The Payoff

At work in the field

SUNY Buffalo Law-trained attorneys are using the skills, expertise, and contacts they've made through the New York City Program in a variety of legal positions. A sampling of alumni currently doing rewarding work in finance and law includes:

Michael Rodriguez ’06, his wife, Dominika Taminis ’06, and Mark Fanton ’14, in the photo at right, work remotely in Williamsville, N.Y., as part of the New York City firm Purrington Moody Weil, doing transactional work for investment fund managers and investors. All three were part of the New York City program.

Fanton says of the program: “It’s an environment where you can be pushed. You have to be on your toes, ready to ask and answer questions. The two biggest things that I took away from it were the ability to think on your feet and the ability to learn by doing. It’s really the only way to effectively serve your client.”

Michael Maloney ’08, an associate with Jones Day, provides advice on Saudi Arabian, Middle Eastern, U.S. and international corporate, commercial, and securities law. He has worked in Saudi Arabia since 2008.

“From the program, I gained a valuable exposure to one of the centers of international transaction and finance work,” Maloney says. “I learned about the theory and the practice of finance and corporate legal work, from not only world-class practitioners but also my fellow students. The contacts and knowledge I gained helped me get a head start on my career during the financial crisis and continue to prove useful almost a decade later.”

Franz Wright ’14, who practices in commercial litigation as an associate with the Rochester, N.Y., law firm Bodell Schoennick & King, notes that the contacts he made in the New York City Program were invaluable.

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For more information contact our Admissions Office at (716) 645-2907 or law-admissions@buffalo.edu
NEW YORK CITY PROGRAM

At the heart of finance

The New York City Program draws on the expertise of both our full-time faculty and a group of alumni who are practicing in the finance arena at a high level. Over 16 intensive weeks, students engage with a series of experts presenting on their particular niche of the corporate finance world. Then, with the hands-on guidance of team leaders drawn from these experts, students work together to craft a substantive project that hones their abilities and deepens their engagement in corporate finance practice.

The program’s innovative curriculum is built around core practice areas related to corporate finance, capital markets, financial services, regulation and the emerging field of compliance. As a result, the New York City Program engages students with high-level professionals in offices and trading floors—and visits to law firms, corporate headquarters and banking institutions. Students can get a feel for the realities of practicing in the world of finance.

Law Professor Philip Halbreich, program director, teaches in the areas of business associations, corporate governance and finance, international trade and finance, and finance transactions.

Law Professor John Henry Schleifer, a Distinguished Professor, teaches in the corporate/commercial area, including courses on acquisitions, transactions and regional economic development.

Clinical Professor Robert R. Curington, assistant program director directing the law school’s Affordable Housing and Community Development Clinic, teaches in the areas of corporate financial management, real estate development and financial services regulatory matters.

Philip Perry, an associate professor of finance at UB’s Jacobs School of Management, teaches in the areas of corporate financial management, and serves as the new director of the School of Management and the School of Law’s Business Law Clinic.

The New York City Program in Finance & Law enables select students to spend a semester at the heart of the finance arena at a high level. Over 16 intensive weeks, students are introduced to the high-stakes world of corporate finance. Our New York City Program devotes attention to international practice as the program increasingly global in nature, because finance and law is practiced in the world's financial capital. That grounding soon gives way to the heart of the program: guest lectures by visiting experts, and site visits to some locations where the work of finance actually gets done.

As they settle into their Manhattan classroom, students in the New York City Program may wonder what lies ahead for their semester. The first month typically consists of foundational learning, with lectures designed to orient students to finance as it is practiced in the world's financial capital. That grounding soon gives way to the heart of the program: guest lectures by visiting experts, and site visits to some locations where the work of finance actually gets done. A typical week might include a lecture on the fundamentals of contracts and corporate transactions, and perhaps another on asset-based lending, and then a class visit to a law firm to learn about the changing roles of legal counsel, or to the New York Mercantile Exchange for instruction in the ins and outs of commodity futures trading is regulated. Students also work in teams on substantial projects in collaboration with a team leader who is an expert in the field. Recent projects have examined the regulations of payday loans, the world of high-frequency stock trading, and the role of derivative instruments in the financial crisis. Students typically say this is the most intense combination of lectures, on-site learning and group work that they have experienced in a semester than they ever expected.

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GOING DEEPER

Of course, the New York City Program is only one part of the well-rounded legal education afforded by SUNY Buffalo Law School. Students, who learn from some of the best lawyers in the world who have made it their life's work to deepen their skills and build their professional network, can choose from an array of courses. Students with a particular interest in cross-border work can also pursue the Cross-Border Legal Studies Concentration, engaging with practitioners in cross-border work including trade, tax, immigration and business transactions. Programs close to the Canadian border make SUNY Buffalo Law an ideal venue for this study work. In addition, the student-run Law & Finance Society brings in speakers on relevant topics to enrich the learning experience and provide valuable networking opportunities for law students.

www.law.buffalo.edu/beyond/nyc.html
IN THE TRENCHES

A roster of experts

There’s only so much day-to-day practice. It takes practitioners who are in the trenches of dealmaking to impart the full force of financial and corporate practice—acquisitions. Our guest instructors and team leaders have included:

Jeffrey P. Cusumano is a partner in the international law firm DeWaal & Co. A native of New York City, he is a frequent contributor to Lawvere, a leading financial services publication. He particularly enjoys working on banking and corporate finance transactions, and he has extensive experience in litigation in financial markets and in the areas of corporate law, securities and regulatory matters.

Barbara Kipper is a partner in the New York City-based law firm Davis, Polk & Wardwell. She focuses her practice on corporate finance and capital markets transactions, including M&A, public offerings, private placements, and other capital market transactions. She is a member of the firm’s Corporate Finance and M&A teams and serves as co-chair of the firm’s Capital Markets practice group.

Over 16 intensive weeks, the program draws on the hands-on guidance of experts presenting on their fields. Some of these experts include:

- Jeffrey P. Cusumano, a partner with DeWaal & Co., the worldwide corporate firm.
- Brian M. DeWaal, a partner at Davis, Polk & Wardwell, a leading financial services publication.
- Erik D. Lindauer, a partner at Sullivan & Cromwell, practices in the area of corporate finance, capital markets, and securities.
- Jeffrey L. Tannenbaum, a retired partner with Weil, Gotshal & Manges, the international law firm.
- Mark Jay L. DeWaal, a special counsel with Katten Muchin Rosenman, the New York City-based law firm.
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At the heart of the program: guest lectures by practicing experts and site visits to some locations where the work of finance actually gets done. A typical week might include a lecture on the fundamentals of contracts and corporate transactions, and perhaps another on asset-based lending. And then another on regulatory issues. So a law firm to learn about the changing rules of a regulatory area, or the New York Mercantile Exchange for instruction in futures trading. The program reflects the strength of the faculty teaching and in the areas of corporate, capital markets, and securities.

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IN THE TRENCHES

A roster of experts

Here’s only so much future lawyers can learn in the classroom. It takes practitioners who are in the trenches of finance to impart the full power of financial and corporate practice – acquisitions. Our guests and team leaders have included:

Jeffrey P. Cannell is a partner in the international law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell. Gary A. DeWaal serves as special counsel with Karen Machin Rosenman. DeWaal focuses his practice on financial services regulatory matters. David F. Franko is a principal with Williams & Connolly. His practice focuses on tax, securities and financial institutions. Harvey L. Kaminski is founder and CEO of the commercial finance company Prestige Capital Corp.

Core full-time faculty for the New York City Program include:

Law Professor Philip Hauser, program director, teaches in the areas of business associations, corporate governance and finance, international trade and finance, and finance transactions.

Law Professor John Henry Scholten teaches in the commercial area, including courses on acquisitions transactions and regional economic development.

Law Professor Robert Jensen is founder and CEO of Grantham, O’Malley & Jensen, a provider of online software for financial capital. Jensen’s practice focuses on ERISA-related law with Morgan, Lewis & Bosher. Jensen’s Law is founder and CEO of Grantham Innovations, a creator of online software for drafting or analyzing documents.

Erik D. Lindauer, a partner at Goldman Sachs, practices in transactional banking, secured lending, commercial law, corporate reorganizations and bankruptcy. At Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson, partner Roderick Schwenkel is co-chair of the firm’s Corporate Department and global head of its M&A and Private Equity Practices.

Jeffrey L. Tissenbaum is a retired partner with Weil Gotshal & Manges, the worldwide corporate firm. At Hogan Lovells, partner Mark Jay Weinstein specializes in tax practice and in executing complex joint venture arrangements. George M. Williams Jr., special counsel with Kaye Scholer, advises clients on corporate, banking, securities and commodities law.

Philip R. Perry, an associate professor of finance at UB’s Jacobs School of Management, teaches in the areas of corporate financial management, financial markets and financial institutions.

Barbara Klipper focuses on ERISA-related law with Morgan, Lewis & Bosher. Janosz Loy is founder and CEO of Grantham Innovations, a creator of online software for drafting or analyzing documents.

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IN AN INTENSIVE TERM

Learning by doing

At the heart of finance

At the heart of finance in New York City, our students engage with a series of high-stakes projects and events. This is where our students get a feel for the realities of practicing in the world of finance. That grounding soon gives way to the heart of the program: guest lectures by practicing experts, and site visits to some locations where the work of finance actually gets done.

A typical week might include a lecture on the fundamentals of contracts and corporate transactions, and perhaps another on asset-based lending, and then a class trip to a law firm to learn about the changing roles of a law firm, or to the New York Mercantile Exchange for instruction in futures trading. That futures trading is regulated.

Students also work in teams on substantial projects with a real-world client who is an expert in the field. Recent projects have examined the regulation of payday loans, the world of high-frequency stock trading, and the role of derivative instruments in the financial crisis.

Students typically say this intensive combination of lectures, on-site learning and group work teaches them more in a semester than they ever expected.

Anchored within their Manhattan classroom, students in the New York City Program may wonder what lies ahead for their semester.

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Michael Rodriguez ’06, his wife, Dominika Tanianis ’06, and Mark Fanton ’14 (in photo at right) work remotely in Williamsville, N.Y., as part of the New York City firm Purrington Moody Weil, doing transactional work for investment fund managers and investors. All three were part of the New York City program. Fanton says of the program: “It’s an environment where you can be pushed. You have to be on your toes, ready to ask and answer questions. The two biggest things that I took away from it were the ability to think on your feet and the ability to learn by doing. It’s really the only way to effectively serve your client.”

Framz Weight ’14, who practices in commercial litigation as an associate with the Rochester, N.Y., law firm Bond, Schoenfeld & King, notes that the contacts he made in the New York City Program were invaluable. “You get to work with attorneys who focus primarily on transactions and the corporate area, and you network a great deal,” Wright says. “When the practitioners come in each week and teach a section on their particular area, you can speak with them one on one and pick their brains.”

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