

## STANDOUTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2013



**Matt Auten** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)...* You don't learn "the law" in Law School, you learn about how to think about the law and the legal process. *My law school accomplishment that I am most proud of* is Class Valedictorian. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was* externships. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)...* Practicing at Debevoise & Plimpton (a "big firm" in the City). *Little-known fact about me:* I willingly play pick-up basketball at 7:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. *Thanks to my wife and in-laws I survived . . . and thrived!*



**Laurel Bachtel** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)...* Along with all of the fun legal stuff, law school has taught me a lot about myself. As a 1L I just wanted to survive, but I quickly realized this was a place I could thrive and really prove my full potential. I am leaving Pace smarter, more confident, and starting the dream federal environmental job that I thought was not possible when I was applying to law schools in 2009. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of:* 2012-2013 Editor-in-Chief of the Pace Environmental Law Review, Research Assistant for Professor Donald Doernberg, Externship with the Honorable Judge Katz in the S.D.N.Y, Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic. I survived the 1L Moot Court Competition without fainting. My team won the school dodge ball tournament! *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...* It gave me a passion and drive for environmental law. This is the same drive I found while playing soccer in college, and something I did not expect to find career-wise. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)* I was accepted as an Honor Attorney in the U.S. Department of the Interior Honors Attorney Program in Washington D.C. I have been working with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service since 2009 and I am extremely excited to continue my career with the Department of the Interior Solicitor's Office. *Little-known fact about me,* every morning I turn on music and have a solo country dance party while getting ready. *Thanks to my incredibly supportive family I survived . . . and thrived!*



**Eileen Burrowes** *Looking back (what I earned from Law School that I did not expect)...* I have changed so much over the past three years, and I truly feel that I've grown as a person. I was given many opportunities to develop my interests, especially as a board member of the International Law Society and a student intern at the Pace Investor Rights Clinic. The people I've met along the way have been inspiring and encouraging, and I'm happy to have been part of the Pace community. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of* is overcoming my fear of public speaking through my participation in moot court competitions and a trial advocacy class, and placing as a semi-finalist in the Thurgood Marshall Federal Moot Court Competition. I'm also proud that I flew to Madrid after my 1L year and worked in a Spanish-speaking law firm. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...* Taking what I learned in the classroom and applying it in my clinic and externship work. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)* after I take the New York and New Jersey bar exams, I hope to focus my career in securities law with an international aspect. *Little-known fact about me:* I love traveling, but I'm afraid of flying. *Thanks to* my family and friends for their love and support, and my professors and mentors for guiding me and pushing me to do my best.



**Anthony DiPietro** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)...* I've learned that the legal profession is not about one's attainment of fortune, fame, or power. Rather, it is a special opportunity for one to undertake a higher calling in life, and embark upon a journey to help correct the injustices of our time. Through this appreciation, I've also come to understand that a good lawyer will speak about unrighteousness and the struggles of oppression, while a great lawyer will seek a way to fix it. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of:* Criminal Justice Center Research Fellow, Assistant for Professor Lissa Griffin, Pace Post-Conviction Project, Student Intern, Legal Research Assistant for Jay C. Carlisle II. Publications: Jay C. Carlisle II & Anthony DiPietro, Justice James D. Hopkins: Jurist, Dean, Scholar and Expert on New York Law, 33 Pace L. Rev. 3 (2012); Jay C. Carlisle II & Anthony DiPietro, The Life & Legacy of Lawrence H. Cooke (forthcoming 2013), winning the Carl A. Vergari Excellence in Criminal Law Award. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...* Working alongside many great faculty members, especially Adele Bernhard, Lissa Griffin, Jay C. Carlisle II, and Peter Widulski. During our time together, I learned many valuable lessons about the practice of law, life, and morality. It is these professors, among others, that have made Pace Law School a special and unique place, where no goal was too far to reach or obstacle too great to overcome. They are an inspiration to the upcoming generation of lawyers, and a priceless asset to the entire legal community. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)...* One day, I would like to reflect upon my legal career as a fulfillment of Martin Luther King Jr.'s proclamation that "Life's most urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Hopefully, I will find a way to serve my community as a zealous advocate of justice, and dedicate my time to helping the weak, unprotected, and embattled members of society whose voices had been unjustly shunned away. *Little-known fact about me:* I'm an antique hobbyist, and enjoy the study of "old master" religious paintings. *Thanks to* all my friends, family, precious fiancée, loving parents, and most of all, my Lord, Jesus Christ, for helping me overcome many obstacles in life, including my journey through law school.



**Peter Fabiankovic** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)...* Law school taught me that being a lawyer is more than just statutes, case law, bluebooks, memorandums of law, and trials. Law school taught me that being a lawyer also means being a people person. It taught me the importance of really listening; developing and maintaining relationships; networking; and treating everyone you meet with respect. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of...*The law school accomplishments I am most proud of are making it onto PACE LAW REVIEW (Associate Member and later, Articles Editor) and being chosen for the Federal Judicial Extern Honors Program. These experiences sharpened my reading, writing, editing, and analytical skills – all vital to success both in law school and real practice. They were instrumental in my development as a student and future lawyer. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...* It is impossible for me to label any one aspect as the most valuable. However, although late in my law school career (as Professor Fasulo always reminds me), I believe that taking Trial Advocacy was an extremely valuable experience. The class forced me to overcome my fear of public speaking; taught me how to carry myself in a courtroom; and gave me the foundation I needed to become a trial lawyer. Given the program's national recognition, and the success of our trial teams, it's a class that every student should take. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do).* I will be working in the fall for Havkins Rosenfeld Ritzert & Varriale LLP. I hope to continue to learn, gain experience in the courtroom, grow to become a well-respected lawyer, and give back to Pace Law School for everything that it has done for me. *Little-known fact about me:* Because both of my parents were born in the Slovak Republic, I am conversational in Slovak. *Thanks to* my loving family, who dealt with all of my law-school (/college/high-school) related meltdowns and made me the person I am today; my great friends, who always kept me laughing; and the incredible professors at Pace Law, who were mentors and friends, *I survived . . . and thrived!*



**Joseph Fornadel** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)...* Looking back, I did not expect that law school would fundamentally change my approach to problem-solving. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of...* being is named the Editor-in-Chief of Pace Law Review. *The most valuable aspects of my legal education* were my experiences at the Land Use Law Center and the Environmental Litigation Clinic, both of which exposed me to real-world problems and forced me to think critically about solutions to those problems. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)...* This coming August, I will be employed as a clerk with the New York Court of Appeals' Central Legal Research Staff. I am extremely excited about this opportunity and hope to pursue a career in environmental law or energy law afterwards. *Little-known fact about me:* Before law school, I was a center on Wofford College's football team. *Thanks to* the support of my wife and of my family *I survived . . . and thrived!*



**Erik Harris** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)...* I would assume that we all expected to learn about the law during our time here at Pace. But, if we were really paying attention and taking advantage of our opportunities, we also learned a great deal about life in the professional world. Whether it was mixers with practitioners or a "Meet the Judges" event, time after time the administration/faculty put us in position to meet and network with attorneys in the area. I did not expect to be exposed to outside professionals at the rate that we were and I believe that it was great for my personal and professional development. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of...* This summer I will be practicing in front of the Second Circuit on a student practice order working on behalf of the City of Mount Vernon. All of the mock trials and moot court competitions are nice but, at the end of the day, they are just practice (Allen Iverson anyone? lol). Competitors like myself crave the real thing. I'm also proud of starting a "Law Student for a Day" shadowing program (with help from a number of my peers) that has a primary goal of increasing diversity in the legal profession. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was ...* While there were a number of classes that I enjoyed; I'd have to say the most valuable aspect of my legal education was the time spent in the actual field. Externships are priceless. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)...* I'm currently working for the Corporation Counsel of the City of Mount Vernon defending public employees. I also do part-time work for Mercy College with their General Counsel mostly dealing with contract administration and labor/employment issues. I'll continue in both of these positions as I eagerly await the February bar (feel the sarcasm). I want to get into litigation with a concentration in either labor or personal injury. Eventually, I will get back into the world of sports (because it's all I've known for most of my life) and, when I do, I know that my legal education will be an invaluable part of what will make me a dynamic professional, whether it's as an agent, a ref, or a coach. *Little-known fact about me:* I don't like most vegetables and baseball is my favorite sport to watch. Surviving was never a question. Thriving is to be determined. But I am happy to collect this degree and have to thank my friends and family for their support.



**Benjamin Krolkowski** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)...* I did not expect to learn that the most important skill possessed by a lawyer is the ability to write clearly and effectively. There is a misconception that law school is wholly concerned with the teaching of legal rules and principles. However, knowledge of those rules and principles is almost meaningless without the ability to effectively and clearly communicate them to other members of the legal profession and to the courts. *The law school accomplishment I am most proud of* is my participation in Pace Law School's Federal Judicial Honors Program. It was a great honor and privilege to work and learn from a federal district court judge. The experience and skills I gained by participating in this program have prepared me for the challenges that lie ahead in my legal career. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was ...* Taking classes on a wide range of subjects allowed me to think critically about different areas of the law and how they affect and implicate one another. There are really no discrete areas of the law, and I was able to make connections between subjects that at first glance appear wholly and entirely separate. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do).* This August I will be starting as an Assistant Appellant Court Attorney for the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department, located in Rochester, New York. *Little-known fact about me:* I played jazz trumpet from junior high school through college. I hope to begin playing regularly again after the bar exam. *Thanks to my close friends and family, I survived . . . and thrived!*



**Benjamin Lowenthal** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)*...the fact that Pace Law School is not just a school, but also a community. Looking back, when I enrolled in Pace Law three years ago, I knew I was enrolling in the best environmental law program in the country. However, what I didn't know was that I was joining a community of faculty and students that would support me throughout my legal career. During my time at Pace Law, I have been able to make more meaningful relationships, with both faculty and fellow students, then I could ever have imagined. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of* is representing 12 environmental NGO plaintiffs in Federal District Court for the S.D.N.Y. before the Hon. Kenneth Karas as a student attorney in the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic for a nationally significant Clean Water Act and Administrative Procedure Act case, working with my fellow editors and associates to publish the 30<sup>th</sup> volume of the Pace Environmental Law Review as the Managing Editor. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was*...My clinical work litigating real world cases with attorneys from the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, New York State Attorney General's Office, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the City of New York. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)*... Studying for the bar exam and then practicing environmental law. *Little-known fact about me:* I almost always have at least two fishing poles in my car. *Thanks to the support of my family and friends (and Pandora's Film Scores music station) I survived . . . and thrived!*



**Amanda Sauer** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)*... Looking back I never could have predicted the evolution of my interests since I began law school. I chose Pace for its respected environmental program but quickly found an enthusiasm for trusts & estates practice and elder law. You never know where you will end up! *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of*... One of my proudest accomplishments was serving as Chair of the Pace Law School National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition Board. Thanks to the efforts of our hardworking Pace administrators and my talented student Board, the nation's largest environmental moot court competition continues to be a huge success. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was*...Without question my clinical work at Pace Law School's John Jay Legal Services in the Disability Rights Health Law Clinic. I enjoyed working directly with my clients and gained experience in interviewing, counseling, drafting, negotiating and making court appearances. Clinical education made the legal profession a reality for me. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)*... I am relocating to the Washington DC area after graduation and hope to find firm work in trust & estates practice, elder law or tax law. *Little-known fact about me:* I am a birder! These three years of law school I have missed out on birdwatching during the spring migration due to final exams. I am excited to be graduating and have this time of year back to myself! *Thanks to the amazing friends that I've made at Pace I survived and thrived!*



**Jonina Sauer** (No relation to Amanda.) *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)*... I didn't expect to love my classes and coursework as much as I did. I had heard that first year reading was particularly tedious, but I genuinely enjoyed reading case law and writing case briefs. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of* is managing my school-work-life balance. My husband and I are both in the night class, we both worked during the day, and we had our first child between first and second year. We both managed to be on law review/law journal, and participated in externships. I have practiced prioritizing, organizing, and concentrating in short bursts, and I've gotten over my habit of procrastinating. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...* I believe that law school has taught me what to look for in a mentor, and I know that skill is going to be critical in my legal career. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)*... In September, I'm starting in the Corporate Department at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP. My professional background has been in mental health and family law (I was a therapist before I came to law school), and I'm extremely excited to transition to a completely new field. *Little-known fact about me:* I love country music. We almost named our son after Johnny Cash. *Thanks to my husband.* I literally couldn't have done this without him.



**Margaret Serrano** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)*... I was inspired by observing so many of my classmates balance amazingly demanding, complicated combinations of job and family commitments, and yet still achieve in learning the law. It helped me to do the same. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of* is winning an award in a national writing competition for law students sponsored by Northeastern University Law School. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...*The professors, who had intellect and experience to match professors at any of the most prestigious institutions in the world, yet more time and availability than professors at larger institutions. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)* I will always be looking for ways to both support my family and make the world a better place at the same time. Next year I will start a clerkship with the New York appellate courts. *Little-known fact about me:* I am also a Spanish interpreter--but I think that's a well-known fact about me. *Thanks to my professors, the inspiration of my classmates from all years, and the assistance of the administrative staff, such as the registrars, who always went way out of the way to accommodate last-minute requests and let nothing get bogged down in bureaucracy, I survived . . . and thrived!*



**Braden Smith** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)*... As Prof. Carlisle told our class on our first day, the successful practice of law is about being prepared. That has so far proven to be true. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of...* It has been a great honor to work on the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic's challenge to the EPA's Water Transfers Rule. The Clinic has been working on the challenge since 2004, and we finally had a chance to file a motion for summary judgment in the Southern District this spring. It was a great experience working with the team to finish that motion, and I even got the chance to argue before a federal judge. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...* The school should be very proud of its experiential programs. I participated in the UN Externship, PELC, and the federal judicial externship. Each program was unique and provided a really great learning experience. I would not be nearly as confident in my legal abilities if I didn't have these opportunities. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)* I entered law school hoping to work on legal issues relating to climate change, and I think Pace has prepared me well to find a law or policy job working on that issue. *Little-known fact about me:* I

spent a summer in high school working for The Nature Conservancy and helped build a 50-acre enclosure so that a threatened species of turtle would be encouraged to mate more often. *Thanks to my wonderful and supportive wife Rachel, I survived . . . and thrived.*



**Joseph Vento** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect...* Law school has taught me many things. Most importantly, I learned crucial time management and organization skills, the importance of being a well-rounded student and the significant value of networking. However, I did not expect law school would teach me the importance of relaxing, having fun and socializing and networking with complete strangers. I expected most of my time would be spent in the library or at my desk, but I was pleasantly surprised by how much of my law school experience was spent networking with members of the legal community, representing Pace at national competitions, and figuring out how to properly unwind from a stressful week. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of* is in college, I was not nearly as involved within my school, which was a decision I came to regret. Upon entering law school, I decided that I wanted to become more involved with the Pace community. During my 2L year I became a Student Ambassador for the Office of Admissions and prior to my 3L year I was elected President of the Student Bar Association. These positions have allowed me to interact with various students, professors, alumni, prospective students and legal professionals. I was also afforded multiple opportunities to help prospective law school students to make an informed decision about committing to our school. Having that responsibility not only instilled a sense of pride within me that I am graduating from Pace, but also allows me to leave law school with a sincere feeling of accomplishment. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...*The practical experience I gained from the

Prosecutorial Externship and my involvement in the three Moot Court/Trial Teams competitions. This type of experience cannot be gained from a classroom or a textbook and in many ways is the most valuable education I received while attending Pace. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)* I hope one day to practice as a criminal attorney. Becoming a prosecutor would allow me to utilize the skills my education has provided me for my community's improvement, while becoming a public defender would allow me the opportunity to directly aid indigent clients. *Little-known fact about me:* I enjoy cooking and considered attending the Culinary Institute of America instead of law school. *Thanks to the love and support of my family and friends, my girlfriend, Caroline, copious amounts of coffee and friendly games of basketball I survived and thrived at Pace Law School.*



**Francine Ward** *Looking back (what I learned from Law School that I did not expect)...* Although I expected to appreciate the work that I do, I did not think that I would eventually grow to **LOVE** it as much as I do. Law school was a transformative experience that forced me to challenge myself and think outside the box. Having gone through the good, the bad, and the ugly, I am proud to say that I am more resilient, more insightful, and more motivated than I ever anticipated. I have developed strong professional connections and learned to approach problems in ways I never imagined. Fortunately the Pace Law experience (including the faculty and staff) provided me with tremendous support and tools to help me achieve my goals. *Law school accomplishment(s) that I am most proud of* is that I was accepted into the Honors Prosecution Externship and the Barbara C. Salken Criminal Justice Clinic. These experiences provided me with an intimate look at both the prosecution and defense sides of the criminal justice system. Through these invaluable experiences, I identified my passion for criminal law and I developed the ability to think more critically about the benefits and limitations of the criminal justice system. Thankfully, through a Student Practice Order in both the externship and clinic, I had the opportunity to diligently advocate in a variety of courtroom experiences. *The most valuable aspect of my legal education was...*Having the ability to successfully apply the substantive law that I learned in the classroom or the techniques and skills I adopted in trial advocacy to practical experiences afforded to me through externship and clinical opportunities. *Looking ahead (what I'm doing, or hope to do)* I am excited to jump-start my legal

career by working as an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office. *Little-known fact about me* prior to attending law school, I ran competitively in Track and Field at the Division-I level. I subsequently received my Master of Public Policy (MPP) with a concentration in urban policy. *Thanks to* my family's unconditional support, old and new friendships, and wonderful professors who believed in my abilities and provided me with sound advice...*I survived...and thrived.*