BY WOMEN

A full day of dynamic presentations, networking and knowledge.

FOR WOMEN

WHERE WE’VE BEEN, WHERE WE’RE GOING

IN THE LAW

FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2012
www.northeastern.edu/law/alumni
FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2012 • PROGRAM

All events take place in 240 Dockser Hall unless otherwise noted.

9:00 AM  REGISTRATION, NETWORKING & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:20 AM  WELCOME
Emily Spieler, Dean and Hadley Professor of Law

9:25 AM  CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION
Navjeet Bal ’89, Counsel, Nixon Peabody
Kelly Douglas ’92, Senior Employment Counsel, Draeger Medical Systems, Inc.

9:30 AM  VIDEO PRESENTATION
Transformative Trailblazers

9:40–10:30 AM  KEYNOTE ADDRESS: GLORIA LARSON
A public policy expert, lawyer and business leader, Gloria Cordes Larson assumed the presidency of Bentley University in July 2007. She joined Bentley from the leading law firm Foley Hoag, where she co-chaired the Government Strategies Group.

10:45–11:45 AM  Panel 1: Measuring success — and helping other women along the way
MODERATOR: Professor Martha Davis
PANELISTS:
Nancy Cremins ’03, Attorney, Gesmer Updegrove; President, Women’s Bar Association of Massachusetts (2011-2012)
Marguerite Fletcher, Founder, Fletcher Legal Consulting; Member, Lawyers Coaching Collaborative; and Senior Consultant, Verna Myers Consulting Group
Lauren Stiller Rikleen, Author, Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women’s Success in the Law; Success Strategies for Women Lawyers; Executive-in-Residence, Boston College Center for Work and Family

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of our Women in the Law Conference Steering Committee:
Navjeet Bal ’89  Kathy Morris ’75
Professor Emerita Judy Brown  Gina Perini ’01
Vanessa Candela ’00  Abby Record ’79
Kelly Douglas ’92  Cindy Reed ’80

11:45 AM–1:00 PM  Dockser Commons LUNCH & NETWORKING

1:00–2:00 PM  Panel 2: Moving Forward: Getting What You Want
MODERATOR: Professor Susan Barbieri Montgomery ’86
PANELISTS:
Rachael Rollins ’97, General Counsel, Massachusetts Department of Transportation
P. Miyoko Sato ’97, Member, Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo
Juliana Spofford ’89, General Counsel, RapidBuyr; Corporate Counsel, NetProsper, Inc
Darnley Stewart ’90, Partner, Giskan Solotaroff Anderson & Stewart

2:15–3:15 PM  BREAKOUT SESSIONS and SPEED MENTORING (CONCURRENT)
Down to Business  Room 40
Nancy Reiner ’84, Managing Director, Major, Lindsey & Africa
Lauren Stiller Rikleen, Author; Executive-in-Residence, Boston College Center for Work and Family

It’s About the Network  Room 42
Kelly Bonnevie ’92, Partner, Wilson, Marino & Bonnevie
Margaret Klaw ’84, Partner, Berner, Klaw & Watson

Becoming a Public Interest Leader  Room 44
Elisabeth Medvedow ’85, Executive Director, Discovering Justice
Leslie Walker ’85, Executive Director, Prisoners’ Legal Services

Speed Mentoring  Room 46
In 15-minute blocks of time, mentors will evaluate next steps, advise on career decisions and more. Speed Mentors: Navjeet Bal ’89, Vanessa Candela ’00, Kelly Douglas ’92, Kathy Morris ’75, Gina Perini ’01, Rachael Rollins ’97, Eve Strother ’00, Raquel Webster ’03

3:30–4:30 PM  Dockser Commons NETWORKING RECEPTION
Mix and mingle with guests, faculty and presenters.
Navjeet Bal, an experienced public finance attorney, is a member of Nixon Peabody’s public finance group. She has extensive experience serving as bond counsel, underwriter’s counsel and borrower’s counsel in publicly and privately placed debt financings for governmental, quasi-public and nonprofit borrowers. In 2008, Navjeet was appointed the Massachusetts Commissioner of Revenue by Governor Deval Patrick. She was responsible for overseeing the Department of Revenue’s approximately 2,200 employees in offices across the state in the Tax Administration, Child Support Enforcement and Municipal Finance divisions. She stepped down in 2011.

In addition to her strong public sector experience, Navjeet has significant experience representing clients in the private sector. Prior to joining the DOR, she practiced in Mintz Levin’s public finance group for 17 years. Additionally, she served as a member of the board of trustees of the Federation of Tax Administrators.

Kelly Bonnevie was named a Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly “Lawyer of the Year” in 2006, and a New England “Super Lawyer” in 2008 through 2011. As a partner with Newton-based Wilson, Marino & Bonnevie, Kelly handles real estate and employment matters.

Kelly is the author of “Restrictive Employment Covenants and the Practice of Medicine,” published in the Massachusetts Bar Institute’s Section Review Journal in 1999. She wrote the forward to Harold L. Lustig’s book, Four Steps to Financial Security for Lesbian and Gay Couples (Fawcett Books, 1999), and with law partner Lisa Wilson, co-authored “Working with First-Time Home Buyers,” published in Real Estate Executive magazine in 1997. Kelly has also chaired numerous panel discussions on residential real estate transactions and employment matters. She is on the board of the Massachusetts LGBTQ Bar Association and has previously served on the board of GLSEN/Boston.

Professor Emerita Judith Olans Brown was a member of the faculty at Northeastern University School of Law for 30 years. She has taught and written extensively about constitutional law, employment discrimination and feminist legal issues. She sat on the boards of several pro bono organizations, such as the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and the Women’s Bar Association. Now retired, she teaches at Dartmouth and the University of Arizona.

Vanessa Candela is senior corporate counsel for EMC Corporation (EMC), with a primary focus on mergers and acquisitions, strategic investments and other corporate matters. Vanessa has been lead counsel for EMC on more than $1 billion in acquisitions and strategic investments and has counseled EMC in a variety of other general business matters.

More recently, Vanessa has focused on supporting RSA, the security division of EMC, as senior counsel on a variety of corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions, inbound licensing and other strategic transactions. Before joining EMC, Vanessa was a senior associate at Foley Hoag in Boston, where she counseled a variety of public and private clients on a broad range of corporate matters, including mergers and acquisitions, debt and equity financings and other general business matters.

Nancy Cremins is a litigator and employment lawyer with Gesmer Updegrove, where she handles a broad range of matters for entrepreneurs and startups. Nancy is the immediate past president of the Women’s Bar Association of Massachusetts, an organization committed to achieving the full and equal participation of women in the legal profession and in a just society, and has been a member of its board since 2005. Nancy is also member of the inaugural class of the Boston Pipeline Fellows, which trains women to become angel investors.

Nancy regularly speaks on issues impacting women in the profession of law. She was named a New England “Super Lawyer Rising Star” in 2009 through 2011, and was named an “Up & Coming Lawyer” by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly in 2008.

Margaret Klaw is a founding partner of the Philadelphia firm Berner Klaw & Watson, which concentrates in all aspects of family law, including divorce and custody mediation, and in the representation of plaintiffs in personal injury cases arising from domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. Margaret was formerly a litigation coordinator at the Women Against Abuse Legal Center in Philadelphia. She has held numerous positions within the Philadelphia Bar Association, including chair of the Family Law Section, member of the Board of Governors, member of the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, co-chair of the Women’s Rights Committee, member of the Family Law Section Executive Committee, co-chair of the Committee on the
Legal Rights of Unmarried Cohabitants, and co-chair of the Domestic Violence Committee.
Margaret is currently an adjunct professor at Temple University’s Beasley School of Law. She serves on the legal advisory board for Mazzoni Center Legal Services and on the board of Settlement Music School, Germantown Branch. She is a past board member and officer of Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, past president of the board of the National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women, and past member of the board of First Person Arts. Margaret writes and lectures extensively on family law topics, blogs for the Huffington Post and is the author of her own popular blog, www.familylawunraveled.blogspot.com.

Gloria Cordes Larson

A public policy expert, lawyer and business leader, Gloria Cordes Larson assumed the presidency of Bentley University in July 2007. She joined Bentley from Foley Hoag, where she co-chaired the government strategy group.

Widely influential in economic policy, Gloria led a business advisory cabinet for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, and co-chaired his transition team. Her contributions also include chairing the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority. Under her leadership, the organization oversaw renovation of the MassMutual Center in Springfield and construction of the $800 million Boston Convention and Exhibition Center.

In the administration of former Massachusetts Governor William Weld, she served as secretary of economic affairs (1993 to 1996) and secretary of consumer affairs and business regulation (1991 to 1993). Prior to that, she managed business and regulatory issues as a senior official with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). She served as an attorney advisor to the FTC commissioner from 1981 to 1988, and as the agency’s deputy director of consumer protection from 1990 to 1991.

In January 2005, Gloria was appointed to the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Board. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino tapped her to serve on the city’s Host Committee for the 2004 Democratic National Convention. She is a director of Unum Group and lead director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. She is a board member on several prominent professional and community organizations, including the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, for which she is the newly elected chair of the board; Boston Center for the Arts; Roger Williams University School of Law; Massachusetts Women’s Forum; Rosie’s Place; and The Dimock Center.

Elisabeth Medvedow ‘85

Elisabeth Medvedow ‘85 joined Discovering Justice in July 2008, after serving as executive director of the Women’s Bar Association and Women’s Bar Foundation. For 10 years prior to joining the Women’s Bar, Lissy worked as an attorney general for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She also served as a law clerk in the District Court and the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and spent three years teaching in the Legal Practice Skills Program at Suffolk University Law School, where she is currently an adjunct faculty member.

Susan Barbieri Montgomery ‘86

As a member of the faculties of the College of Business Administration and the School of Law, Professor Susan Montgomery teaches a variety of business and intellectual property (IP) courses, including Business Law, IP Asset Strategies for Global Business, Early Stage IP Decisions, IP Transactions Practice and International IP Law. Susan is also Of Counsel and previously a partner in the Boston office of Foley Hoag, where she has practiced since 1986. Her practice focuses on connecting IP and innovation and strategic planning for global development, exploitation and protection of IP assets.

Susan is an elected Delegate to the American Bar Association (ABA) House of Delegates and past chair of the 24,000-member Intellectual Property Law Section of the ABA. She has testified before Congressional committees on behalf of the ABA, co-chaired the ABA Joint Task Force on Security Interests in Intellectual Property and served on the ABA Working Group on the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA).

Susan serves on the board of trustees of the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), as an advisor to the American Law Institute on Principles of Software Contract Law and on the advisory board of the Franklin Pierce Center for IP, University of New Hampshire School of Law. She previously served on the boards of directors of Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) and the International Trademark Association (INTA).

Gina Perini ‘01

Gina Perini is managing counsel at GTC Law Group, where she advises clients in global intellectual property and business matters in the technology, telecommunications, Internet, new media, advertising and consumer product sectors. She has extensive experience in international privacy and data protection compliance, cross-border outsourcing transactions, technology and licensing transactions, and a wide range of copyright and trademark matters. Prior to joining GTC, Gina was an associate in the IP and business practice groups at Foley Hoag.

Abigail Record ‘79

Abby Record is a former partner at Palmer & Dodge and former deputy assistant general counsel of Fleet National Bank. Now retired, she spends a great deal of her time painting. She is also an overseer at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem and on the board of a small nonprofit that offers after-school recreational activities for challenged children.

Cynthia Reed ‘80

Cynthia Reed is president and CEO of LTR Holdings, a private investment and consulting firm. Prior to founding LTR, Cynthia was senior vice-president and general counsel of Hasbro, Inc., and senior vice president for business development of Games.com. She is a founding member of Cherrystone Angel Group, a trustee of the Rhode Island Foundation and a trustee and secretary of the board of Women and Infants Hospital. She is also a director of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce and the East Side/Mount Hope YMCA.

Nancy Reiner ‘84

Nancy Reiner is a managing director in Major, Lindsey & Africa’s Boston office, and focuses on in-house permanent placement and interim legal help for corporate legal departments and universities as well as on partner and associate placement at law firms. Nancy is also the founder and president of Green Pro Bono, Inc. (www.greenprobono.org), which matches pro bono attorneys with environmentally focused and climate change-driven nonprofits and social enterprises.

Prior to joining MLA, Nancy was the executive director of the Boston office of Counsel On Call. Nancy was also a partner and (associate) at Brown Rudnick in Boston for 18 years and an associate at Goodwin Procter and at the former DiCara, Selig, Sawyer & Holt for six years.

Nancy is currently a board member of the Public Health Advocacy Institute and Green Pro Bono, Inc., a “connector” for Boston World Partnerships, and the co-chair and co-founder of the Massachusetts Bar Association’s Eco-Challenge to make law firms more sustainable. Nancy co-founded Partners for African Community Center for Social Sustainability (ACCESS) and Dining for Darfur. She was founder and chair of Brown Rudnick’s successful Incubator Group and Knowledge Management Initiative, an active member of Brown Rudnick’s Pro Bono Committee, a board member of the Greater Boston Legal Services, and an adjunct professor at the School of Law. She was a “Champion” for Building Bridges Legal/Medical Partnership at the Boston Medical Center, was recognized as a Boston “Super Lawyer” and is Martindale-Hubbell AV Peer Review Rated.

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RACHAEL ROLLINS ’97

Rachael Rollins ’97 was appointed as general counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in October 2011. Immediately prior to joining MassDOT, Rachael worked as an assistant US Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. In that role, Rachael investigated and prosecuted both civil and criminal cases, defended the United States and its agencies in a wide array of civil suits brought against the government, brought actions to enforce federal regulatory requirements, recovered damages against those who committed frauds against the government, and investigated and prosecuted federal criminal firearms and drug offenses. Before joining the US Attorney’s Office, Rachael worked for the National Labor Relations Board, Bingham McCutchen and Seyfarth Shaw, specializing in labor and employment law.

Rachael is the president-elect of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, co-chairs the BBA Diversity and Inclusion Sections Mentoring Program and is a board member of the Thompson Island Outward Bound School and Greater Boston Legal Services.

Rachael has been the recipient of the Boston Junior Chamber of Commerce’s Ten Outstanding Young Leaders Award (TOYL) in 2002, was one of five people selected by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly as an “Up and Coming” Lawyer in 2004, received the Boston Business Journal’s “40 under 40” Award in 2009, and was named as one of the Top Ten Lawyers in New England by the Women’s Business Journal in 2010.

P. MIYOKO SATO ’97

Miyoko Sato is a member in Mintz Levin’s Boston office where she practices in the public law section. She has practiced in Mintz Levin’s Boston office since 1998. Her practice primarily involves representation of mutual fund companies, investment advisory firms, insurance companies, and other institutional investors in connection with their investments in tax-exempt securities.

Miyoko’s particular focus is in the area of high-yield, tax-exempt securities, in both new money and workout transactions. She has extensive experience in all areas of public finance, including general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, tax increment financings, securitizations of tax-exempt bonds, and project financings.

Miyoko has represented institutional investors, bond insurers and indenture trustees in workouts, restructurings, capital recoveries, and bankruptcies. She has served as bond counsel and underwriters’ counsel, and has counseled clients on derivative products.

EMILY SPIELER

Emily Spieler was appointed to lead the School of Law in 2002 and is a leading authority on employment law and social insurance systems. Prior to joining the Northeastern community, she served as the Hale J. and Roscoe P. Posten Professor of Law at West Virginia University College of Law, where she taught courses in employment, labor and health law. Dean Spieler also served for eight years as the public member of the governing Finance Board of the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency (responsible for design of the health insurance programs for all public employees in West Virginia) and as a member of the state Human Rights Commission. Before joining the academic community in 1990, Dean Spieler held a number of senior positions in the public sector, including service as commissioner of West Virginia’s Workers’ Compensation Fund and as West Virginia’s first deputy attorney general for civil rights.

Dean Spieler has received a wide variety of honors and awards, including a 2001 Fulbright award to study and teach at University College in Cork, Ireland. In 1986, she was the first recipient of the West Virginia Martin Luther King Jr. Advocacy of Justice Award. She has served on committees of the National Academies of Sciences, the National Academy of Social Insurance, the US Department of Energy and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

JULIANA SPOFFORD ’89

Juliana Spofford is general counsel at RapidBuyr and corporate counsel at NetProsper, Inc. She previously served as general counsel to Generate Inc. and counsel at Dow Jones. Juliana has worked for a variety of law firms, shaping her broad legal background. She has worked for the Boston-based intellectual property firm Torti Flanagan, where she serviced a wide variety of US and international high technology companies, primarily in the trademark and copyright areas. Before that she practiced corporate and employment litigation at the Worcester firm of Bowditch & Dewey. Juliana started her legal career at the Boston firm of Sullivan & Worcester, where she concentrated in corporate litigation.

Juliana has also worked on a variety of general legal matters (including domestic relations and personal injury) on a contract basis. She spent many years on the board of directors of the Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts and on the Human Rights Committee of the Mentor Network.

DARNLEY STEWART ’90

Darnley Stewart is a partner with the New York law firm Giskin Solitaroff Anderson & Stewart. Her practice focuses on discrimination class actions and she has prosecuted high impact cases against a number of large companies, including Ford Motor Company, Gerber, Coastal Corporation, First Union Bank, National Car Rental, General Motors, Nissan, Toyota and Bank of America. In connection with her work on Coleman, et al. v. General Motors Acceptance Corporation, Darnley was named a finalist for “Trial Lawyer of the Year” in 2004 by the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. She has also been named as one of the leading 500 plaintiffs’ lawyers in the country and one of America’s top 1,500 litigators by Lawdragon magazine. In addition, Darnley was selected for inclusion in the list of 2006 and 2007 New York “Super Lawyers.”

Darnley is a member of the Class and Collective Action Committee of the National Employment Lawyers Association and serves as vice president of the executive board of the New York affiliate (NELA/NY) of that organization. She is also plaintiffs’ co-chair of the Technology in the Law and Workplace Committee of the American Bar Association’s Labor and Employment Section. Darnley lectures regularly on employment class action issues, and has frequently commented in the media, including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, National Public Radio and the “Today” show regarding issues raised in a variety of employment discrimination cases. She also sits on the advisory boards of the Bronx Academy of Letters and NYU’s Center for Labor and Employment Law.

LAUREN STILLER RIkleEN

Lauren Stiller Rikleen is a nationally recognized expert on developing a thriving, diverse and multi-generational workforce. Lauren launched the Rikleen Institute for Strategic Leadership to help law firms and business organizations create a culture where professionals can advance and flourish. Lauren provides interactive workshops, keynote speeches and customized consulting on women’s leadership and advancement; unconscious bias; and strengthening intergenerational teams.

Lauren is also the executive-in-residence at the Boston College Center for Work and Family in the Carroll School of Management. The Center links academic research and corporate practice to create workplace cultures that support individual and organizational success.

Lauren is a former equity partner at Bowditch & Dewey, where she concentrated her practice on environmental law and mediation. She is a past president of the Boston Bar Association, the first woman chair of the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce, and a recent past member of the American Bar Association Board of Governors. Lauren is actively engaged in her community and in professional organizations, including service as a trustee of the Boston Bar Foundation and a board member of the Massachusetts Women’s Political Caucus.

Lauren is the author of Ending the Gauntlet: Removing Barriers to Women’s Success in the Law and Success Strategies for Women Lawyers. She is currently writing a book about millennials in the workplace. Among her awards and honors, Lauren has been selected by her peers to be listed in Best Lawyers in America, Chambers USA America’s Leading Business Lawyers, and Massachusetts “Super Lawyers.”
EVE STROTHER ’00

Eve Strother is deputy general counsel at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation. Her focus is on advising and assisting on real estate-related agreements with various types of parties (municipalities, state and city agencies, private parties, and advocacy groups) as well as construction contracts and staff management.

Prior to her current position, Eve served as legal counsel at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division. In this capacity she worked on construction contracts and drafted and finalized the design-build contract for the Fast14 I-93 Rapid Bridge Replacement Project. She also advised engineers of the Accelerated Bridge Program on all aspects of regulatory and administrative law. She is currently a member of the board of directors for the Northeastern University School of Law Alumni/ae Association.

LESLEY WALKER ’85

Leslie Walker ’85 has served as the executive director of Prisoners’ Legal Services (formerly known as Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services) since 2001. Established in 1972, PLS is the state’s prisoners’ rights not-for-profit that contracts with the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation and state and local bar associations to provide civil legal advocacy for indigent Massachusetts’ prisoners. PLS also assist the courts and the legislature, civil rights, family, mental health and criminal defense attorneys and the families of prisoners.

Prior to joining PLS, Leslie served as staff attorney and director of Legal Resources and Support Services for the Committee for Public Counsel Services.

RAQUEL WEBSTER ’03

Raquel Webster is currently an assistant corporation counsel at the City of Boston’s Law Department, where she represents the city and its employees in a wide variety of litigation, including civil rights, employment and tort law. Previously, she served as a litigation associate at Bingham McCutchen for seven years, where she represented individuals, local companies and international corporations in employment, commercial litigation and securities enforcement matters in state and federal courts and before administrative agencies.

Raquel is a member of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, Federal Bar Association, Women’s Bar Association and Boston Inn of Court. She is currently a member of the board of directors for the Northeastern University School of Law Alumni/ae Association, the Boston Preparatory Public Charter School and the Boston Debate League. Raquel also serves as a lead teacher for the Citizens School Mock Trial Apprenticeship Program.

BACKGROUND ON WOMEN IN THE LAW

Since reopening in 1968, Northeastern University School of Law has championed the entry of more women into the legal profession. Today, more than half our graduates are women, practicing in every conceivable setting—from private practice to public service, from the bench to business—as well as a host of non-legal fields.

In 2005, NUSL and the Women in the Law Steering Committee decided it was high time to offer programming specifically geared toward alumnae. Together, we developed a platform of activities including an annual conference, brown bag lunches with topical programming, a series of articles on women in the law as well as networking activities for women lawyers.

Each year, we strive to address topics pertinent to women attorneys, regardless of their area of practice or career stage. Our goal is to offer practical, pertinent and timely information that they can put to use immediately in their careers. We also believe strongly in women supporting women, so we provide forums for networking, including ways to engage younger practitioners and current students.