

# FOCUS FORWARD

A DEAN'S UPDATE FOR THE COLLEGE OF LAW COMMUNITY



November 2010

## Road Less Traveled

### *Second Annual 'Road Less Traveled' Encourages Students to Explore Legal Career Paths*



Law school opens the doors to a broad spectrum of interesting and challenging careers. For the second year, "The Road Less Traveled: Paving a Path to Satisfying Legal Careers Away from the Law Firm Highway" welcomed alumni who have made non-traditional career decisions for a panel presentation and networking reception. The alumni who participated in this year's event include Adam Leitman Bailey L'95, Eric J. Eichenholtz L'02, Virginia L. Grady L'83, Michael J. King L'08, Julie B. Morse L'05, and Janine A. Scott L'97.

Professor Deborah Kenn, who is also director of the Community Development Law Clinic, hosted the Oct. 29 event, which included a panel discussion by seven College of Law alumni and was attended by more than 70 law school students exploring legal career paths. Alumni panelists discussed their career paths, how they decided to pursue public interest law, the rewards and challenges of their jobs, and how they have survived financially on traditionally lower salaries.

"It was informative to learn of the different types of public interest jobs available," said third-year student Edward Wicklund. "The speakers were good because they did not sugarcoat their jobs," says Wicklund. "Instead they explained the realities of having a lower income and the adjustments they make to compensate."

Kenn conceived of the idea for The Road Less Traveled last year, as an opportunity to educate law students on available career choices. The idea is in line with the subject of her recently published book, *Lawyering from the Heart* (Aspen Publishers, 2009) in which she chronicles the experiences of 22 public interest lawyers in different stages of their careers. "The numbers of alumni pursuing satisfying careers in the not-for-profit, public interest, and government sectors has grown exponentially," says Kenn. "I've observed this phenomenon and decided we need to expand the exposure of current students to the full range of career opportunities. With the financial support of Adam Leitman Bailey L'95 we were able to make this vision a reality."

For questions or comments on Focus Forward, please contact us at [su-law@law.syr.edu](mailto:su-law@law.syr.edu). We'd love to hear from you!

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