OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

About Us

Services Available
Welcome to the Office of Career Services. Our office exists to guide and assist you through every aspect of your career development.

Our Staff

Our staff is comprised of former attorneys and experienced career services professionals. Using our own personal experience, along with feedback we’ve received through interacting with hundreds of employers, we are able to provide you with practical and specific guidance in your job search.

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Our counselors can meet with you in person or phone and communicate via email. To make an appointment, please visit our website, [https://cardozo.yu.edu/your-career/cardozo-ocs-appointment-request-form](https://cardozo.yu.edu/your-career/cardozo-ocs-appointment-request-form), or feel free to drop by anytime.
Staff Bios

Neil Sirota

Associate Dean of Career Services. Neil holds a B.S. in Industrial & Labor Relations from Cornell University and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. He began his legal career as an associate in the Antitrust group at Skadden, Arps, Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, in the New York and Palo Alto offices. Neil also worked as a recruiter for two leading legal search firms, advising attorneys on career development and placing them in law firm and in-house positions. Neil spent two years working with grassroots development organizations in Burma (Myanmar) before serving as Assistant Dean at Penn State Law for three years. He joined Cardozo in the Summer of 2016.

Laura Torchio

Senior Director, Career Services. Laura counsels on both traditional and alternative legal careers in the private and public sectors and provides strategic advice on developing career paths and transitions. Laura is also an active member of the New York City Bar Association, where she sits on the Career Advancement and Management Committee, as well as the National Association for Law Placement (NALP). Prior to joining Cardozo, Laura served as a career counselor at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University. Before working in career services, Laura was a commercial litigator at Robinson + Cole LLP in both New York City and Connecticut. Laura received her B.A. in Philosophy and French from Loyola University of Maryland and her J.D. from New England Law Boston.

Sherry-Ann N. Smith-Gomez

Director, Career Services and Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives. Sherry-Ann received her B.A., *cum laude*, from Hunter College of the City University of New York and her J.D. from Howard University School of Law, where she served as a member of the International Moot Court team. While in law school, she participated in the Summer Honors Program of the New York City Law Department, in addition to being a summer associate in both the New York and Washington, DC offices of Coudert Brothers LLP.

Upon graduation from law school, Sherry-Ann returned to the New York office of Coudert Brothers to work as an associate in the firm’s Global Investment Funds practice. In 2000, she joined the Corporate Finance group of Morrison & Foerster LLP’s Washington, DC office, where she also served as the Pro Bono Coordinator for the firm’s Washington, DC and Northern Virginia offices. During her time at Morrison & Foerster, she was actively involved in the firm-wide Diversity, Recruiting and Pro Bono Committees. In 2003, Sherry-Ann returned to New York City to work with the Brooklyn Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. as the organization’s Staff Attorney and Pro Bono Coordinator.

Sherry-Ann is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and in the State of New York. She is an active member of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) and the New York City Bar Association Committee on Recruitment and Retention of Lawyers.

Leslie Thrope

Director, Center for Public Service Law (CPSL). Leslie joined the Office of Career Services after many years of public service/public interest work. Leslie earned her B.A. from Antioch College, in Yellow Springs, Ohio, where she majored in Psychology and Women’s Studies. While at Antioch, she worked at a Battered Women’s Shelter in Eugene, Oregon, a state psychiatric hospital in Waltham, Massachusetts, and canvassed for
environmental and insurance reform with the Ohio Public Interest Campaign. Prior to attending law school, Leslie coordinated a day program for dually diagnosed adults in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

Leslie received her J.D. from the City University of New York Law School at Queens College in 1994. While in law school, she interned with the New York City Commission on Human Rights, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the HIV Unit at Brooklyn Legal Services, Corp. A. Leslie then spent nine years practicing as a family law attorney at Building Service 32B-J Legal Services Fund, representing union members and their dependents before the New York City Family Courts and the New York City Department of Education. She is currently a member of the New York City Bar Association’s Family Court and Family Law Committee and New York City Community Board 12’s Task Force on LGBTQ Relations.

**JULIE ANNA ALVAREZ**

**Director, Alumni Career Services.** Julie Anna earned her A.B. *cum laude* from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. Julie Anna was admitted to practice in New York State. While in law school, Julie Anna served on the Board of the Harvard Law School Forum and the Committee on Sports & Entertainment Law, did her share of blue-booking for the *Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* and was an active member of La Alianza, among other activities.

During her law school summers, she was an intern for the Office of Government and Legal Affairs under the Office of the Mayor of the City of New York and a summer associate with Cravath, Swaine & Moore. After graduation, Julie Anna joined Cravath as a Corporate Law Associate. She subsequently became an associate with a small firm specializing in Trademark, Copyright and Entertainment industry matters. After leaving private practice, Julie Anna has served in a variety of positions including: legal counsel to a non-profit, diversity management consultant, Associate Director of the Legal Referral Service at the New York City Bar Association, Assistant Director of Admissions at New York Law School and Director at the Career Planning Center at Fordham University School of Law. Julie Anna has also worked in non-law degree related positions with Dale Carnegie Training and as founder of a design consulting practice. Julie Anna is a member of NALP (Board of Directors 2016-2018), the Latina Attorneys Cafecito Network, and is a member of the Law Student Perspectives Committee at the New York City Bar Association.

**W. BRAD JARMAN**

**Assistant Director, Career Services.** Brad joined the Office of Career Services after spending ten years at the Administration for Children’s Services in the Division of Family Court Legal Services (“FCLS”). Brad started in FCLS’ Manhattan office litigating child abuse and neglect matters. He was later promoted to supervise the team appearing in the Family Treatment Court, a dedicated part focusing on neglect cases involving drug and alcohol abuse, as well as the team handling cases involving youth who had been voluntarily placed into foster care. Brad served as Special Counsel for his last five years in FCLS, where he worked with outside advocates, assisted with training efforts, and developed and implemented division-wide initiatives supporting the Agency’s larger child-welfare mission. Brad obtained his Master of Social Work degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003 and earned his law degree from Rutgers Newark School of Law – Newark in 2006.

**CAREY BERTOLET GRAND**

**Senior Director, Employer Outreach.** Prior to joining Cardozo, Carey worked for 15 years as a legal search consultant placing experienced lawyers in law firms and corporations. She started her legal career as a commercial litigator with the Texas law firm Winstead, and then opened the New York office of BCG Attorney Search, establishing the company’s footprint as a national legal recruitment company. She then joined
Laurence Simons International, a London-based legal and compliance recruitment agency, where she served as a Managing Partner. Carey is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and the Emory School of Law.

**David Adams**

**Recruitment Manager.** David has worked in the legal industry in New York City for over 25 years in the areas of professional development, paralegal management, recruiting, and practice administration. David has experience in attorney development initiatives, including orientation, integration, mentoring, career development, training, and mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE). David has worked with law firm Information Technology groups to promote the use of the technology in attorney professional development. He has managed lateral and summer associate recruiting and summer associate programs. David was a member of the Professional Development Consortium from 1999 to 2010, and elected to the Board of Directors in 2009. Currently he is an active member of NALP.

**Leila Faridi**

**Employer Outreach Coordinator.** Prior to joining the Office of Career Services, Leila practiced in the litigation department at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. She specialized in antitrust, products liability, white collar defense, and securities litigation. She was a member of two winning products liability jury trials, representing a major pharmaceutical company. She also had an active pro bono practice; representing plaintiffs denied social security disability benefits. Leila actively recruited summer associates – attending events at law schools and interviewing over 100 law students applying for summer associate positions.

Leila graduated with a B.A. in International Affairs and Political Science from the George Washington University. She attended the City University of New York School of Law, earning her J.D. in 2008. Leila was an active Moot Court board member, receiving the Best Oralist award at the Henry Manne Competition in economics at the George Mason University School of Law. She was also an articles editor for the *CUNY Law Review*. Her team placed second in the ABA Labor and Employment Section Trial Advocacy Competition.

**Zachary Dugan**

**Legal Market Analyst.** Prior to joining the Office of Career Services, Zach practiced in the Finance and Real Estate group at Dechert LLP with a focus on commercial mortgage-backed securities and solar panel financing, policies, and legislation. He also had an active pro bono practice representing asylum applicants. He is a graduate of New York University’s College of Arts and Science and Graduate School of Arts and Science. Zach graduated from Cornell Law School in 2015. He was the Moot Court Board Chancellor, competed in the Jessup International Moot Court Competition, and participated as a student advocate in the Advocacy for LGBT Communities Clinic. He actively volunteers with Badger Boys State, a civics and leadership program, and serves on the board of the Badger Boys State Alumni Association.

**Claire Walsh**

**Student Engagement Fellow.** Originally from Binghamton, NY, Claire graduated from Saint John Fisher College with a B.S. in Marketing and minor in Sport Management. While at Fisher, Claire interned at the Ad Council of Rochester and was a four-year member and senior captain of the Women’s Basketball team.
Our Services

We provide programs and services that reach every law student throughout their time at Cardozo. Below is a listing of the major services that we offer. **Stop by and see us.** The better we know you, the better service we can provide.

**Career Counseling**

Our primary interaction with you will be through individual and group career counseling, where we will discuss long term career goals and short term tips on job search strategy.

**Application Materials**

We review application materials, including resumes, cover letters and personal statements and provide you with our edits and feedback.

**Workshops & Panels**

We provide training sessions on areas such as identifying employment options, using career resources, preparing application materials, and networking. In addition, the OCS offers a wide array of programs on various job search skills and legal practice areas.

**Job Postings**

Throughout the year, the OCS posts over 3,000 school-year, summer, and post-graduation job opportunities on Symplicity. We also host recruitment programs on campus and participate in off-campus job fairs, which give you direct access to employers.

**Mock Interviews**

You can schedule a mock interview with an OCS counselor. Our office also offers a mock interview program with alumni, local attorneys, and other friends of the law school that gives students an opportunity to practice their interviewing skills and receive feedback from employers directly.