Associate Clinical Professor Jennifer Rosen-Valverde** of the Special Education Clinic was one of the presenters at a March 13 training program at the New Jersey Law Center for attorneys who represent parents and caretakers of children with special needs.

The March 19 *Washington Independent*, a policy and politics webpaper, published **Professor David Troutt's** essay "No County for Old (Black) Men." Troutt participated in the March 7 roundtable discussion on "Race, Ethnicity, and the Subprime Mortgage Crisis" held by the Rutgers Center for Race & Ethnicity.

**Clinical Professor Penny Venetis** spoke about voting rights litigation at the March 26 Election Verification Network conference in New Orleans.

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## STAFF & STUDENT NEWS

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The Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties honored **Edna Baugh, Assistant Director for Clinical Administration**, with a Distinguished Service Award at its 16th Annual Women of Distinction Gala, held on April 9. Baugh was elected the council's first African-American president in 1995.

**Jared Heady '10** has been selected as the Charles J. Walsh Scholar. The award includes a scholarship and a summer internship with Sills Cummis Epstein & Gross P.C. Prior to his appointment to the Superior Court, Bergen County, the late Judge Walsh was a member of Sills Cummis for 17 years. He also was an adjunct professor at the law school.

**3L Mary Kopczynski** won first prize in the Nathan Burkan Memorial Competition at Boston University School of Law. Her essay was entitled "Robin Hood Versus the Bullies: Software Piracy and Developing Countries." The competition is sponsored by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

Rutgers-Newark law students comprise four of the five scholarship winners announced by the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey at its Annual Scholarship Jazz Brunch on April 19, held in Princeton. They are: **Senior Alumni Relations Director Tamara Britt '09, Bridget Bland '10, Astra Holder '10, and Corinne Rivers '08.**

The Class of 2009's **Kelly Targett, Brian Fischkin, and Calvin May** won the David Cohn Appellate Advocacy Competition and will represent the law school at next fall's national competition.

The Kinoy-Stavis and Marsha Wenk Fellowship Programs have selected the following students as public interest fellows for the Class of 2009: Kinoy-Stavis Fellows – **Elizabeth Houston, Madelon Gauthier, and Michael Pignatiello.** Wenk Fellows – **Alex Lewis and Aarin Williams.**

**2L Chadwick Gaines** was one of two competitors named Best Trial Advocate in the Association of Black Law Students' Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Regional Competition, held at the law school on Feb. 14-16. The March 10 *Wilmington (MA) Advocate* reported on the competition.

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### ALUMNAE/I HIGHLIGHTS

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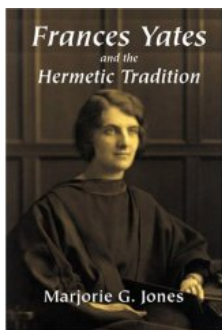
**Denise A. Cobham '79** was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge in Essex County. She had been a deputy public defender.

Gibbons P.C. has named **Luis Diaz '87** its first chief diversity officer. Diaz also is director of the intellectual property group at the firm. Before joining Gibbons, he was executive vice president and senior counsel for IDT Corporation.

**Linda S. Ershow-Levenberg '84** is co-author of the new "*LexisNexis Practice Guide: New Jersey Elder Law.*" Ershow-Levenberg is a partner with the firm Fink Rosner Ershow-Levenberg in Clark. She argued before the New Jersey Supreme Court on behalf of *amicus curiae* New Jersey Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys in *In re Keri*, for which she received an Appreciation Award from the Guardianship Association of New Jersey.

WorldWater & Solar Technologies Corp. has named **Robert A. Gunther '77** to the newly created position of senior vice president and general counsel. He had been vice president and general counsel of Keating Building Corp.

**Marjorie Jones '68** is the author of "*Frances Yates and the Hermetic Tradition*," to be published in June by Ibis Press. Jones teaches historiography and European and women's history courses at Mercy College. Her book is the first biography of Frances Yates, whose "*The Art of Memory*" (1966) has been described as one of the most significant non-fiction books of the 20th century.



**Marquis Jones '94** was sworn in as a Superior Court judge in Ocean County. He had been assistant corporation counsel in Newark's law department.

**Donna Lieberman '73**, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, received the New York State Bar Association's 11th Annual Haywood Burns Memorial Award.

Verizon Wireless named **Barrington Lopez '99** general counsel, Midwest area. He had been assistant general counsel, business and strategic alliances, Verizon Communications.

**Nancy McDonald '89** has established the McDonald Law Group LLC in Florham Park. The firm focuses on general corporate and transactional law for middle market, closely-held businesses. McDonald had been a partner with Bressler, Amery & Ross.

**David W. Mills '73**, who is managing general partner of the private investment firm Harbourton Enterprises, has been appointed to the Marvel Technology board of directors. Mills is a member of the faculty at Stanford Law School, where he currently holds the title senior lecturer, and was founder and first director of the Stanford clinical law program.

**Rosemary Nelson '82**, vice president and deputy general counsel-operations at Colgate-Palmolive Company, received the Distinguished Legal Service Award from the *Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*.

**John P. Sheridan Jr. '67** was appointed president and CEO of Cooper Health System. He had been senior vice president at Cooper and, before that, a senior partner and co-chairman of Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti LLP.

**Lisa P. Thornton '92**, previously chief of staff under Attorney General Anne Milgram, was sworn in as a Superior Court judge in Monmouth County.

**Herbert Whitehouse '95** is author of "The Impact of 401(k) Fiduciary Governance Structures on Corporate and Board Liability

Risk” in “*New York University Review of Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation – 2007*,” published by Matthew Bender & Company.

New York Governor David Paterson appointed the **Hon. James A. Yates ’73** as Counsel to the Governor. Judge Yates had served as a New York County Supreme Court Justice since 1998.

**U.S. District Judge William J. Martini ’72** presided over the corruption trial of former Newark Mayor Sharpe James and his one-time mistress, Tamika Riley. The prosecution team included assistant U.S. attorney **Philip Kwon ’94**. Lead counsel for James was **Thomas R. Ashley ’67** and co-counsel was **Alan Zegas ’81**. Riley was represented by **Gerald Krovatin ’77**.

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#### R-N LAW IN THE NEWS

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The March *Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* noted the new public interest fellowship program for Rutgers-Newark law students established by the Newark office of Proskauer Rose LLP.

The *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* interviewed **Professor Frank Askin** for a March 30 article on a local federal public corruption investigation. He was quoted in an April 9 *Star-Ledger* story about election candidates missing the deadline for filing petitions and a March 4 *Ledger* article about jury duty service for lawyers and public officials.

Comments by **Associate Dean Fran Bouchoux** were included in a March 31 *New Jersey Lawyer* article about law school diversity.

The April 15 *Financial Times* published a letter to the editor by **Associate Professor Anna Gelpert** on the subject of Brady bonds. Gelpert was quoted on the topic of sovereign debt in the March 12 Portfolio.com “Market Movers” blog.

**Associate Dean Greg Mark** was quoted in an April 15 Reuters article about a lawsuit against Citigroup. He commented for a March 9 *Record* article about a sexual harassment suit brought against a school district.

The *New Jersey Lawyer* talked to **Professor John Payne** for a Feb. 18 article on the Mount Laurel decisions and affordable housing in New Jersey.

**Professor Louis Raveson** was quoted on the use of DNA evidence for a March 13 *Star-Ledger* article and on a defendant’s obligation to call 911 for a March 11 *Ledger* article.

A March 31 *Newsweek* on Sen. Barack Obama included comments by **Professor David Troutt**, a Harvard Law School classmate of Sen. Obama.

In March and April, **Clinical Professor Penny Venetis** was interviewed by CNN, local TV stations, the *Star-Ledger*, *Record*, and Associated Press about voting issues, in particular, voting with electronic voting machines. Venetis and her students in the Constitutional Litigation Clinic represent plaintiffs challenging the use of electronic voting machines in New Jersey, arguing that they’re unreliable and susceptible to tampering. A Superior Court judge recently ordered six counties to have machines made by Sequoia Voting Systems available for independent testing.

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

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At its alumni reception during the New Jersey State Bar Association’s annual meeting, the law school will celebrate alums who have recently been named partner, honored as one of *New Jersey Law Journal’s* “40 Under 40,” or included in *NJ Biz’s* “Best 50 Women in Business.” The reception will be held from 5:30-7 pm at Atlantic City’s Trump Taj Mahal Casino Hotel. RSVP to 973-353-3043 or dev@kinoy.rutgers.edu.

The law school and Rutgers Business School will hold a joint **10th Reunion for the Class of 1998** on Friday, May 30, from 6 – 8:30 pm, at One Newark Center. For more information, email newark@alumni.rutgers.edu.

The law school and Alumni Association will hold a **wine and cheese reception for New York alumnae/i** from 6 – 8 pm on Thursday, June 12. Davis & Gilbert LLP, New York, will host the reception. RSVP to mmoore@kinoy.rutgers.edu or 973-353-3043 by June 2.