

HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of the* NEW YORK COURTS



LEGAL HISTORY MATTERS!



Rotunda of the New York County Courthouse at 60 Centre Street

Table of Contents

Board of Trustees & Staff.....	1
About the Society.....	3
Society Supporters.....	5
Annual Gala.....	7
Student Initiatives	11
Oral History Project.....	21
Publications	25
Programs for the Public	26
Our Partnership with the Supreme Court Historical Society.....	28
Reaching the Lawyers & Judges of the Future: Public Programs.....	30
Court Record Preservation.....	33
Moving into the Future.....	35





Appellate Division, First Judicial Department Supreme Court of the State of New York, 27 Madison Avenue

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Lady Justice featured in the mural "Romance of the Skies" in the Court of Appeals

About the Society

OUR MISSION: TO PROTECT, PROMOTE AND PRESERVE NYS LEGAL HISTORY

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE NEW YORK COURTS IS AN INDEPENDENT 501(c)(3) founded in 2002 by Judith S. Kaye, then NYS Chief Judge. We serve as an important voice of the Bench and Bar to the larger public. The Society focuses on reaching NYS students and the larger public about the importance of our legal system and how it operates, with emphasis placed on developing an understanding of the role the Bench and Bar play in promoting democracy, ensuring justice, and the Rule of Law.



STUDENT INITIATIVES The Society works with underserved students across NYS to foster a more positive perception of judges and lawyers. Our goal is to help students understand the important role of the legal system in protecting and preserving the rights of the people.

THIS IS HOW WE DO IT:

- Through curriculum development in partnership with a variety of schools and a fellowship program that brings lawyers and judges into classrooms, and students into courthouses, at the middle and high school levels.
- By offering an essay contest with cash prizes to CUNY community college students that provides mentorship from a faculty fellow who encourages students and faculty to become immersed in important civics topics, such as jury service.
- We learned that teachers feel ill equipped to teach curriculum involving case law, so we partnered with educators to develop workshops that teach the teachers how to understand and present this material. Teachers in underserved school districts throughout the State are benefitting from this enrichment, and the response from teachers is enthusiastic.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS & PUBLICATIONS The Society presents programs open to the public that showcase the rich legacy of NYS legal history in original and entertaining ways. We publish books and a journal that presents on its

pages events and figures from the past that may otherwise remain unexplored.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT The Society captures living history through its Oral History Project, focusing on judges and lawyers who are legal luminaries. These lawyers and judges are in the later stages of their careers, and the stories of their journeys to the law offer future generations the opportunity to look into our past and better understand the future.

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA The Society maintains a website and social media outlets. All of the materials generated by our work are kept alive and available on our website: www.nycourts.gov/history. The website is a curated virtual museum available to scholars, students, and the public, featuring NYS's legal history by eras and counties, biographies of judges, oral history transcripts, and images with the histories of beautiful courthouses across the State. Our programs are recorded, and the videos are available on the website, as is our published material. The *Teach & Learn* section features all curriculum developed for teachers and students, and is freely available everywhere. We have an ever-expanding video portal on our website that makes legal history come alive using cutting-edge technology. Our goal with the website and social media channels is to reach an ever-growing number of visitors. This is all done with an eye on how the past informs, educates, and guides the future of our democracy.



Guests mingle in a reception before a recent gala dinner

2017-2018

Society Supporters

THE SOCIETY RECOGNIZES ITS GENEROUS supporters who make our work possible. As a nonprofit organization, we depend on their continuing support through grants and donations. We could not have achieved success over the years without it.

GRANTS & SPONSORSHIPS

We are especially indebted to the individuals and organizations that provide grants and sponsorships. Working together, we have shaped initiatives that are meaningful to our donors and essential to our mission. Special thanks to:

- **Gloria & Barry H. Garfinkel Fund -**
David A. Garfinkel Essay Scholarship
- **Proskauer Rose LLP -**
Stephen R. Kaye Memorial Programs
- **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP -**
A Conversation with Patricia M. Hynes & Roy L. Reardon
- **Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP -**
Judith S. Kaye Programs: Conversations on Women in the Law
- **The William Nelson Cromwell Foundation**

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William vanden Heuvel

Updated February 1, 2018



Guests seated for dinner at the inaugural gala

Annual Gala

THE SOCIETY HOSTS AN ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA AT the New York Public Library to reach out to lawyers at law firms and corporations to support us. We produce short films, which are made available on our website, for many of our gala programs providing personal introductions to NYS judges and courts. These films supplement our oral history archives and provide an up close and personal look at the judicial system.

PAST HONOREES AND CHAIRS OF THE EVENING



2017 Get to Know: The Four Presiding Justices of the New York State Appellate Divisions

Hon. Peter Tom *Acting Presiding Justice of the First Department*

Hon. Randall T. Eng *Presiding Justice of the Second Department*

Hon. Karen K. Peters *Presiding Justice of the Third Department*

Hon. Gerald J. Whalen *Presiding Justice of the Fourth Department*

Judith S. Kaye Achievement Award Winner **Helaine M. Barnett**

Chair: Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.

Co-Chairs: Lynn K. Neuner and Michael W. Leahy

Honorary Chair: Roy L. Reardon



2016 Passing the Gavel: Continuity, Collaboration and Transition

Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

Remembering Judith S. Kaye

Chairs: Alan Levine and Robert J. Giuffra, Jr.

Honorary Chair: Roy L. Reardon



2015 At the Helm: A 30 Year Legacy of Leadership

Honoring the Chief Judges of the State of New York

Hon. Sol Wachtler (1985-1992)

Hon. Judith S. Kaye (1993-2008)

Hon. Jonathan Lippman (2009-2015)

Chair: Alan Levine

Honorary Chair: Roy L. Reardon



2014 We Celebrate the New York State Commercial Division: What a Success!

20th Anniversary

Chairs: Roy L. Reardon and John S. Siffert



2013 Honoring Lady Justice: New York State Court of Appeals Women Jurists

Hon. Judith S. Kaye

Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick

Hon. Victoria A. Graffeo

Hon. Susan Phillips Read

Hon. Jenny Rivera

Chairs: Roy L. Reardon and John S. Siffert



2012 Honoring the Rich Legacy of The New York State Bar Association and Saluting Its Presidents

*Chairs: Bernice K. Leber, Henry G. Miller, and
Stephen P. Younger*



2011 We Salute Roy L. Reardon: A Lawyer for All Seasons

Chair: John S. Siffert



2010 Hail to the Chief: Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York

Gala Planning Committee: Barry H. Garfinkel, Hon. Norman Goodman, John J. Halloran, Jr., Hon. E. Leo Milonas, Roy L. Reardon, James A. Rossetti, John S. Siffert, Stephen P. Younger



2009 Making History: Judith S. Kaye, Court of Appeals, 1983-2009

Gala Planning Committee: Barry H. Garfinkel, Hon. Norman Goodman, Hon. E. Leo Milonas, Roy L. Reardon, Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, James A. Rossetti, John S. Siffert, Stephen P. Younger



2008 Marking Important Anniversaries: 80th Anniversary of the New York County Courthouse & 40th Anniversary of Hon. Norman Goodman as NY County Clerk

Co-Chairs: Barry H. Garfinkel, Hon. E. Leo Milonas, Michael B. Powers, Roy L. Reardon, Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt



2007 Honoring Retired Judges of the New York Court of Appeals

Hon. Joseph W. Bellacosa **Hon. George Bundy Smith**
Hon. Stewart F. Hancock, Jr. **Hon. Sol Wachtler**
Hon. Howard A. Levine **Hon. Richard C. Wesley**
Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt *Chair: Roy L. Reardon*
Hon. Richard D. Simons

"The activity I found the most interesting was when we went to the courts. I felt like I was part of the case."

– George Jackson Academy Student

Hear more from GJA students at <http://bit.ly/ed-gja-video>



Student Initiatives

WE FOCUS ON REACHING UNDERSERVED NYS STUDENTS through classroom opportunities that develop respect for and understanding of our justice system. Through a variety of educational partnerships, we bring legal history curriculum to students, and judges and lawyers into classrooms, with the goal of fostering a positive view of our legal system. We expose students to what judges and lawyers do to promote justice, protect their rights, and safeguard their liberties.

We established the **Judith S. Kaye Teaching Fellowship** to fund the hiring of outside instructors who have a knowledge of the law to provide enrichment learning in the classrooms of underserved schools. Our Fellows teach at the high school and middle school levels. The feedback to this relatively new initiative has been very positive from administrators and students, and we plan to expand into more schools across the State. We view this as filling a societal need to build citizenship and an understanding of our democracy.

The **David A. Garfinkel Essay Scholarship** has been reaching community college students with prize money for essays that explore law and justice for over 10 years. In

2017, we funded a faculty fellow to better integrate this essay offering into the curriculum, and more effectively reach the student population of almost 100,000 on the 7 CUNY community college campuses.

Our success is based upon our partnerships with faculty at various levels of education to open a window for these students to understand the important role the courts play in our democracy and in their personal rights within that democracy.

Here are the projects we have funded in the past or are presently funding. With sponsor support, we could bring these successful models into many more classrooms across the State and beyond.

Middle School Students

GEORGE JACKSON ACADEMY

In 2016, we brought a **Fellow** to 8th graders at **George Jackson Academy (GJA)**, a middle school in lower Manhattan for disadvantaged boys. Topics covered during two semesters of classes included immigration, search and seizure, and First Amendment rights. The students visited a courthouse and the Manhattan DA's Office. The Fellowship program was well received at GJA, and a new Fellow is in place to teach a course in 2017/2018.

BARD EARLY COLLEGE ACADEMY

Though this program is no longer available, we proudly funded middle school teachers in lower Manhattan to teach about our judicial system in an after-school enrichment program. Topics drawn from lively and provocative case law engaged the students in critical thinking, teaching valuable skills to those who had little opportunity for such enrichment. We brought lawyers and judges into the classroom, giving these young people an opportunity to ask questions and come away with a personal and positive experience.

“Our students have been able to learn about the structure and functions of the Judicial Branch of government in New York, meet officers of the courts, visit actual courtrooms, and visit the District Attorney’s office. During their HSNYC class, students are able to engage in a rich dialogue about past court cases, laws, and make connections to themselves and the world around them.”

— Aisha Lloyd Williams,
Associate Head of School,
George Jackson Academy



Students in Dr. Kraut's GJA class visit the New York County Courthouse. Courtesy of Dr. Julia Rose Kraut



Middle schoolers gain insight into New York's legal history. Courtesy of photographer Editha Mesina & BHSEC

High School Students



BHSEC students at work on the theme of justice.
Courtesy of photographer Editha Mesina & BHSEC

Dr. Julia Rose Kraut with some of her students in her BHSEC class. Courtesy of Dr. Julia Rose Kraut

BARD HIGH SCHOOL EARLY COLLEGE

We have partnered with **Bard High School Early College (BHSEC)** since 2010 on their lower Manhattan and Queens campuses. Together, we developed engaging curriculum and field trips for high school students to explore various aspects of law, justice, and the courts while still meeting NYS public school guidelines. Our first project was the 2010 Writing and Thinking Workshop on the theme of justice. The workshop introduced students at all of the school's grade levels to the role of the NYS court system in establishing a just society.

Following the launch of our initiative, the Society continues to work with BHSEC to fund and collaborate on course materials, using important NYS cases as primary source documents. Through interesting fact patterns, students explore the reasoning of the courts, while developing critical thinking and a growing understanding of the role the justice system plays in protecting rights.

Another project featured an in-depth analysis of the Lemmon Slave Case. Affirmed by the Court of Appeals in 1860, the case illustrated how NYS law was ahead of federal law in finding that slaves brought into the State were not property.

Building on the success of these projects, we worked with BHSEC to bring a fellow into the classroom to teach a semester course and introduced the **Judith S. Kaye Teaching Fellowship** in 2016. Our first Fellow taught *Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, & the Empire State* on BHSEC campuses in Manhattan and Queens. The course explored the way the law and our courts shape history and establish our freedoms, covering topics including discrimination, freedom of expression, reproductive rights, labor, and immigration.

The Fellowship program was strongly supported by BHSEC, and a new Fellow is in place to teach courses on the two campuses in 2017/2018.



"They really got so interested in constitutional law... I've never in my life had students say, 'Can we look at the Constitution again?' And they wanted to because they really wanted to understand how both sides were using the Constitution to make an argument for different reasons."

— Laura Hymson, Dean of Academic Affairs, Social Studies Faculty, BHSEC Queens

Dean Hymson and her students had more to say about the Lemmon Slave Case at <http://bit.ly/ed-lemmon-sc-video>



"I believe this course is absolutely necessary, especially in our current political climate. There was so much this course taught me about my country that I didn't honor or fully understand."

— BHSEC Queens Student in *Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, & the Empire State*



"Thanks to a series of grants from the HSNYC, BHSEC has developed innovative curricula for middle school, high school and college students focusing on teaching the law through primary source documents that highlight the role of the New York courts in our shared legal history... In particular, the 'Lemmon Case' curriculum has been used on multiple campuses and at the middle and high school level... The contacts of the HSNYC with the New York legal community afford our students opportunities to interact with judges and attorneys whom they would never meet otherwise."

— William H. Hinrichs, Dean of Academic Life, Bard Early Colleges



BHSEC students study the theme of justice. Courtesy of photographer Editha Mesina & BHSEC

Community College Students



Past Scholarship winners at the Court of Appeals Law Day and winners' luncheon

When the **David A. Garfinkel Essay Scholarship** began in 2007, the Society decided to reach a segment of NYS students who receive little enrichment: those in the State's community colleges. NYS community colleges serve as a gateway to citizenship and higher education for large numbers of first generation and minority students. Focusing now on CUNY two-year community colleges, we consider this student body of approximately 100,000 an important group to reach. Students receive cash prizes for winning essays. Our success is based upon direct involvement with faculty at the various colleges, encouraging educators to include our essay in their curriculum or mentor participating students. To aid this effort, we provide the resources students need to write their essays, including writing tips, research materials, and questions to consider. Examples of essay topics include: *Stolen Art*; *You, the Juror*; *You, the Voter*; *LGBT: The Road to Equality*; and *Who Watches the Watchers?*



Hon. Judith S. Kaye and inaugural Garfinkel Essay Scholarship winner Elijah Fagan-Solis

A unique aspect of our contest is that prizes are awarded at the Law Day ceremony held at the NYS Court of Appeals. The prize winners meet the judges and tour the courthouse leaving an indelible positive impression of our courts.

Beginning in 2017, we funded the position of **Teaching Fellow** for the Scholarship and selected a professor in the CUNY system who is also an attorney. The Fellow is tasked with visiting all 7 schools to conduct workshops for both faculty and students which facilitate the writing of essays. Our goal is to work

from the inside to build a community of faculty who will include our brands of learning in their courses.

With additional funding support, we plan to expand the reach of this contest throughout the CUNY and SUNY community college systems through a network of faculty fellows.

↻

The Scholarship] gives [students] the chance to look at important aspects of our legal history and apply those doctrines to their individual experiences. This type of program is invaluable for community college students. Why?

It is one of the few opportunities to look at topics not often covered in traditional classroom settings... These topics are of vital importance to their understanding of our society and our legal system."

— Prof. Christine Mooney, Esq.,
Inaugural Historical Society
Fellow

Read more on our blog at
<http://bit.ly/garfinkel-essay-journey>

↻

"After being honored at Law Day..., I became more confident in my abilities and what I wanted to do with my life... I realized that I am somebody who will accomplish great things. I accepted the fact that I was called to work with young people, to use my personal experiences as a platform to encourage and empower them to reimagine their futures and abilities, and to remind them they are capable of more than they could dream or imagine."

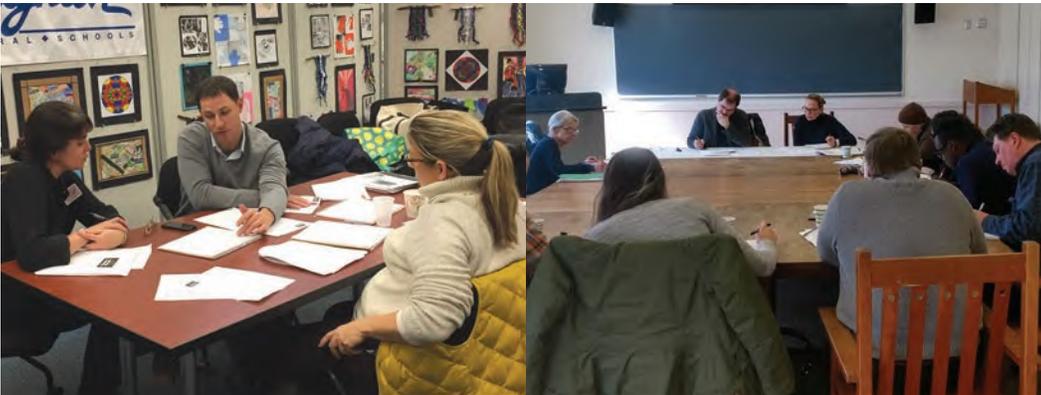
— Elijah Fagan-Solis, Inaugural
David A. Garfinkel Essay
Scholarship Winner

Read more on our blog at
<http://bit.ly/blog-inaugural-garfinkel>



Students listen to Hon. Jenny Rivera speak about the 2015 David A. Garfinkel Essay Scholarship at Queensborough Community College

Teachers Workshops



Teachers participate in a December 2016 workshop. Courtesy of Bard College Institute for Writing and Thinking

Educators participate in February 2017 workshop. Courtesy of Bard College Institute for Writing and Thinking

Legal concepts can be difficult to teach. To overcome the reluctance of teachers to bring important topics surrounding the Constitution and Bill of Rights, justice, and the Rule of Law into the classroom, we have partnered with **Bard College Institute for Writing and Thinking** to sponsor a series of professional development workshops across the State. These workshops provide teachers with tools necessary to present court cases that further democracy as primary source documents. Workshops also explore how educators can apply writing strategies to the teaching of primary historical legal sources. Our focus is on teaching middle and high school social studies and language arts educators how to teach these vital concepts in underserved schools across the State.

With additional funding we plan to expand this successful model of teacher workshops throughout the State, focusing on underserved school districts.

TEACH & LEARN ON OUR WEBSITE

We developed *Teach & Learn*, a section on our website, to house a growing library of educational resources. Included are teacher workshop materials, curriculum and course materials, links to other sites, and videos that feature students discussing their experiences analyzing our materials. These tools focus on the unique lens of our courts and lawyers and how they work together to further justice and the law. As we continue to create projects with our education partners, we update our reference materials with new courses, syllabi, and lesson plans. Our goal is to reach teachers across the State with tools to bring these vital concepts of democracy into the classroom.

Additional dollars will allow us to fund teachers to develop units of curriculum about our legal system to add to our website. This would greatly expand this initiative and allow us to reach a larger range of teacher at different grade levels.



"So much can be gained from the study of foundational US judicial text!... Collaboration with [Social Studies] teachers was so incredibly generative."

– Teachers Workshop Participant



"This workshop was extremely interactive. I see so many different ways to use these strategies. The versatility will allow me to improve my teaching practice. I also believe these ideas will encourage a deeper level of thinking in my class."

– Teachers Workshop Participant



"I want to commend you on your web page. My grandson is a bit of a social studies enthusiast and wants to be a lawyer when he grows up... While we were browsing the web, we came upon your web page which featured many useful links to wonderful resources related to social studies... It certainly helped my [grandson]!"

– Recent email from a website user, titled "Historical Society of the NY Courts – Thank You"



"I loved experiencing the writing to learn process. I have had many teachers I work with participate in this work and have seen the power of it in their classrooms. I love the way the use of the documents invites a conversation."

– Teachers Workshop Participant



Dean Laura Hymson works with her students on the Lemmon Slave Case



A sampling of the Society's oral histories

Oral History

THE SOCIETY BEGAN ITS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT IN 2005 TO DOCUMENT PATHS to the law, careers, experiences, and observations of retired judges and lawyers who are prominent members of the New York Bench and Bar. These figures serve as role models for young people and generate interest in law-related careers, and their histories are valuable tools that help understand recent history from their experiences as participants in the law. Subjects speak about their backgrounds, childhoods, and events that shaped them as they also reflect on their contributions to New York's law and legal process. These are spoken personal accounts, illustrating the subject's thoughts, perceptions, and reflections. As such, these oral histories are unique and irreplaceable.

Interviews are videotaped, and the Society prepares transcripts of each film. Once the transcripts complete a review process, they are made available to the public on our website, forming a rich archive of legal history.

As we look more and more to the internet for learning, these filmed interviews will become important tools

bridging the generations and teaching valuable lessons in citizenship to our students and to the general public.

With additional funding, we can expand the scope and content of this rich oral history archive which becomes ever more valuable as we move into the future.



Hyon Kim, Esq. interviews Society Trustee Helaine M. Barnett, Esq., Chair of the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice and former President of the Legal Services Corporation.



Society President Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt interviews Hon. Richard D. Simons about Judge Simons' experiences as a judge with the Oneida Nation Judiciary



"[I]n terms of our own history, the history of our own court, the history of the courts of the State of New York, we were just not really good about keeping it for ourselves and for future generations... [T]here we were, digging into the history of the Court of Appeals, and then the interest broadened and broadened and broadened, as justifiably it should have, to the court system in general in the State of New York. We have a great court system in the State of New York. We have a great history and a great heritage."

The Oral History of Hon. Judith S. Kaye

on the creation of the Historical Society of the New York Courts

Read more from Judge Kaye's oral history, and many others, at <http://bit.ly/hs-oral-histories>



State of New York Court of Appeals courtroom

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES



1968
Hon. Matthew J. Jasen
Associate Judge,
1968-1985



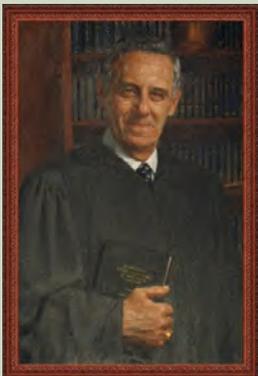
1973
Hon. Sol Wachtler
Associate Judge,
1973-1984
Chief Judge, 1985-1992



1975
Hon. Lawrence H. Cooke
Associate Judge,
1975-1979
Chief Judge, 1979-1984



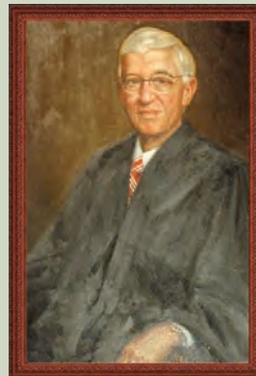
1979
Hon. Bernard S. Meyer
Associate Judge,
1979-1984



1987
Hon. Joseph W. Bellacosa
Associate Judge,
1987-2000



1992
Hon. George Bundy Smith
Associate Judge,
1992-2006



1993
Hon. Howard A. Levine
Associate Judge,
1993-2002



1997
Hon. Richard C. Wesley
Associate Judge,
1997-2003



Other New York State Judges



Hon. Richard J. Bartlett
Chief Administrative Judge,
1974-1979



Hon. Milton Mollen
Associate Justice, Appellate
Division, Second Department,
1976-1977
Presiding Justice, Appellate
Division, Second Department,
1978-1990



Hon. William C. Thompson
Associate Justice, Appellate
Division, Second Department,
1980-2001

Legal Luminaries



Helaine M. Barnett, Esq.
Chair, Permanent Commission on
Access to Justice



Robert B. Fiske, Jr., Esq.
Attorney



S. Hazard Gillespie, Esq.
Attorney



Hon. Norman Goodman
New York County Clerk,
1969-2014



Michael F. McEnaney, Esq.
Director of Court
Operational Services,
Office of Court Administration



Roy L. Reardon, Esq.
Attorney



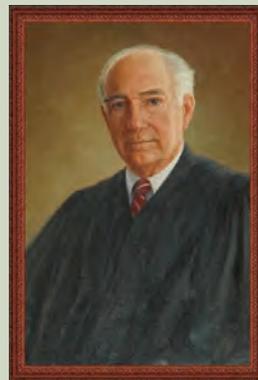
**Charlotte
Smallwood-Cook, Esq.**
District Attorney, Wyoming County,
1950-1953



1983
Hon. Richard D. Simons
Associate Judge,
1983-1997



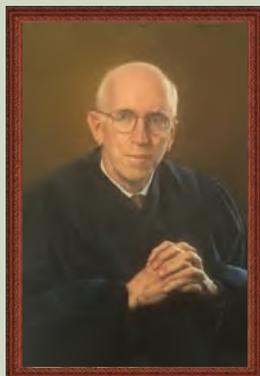
1983
Hon. Judith S. Kaye
Associate Judge,
1983-1993
Chief Judge, 1993-2008



1986
**Hon. Stewart F.
Hancock, Jr.**
Associate Judge,
1986-1993



1999
**Hon. Albert M.
Rosenblatt**
Associate Judge,
1999-2006



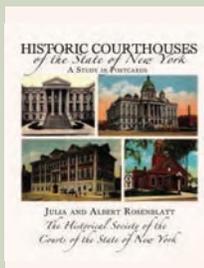
2004
Hon. Robert S. Smith
Associate Judge,
2004-2014



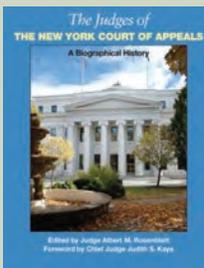
Suffragists marching in New York, 1913. Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, LC-B201-3643-12

BOOKS

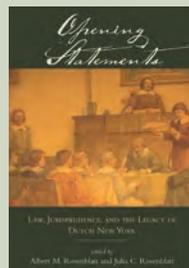
Over the years, certain worthy topics have developed into books. We started with an important biographical compilation of all Judges who have sat on our High Court; looked at courthouses across the State; returned to our Dutch roots for the beginnings of NYS jurisprudence; and are preparing to publish the memoirs of our founder, **Former Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye.**



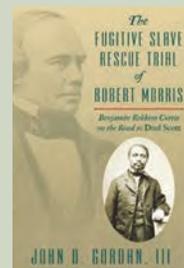
2006 Historic Courthouses of the State of New York: A Study in Postcards by Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt & Julia C. Rosenblatt



2007 The Judges of The New York Court of Appeals: A Biographical History edited by Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, with foreword by Hon. Judith S. Kaye



2013 Opening Statements: Law, Jurisprudence, and the Legacy of Dutch New York edited by Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt & Julia C. Rosenblatt



2013 The Fugitive Slave Rescue Trial of Robert Morris: Benjamin Robbins Curtis on the Road to Dred Scott by John D. Gordan, III



Upcoming Publication
Judith S. Kaye: Her Own Words on Life, Law and Justice.
Reflections on a Life in the Judiciary, the Law and the World by Hon. Judith S. Kaye

Publications

WE TAKE SERIOUSLY OUR MISSION TO BRING TO life, and make relevant, New York's legal heritage. Our publications include a yearly calendar, the journal *Judicial Notice*, and books. We welcome sponsorships for all of our published works.



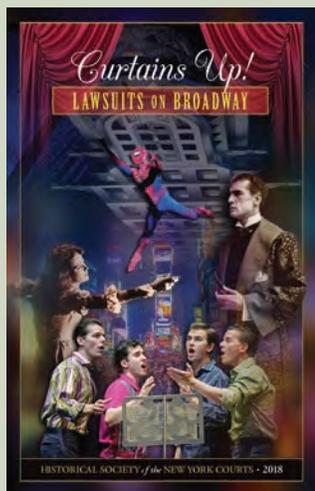
A courtroom sketch from *Utica Saturday Globe*, featuring the rowboat where Grace Brown died as an exhibit. Photo provided by Craig Brandon and appears in *Murder in the Adirondacks* (North Country Books, 2016)



LOOK INSIDE JUDICIAL NOTICE

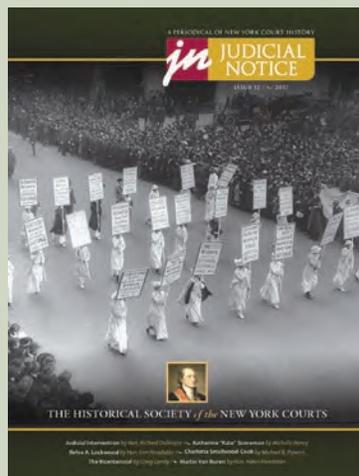
Professor Susan N. Herman's article "*People v. Gillette* and Theodore Dreiser's *An American Tragedy: Law v. Literature*" provides an in-depth analysis of the murder trial of Chester Gillette and how it influenced author Theodore Dreiser's protagonist Clyde Griffiths.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/jn-people-v-gillette>



CALENDAR

Our annual calendar features a soundbite of New York legal history each month, from the fun and lighthearted to a birds-eye view of important elements of jurisprudence over the centuries. Past themes have included *Literature in the New York Courts: Cases & Quotations*, *New York's Constitutional Journey from 1777-2016*, *The Art of Justice*, and *Post Cards*. Relying heavily on visuals, the calendar keeps our members eager to turn a page each month and learn a new fact or anecdote!



JUDICIAL NOTICE

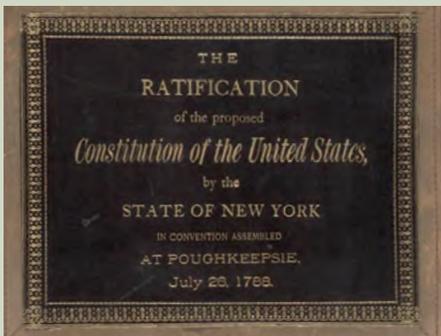
Since its inception in 2002, the Society has published a journal to give voice to professional and amateur historians who wish to explore a corner of legal history. Our journal has grown from a paperback newsletter to a journal of substance. The articles are enhanced with images that make the stories come alive.

Programs for the Public

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR MISSION IS TO REACH THE public with engaging programs that will capture interest and draw large audiences. We do this in several formats: our own programming; programs in partnership with other important organizations; and events geared to the next generation of lawyers and judges.

All of our public events are filmed and permanently included on our website for free and readily available viewing.

All of this takes funding to promote and to deliver. The richness of topics is plentiful, but costs are high, and we look to our sponsors to help support these events.



2005 An Empire of Reason: The History of Federalism in America

This film brings the events following the American Revolution into the 21st century to better connect the discontent surrounding the creation of the nation to today's audience.



2008 Courtrooms & Courthouses: What Do They Say? How Do They Say It?

Leading architects discussed the evolution of courthouse design, while OCA Executive Director **Ronald Younkings, Esq.** described the challenges of courthouse planning.



2010 Law, Justice, and the Holocaust: Lessons for the Courts Today

This joint program with the United States Holocaust Museum analyzed the impact of the Holocaust and the Nuremberg Trials on the practice of law and the function of the courts today. Included are the powerful words of **Hon. Matthew J. Jasen** (pictured here), who presided over trials in post-war Germany.



Guests react to presenters at a recent Society event



**2014 Asian-Americans and the Law:
New York Pioneers in the Judiciary**

A presentation by **Hon. Denny Chin** and **Kathy Hirata Chin, Esq.** on Asian-American legal history preceded a conversation with pioneering Asian-American judges in NYS: **Hon. Randall T. Eng, Hon. Peter Tom, and Hon. Dorothy Chin-Brandt.**



**2015 Fighting Human Trafficking on
the Front Lines: New York State Courts
and their Law Enforcement Partners**

Then-Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman partnered with the Society to develop a program about the history of human trafficking as well as the development of the Human Trafficking Intervention Courts.



**2015 Western New York Women
Pioneers in the Law: A Celebration**

Hosted with Buffalo Law School, this program looked back at women pioneers: **Shirley St. Hill Chisholm, Charlotte Smallwood-Cook, Belva A. Lockwood, Kate Stoneman, and Helen Z.M. Rogers.**

Program Partnership with the Supreme Court Historical Society

WE HAVE BUILT A RICH PARTNERSHIP WITH THE Supreme Court Historical Society, developing programs that showcase NYS contributions to the Supreme Court bench. This series has brought Supreme Court Justices to NYS around figures such as John Jay and Thurgood Marshall. In our latest program, we were privileged to have Chief Justice John Roberts discuss his predecessor and New Yorker, Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes.



2008 Ladies of Legend: The First Generation of American Women Attorneys

The Society welcomed Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg for a lecture that explored the impact of women pioneers in the law.



2011 Nominated from New York: The Empire State's Contributions to the Supreme Court Bench

John Jay: A Family Affair

Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg returned for readings of letters written by John Jay and his family.



2012 Nominated from New York: The Empire State's Contributions to the Supreme Court Bench

Thurgood Marshall: "Mr. Civil Rights"

Hon. Sonia Sotomayor visited New York for a lecture on Thurgood Marshall.



The audience listens to former Solicitors General Hon. Elena Kagan, Drew S. Days III, and Paul D. Clement in our 2013 partnership *Learned in the Law*



2013 Nominated from New York: The Empire State's Contributions to the Supreme Court Bench

Learned in the Law: Role of the U.S. Solicitor General...A New York Point of View

Former Solicitors General, including 45th Solicitor General Hon. Elena Kagan, participated in a panel about the role.



2015 The Legendary Learned Hand Up Close and Personal: 15 Years on the District Court and Beyond

Also hosted with the Southern District of New York

Hon. P. Kevin Castel and Hon. John M. Walker, Jr. participated in a program about *Learned Hand*.



2015 Nominated from New York: The Empire State's Contributions to the Supreme Court Bench

Charles Evans Hughes: Chief Justice of the United States

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. gave a lecture on Charles Evans Hughes before having a conversation with Hon. Robert A. Katzmann.

Photo Credit: NYLJ & Rick Kopstein

Reaching the Lawyers & Judges of the Future: Public Programs

THE SOCIETY'S YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE ACTIVELY develops programs that appeal to students and lawyers early in their careers. This series *Cocktails & Commentary* brings growing numbers of young people, who will be the leaders of the future, to the Society, awakening a love of history while they network with their peers and leaders of the Bench and Bar.



2015 An Evening with Robert B. Fiske, Jr.: A Life of Public & Private Service to the Law

Robert B. Fiske, Jr., Esq. discussed his 55 years of practicing law, from his public and private service, imparting wisdom and inspiring young lawyers in attendance.



2016 Bad Apples in the Big Apple: Notorious Criminal Trials in New York

After a review of organized crime in NYS by **David L. Goodwin, Esq.**, Co-Chair of the Committee, a panel of litigators dissected current and past trials and issues arising from notorious cases.



2017 A Conversation with Roy L. Reardon & Patricia M. Hynes

A conversation with **Roy L. Reardon, Esq.** and **Patricia M. Hynes, Esq.** featured their road to a career in the law, their lives as litigators, and how they give back to the community through their pro bono activities.



Young lawyers and students mingle at the reception prior to *A Conversation with Roy L. Reardon & Patricia M. Hynes*



2017 An Evening at Theodore Roosevelt's Birthplace: Theodore Roosevelt & the Constitution

Prof. Kermit Roosevelt III gave a talk on **Theodore Roosevelt** and the Constitution, which focused on criticism of activist judges.



2017 Kosciuszko: A Bridge to Liberty for All

Prof. Paul Finkelman and **Alex Storozynski** discussed Brigadier General of the Continental Army **Tadeusz Kosciuszko** and his efforts to end slavery through his will. The program also included a piano performance by **Magdalena Baczewska**.
Photo by Marta Monko



Supreme Court of Judicature and Court of Chancery Rolls of Attorneys (1754-1847).
Courtesy of Geof Huth, Chief Records Officer, NYS Unified Court System

Court Record Preservation

Documents are essential to every historical mission.

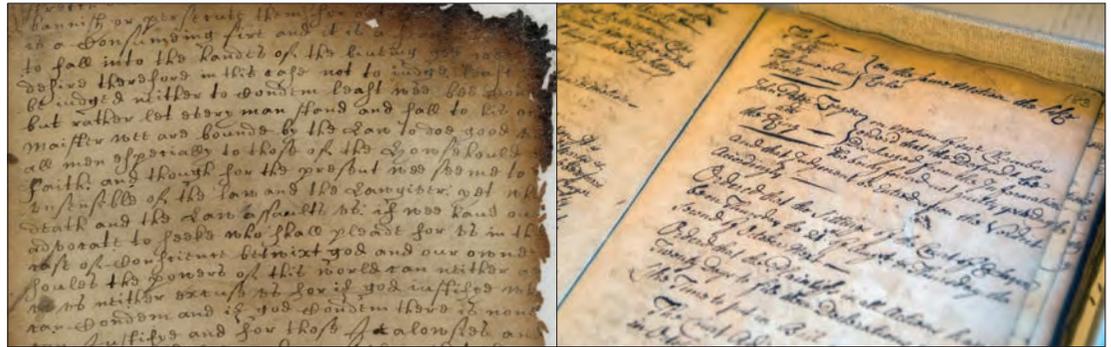
Second and third hand source material produces second rate scholarship and worse yet, conjecture and surmise. Our goal is to preserve and rely on our rich documentary history.

— Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, President, Historical Society of the New York Courts

The human mind can remember only as long as the heart of its body keeps beating—and sometimes not even that long. To remember the past, we cannot count on ourselves... The view may be gauzy and some of our conclusions may be a little askew, but through the lens that records provide us we can see what we never ourselves experienced. And with the wisdom that comes from understanding the failures and successes of the past, maybe, we can make this world, this transient time we are living in, a little bit better for everyone."

— Geof Huth, Chief Records Officer, NYS Unified Court System

Read more on our blog at <http://bit.ly/blog-ct-records-pt1>



The Flushing Remonstrance. Courtesy the New York State Archives, NYS_A1809-78_V08_0625

Records from the 1735 Supreme Court of Judicature case *Crown v. Zenger*, photographed by Hiroko Masuike. The New York Times, January 5, 2017. Copyright Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times

IN 1989, HON. ALBERT M. ROSENBLATT, THEN-NYS CHIEF Administrative Judge and now President of the Society, recognized the importance of cataloguing and preserving the vast collection of NYS court records dating back to the 1600s. In recent years, an initiative has been undertaken by the court system, with the assistance and advice of the Society, to do just that.

The first step resulted in the transfer of important early documents caked in dust on cracked parchment from unfit storage in lower Manhattan to the NYS Archives and the NYC Department of Records–Municipal Archives, two organizations that are well equipped to catalogue and preserve the documents. The catalogues that will emerge from this project will be made available to the public on the Society's website as an important research archive.

In the process, we plan to call attention to important documents and share them with the public. From the Flushing Remonstrance (1657), declaring religious freedom a fundamental right when NY was a Dutch colony, to records that include documents by historical figures like Alexander Hamilton and Chester

A. Arthur when they were working attorneys in NY. On the lighter side are documents which would be fascinating to the general public like Joe DiMaggio's will and Irving Berlin's legal troubles! The possibilities are endless for uncovering exciting records that in many ways trace the story of New York.

There is much work to be done to reach court-houses across the State, all of which house documents, some of great historical value, stored in boxes sitting in damp and musty facilities. Our goal is to bring these records into the light to preserve them and make them available to the public.

Funding this initiative is costly and we look to our sponsors to make this happen.



Rotunda of the New York County Courthouse at 60 Centre Street

Moving into the Future

SINCE OUR INCEPTION IN 2002, WE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING THE initiatives that best promote our mission to pass on to future generations the importance of our legal past, and to teach the lessons of history. We are now primed to take those models which have proved successful and propel them into the future on a broader scale. We work to bring to our students respect and understanding for the many ways the Bench and Bar protect their rights and freedoms. We undertake to enlighten both scholars and the general public with our films, public programs, oral histories, and the printed page. We are optimistic that we are moving forward.



WITH YOUR SPONSORSHIP, WE CAN:

- Reach more schools: expand our fellowships; bring lawyers and judges into classrooms and students into our courts; create accessible curriculum exploring cases, laws, and constitutions; and help educators understand how best to teach these unique materials.
- Expand the number and variety of our public programs to increase our audience of students, lawyers, judges, historians, scholars, and the broader public.
- Continue to grow our archive of oral histories, ensuring that the stories of NYS legal luminaries endure as primary sources for future generations.
- Continue the work of cataloguing and restoring court records across NYS with the goal of improving public access to these records.
- Expand the reach and number of our written materials like our journal, calendar, and books, providing unique perspectives on NYS past.
- Continue to grow the world-wide reach of our online brand through films and digital materials appearing on our website as well as expand our presence on the developing world of social media.

HISTORY IS THE UNDERPINNING OF OUR DEMOCRACY. TO GAIN an understanding of the past builds better citizens and a stronger democracy. Our unique lens of legal history - the work of our courts, and its lawyers and judges - is an important part of this critical public education. The third branch of government supports and protects the rights of all citizens and promotes the forward flow of our democratic process. A true understanding of our present and future sits squarely on the pillars of our past.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of the* NEW YORK COURTS

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