The Feerick Center for Social Justice and the Stein Center for Law and Ethics present

Third Annual Women’s Leadership Institute

January 31, 2020 | 9 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. | Skadden Conference Center

sponsored by
KIRKLAND & ELLIS Milbank

additional support from
LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

cosponsored by

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY
THE SCHOOL OF LAW
8:30 a.m. Check-in, coffee & light breakfast

9 a.m. Dean’s Welcome

9:15 a.m. Practice of Law as a Business: Presentation regarding what young attorneys can do to consider this perspective in their practice.

(1.5 Professional Practice)

Panelists
LeeAnn Black
Chief Operating Officer, Latham & Watkins

Suzie Scanlon Rabinowitz ’95
Co-Founder and Managing Director, Bliss Lawyers and SRD Legal Group

Moderator: Yarelyn Mena ’19
Law Clerk, Brown Rudnik

10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Cultivating On-Ramps: This panel seeks to provide constructive advice from women who have successfully made or assist others in making a full time return to the legal industry and what young women can think about now that may provide opportunities to come back to the legal industry after a hiatus.

(1.0 Professional Practice, 0.5 Skills)

Panelists
Alex Berke ’14
Employment Litigator, Berke-Weiss Law Pregnancy Project

Lindsey Boyle
Senior Manager, Hiring & Pipeline Strategies, OnRamp Fellowship

Carroll Welch
Executive, Career and Leadership Coach, Carroll Welch Consulting

Panelist and Moderator: Geeta Tewari ’05
Director, Fordham Urban Law Center

12 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Keynote address by New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi ’12

1:30 p.m. Break

1:45 p.m. Overcoming Imposter Syndrome:
The pursuit of success for women is already complicated by how much more is expected of them beyond competence. Impostor Syndrome disproportionately afflicts the highly qualified and high achieving. Robbing professionals of confidence and the power to experience success, Impostor Syndrome poses a further complexity: it too often manifests in underrepresented professionals. Learning to disrupt Impostor Syndrome is therefore a critical leadership skill.

Speaker
Nalini Saxena
CEO and Founder, Elicit Consulting

3:30 p.m. Break

3:45 p.m. Women Leaders in Law: Advice and Discussion:
Panel discussion will focus on the importance of building robust professional networks, making strategic decisions that will advance one’s career, how to recognize and manage the impact of gender dynamics on one’s careers, and how to maintain work-life balance.

(1.0 Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias CLE, 0.5 Professional Practice)

Panelists
Lauren M. Colasacco ’10
Partner, Kirkland and Ellis

Susan Herman
President, Board of Directors, American Civil Liberties Union

Jennifer Jones Austin ’93
CEO and Executive Director, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

Séverine Losembe ’15
Associate, Milbank

5 p.m. Fireside chat with Justice Maria Araujo Kahn ’89 Supreme Court of Connecticut

Moderator: Miyoshie Lamothe-Aime ’19
Associate, Fried Frank

Cocktail reception to follow
SPEAKER BIOS

Justice Maria Araujo Kahn, Supreme Court of Connecticut

Justice Maria Araujo Kahn was born in Angola, Africa. She emigrated to the United States at ten years of age and is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish. She graduated from New York University cum laude with a B.A. in politics in 1986 and earned her Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law in 1989. Justice Kahn was the first recipient of the Noreen E. McNamara Scholarship at Fordham University School of Law. Following law school, she served as law clerk to the Honorable Peter C. Dorsey, U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Connecticut. She is a member of the United States Supreme Court, United States Federal District Court for the District of Connecticut, United States Court of Appeals Second Circuit, and the Connecticut and New York State Bars.

Governor Dannel P. Malloy nominated Justice Kahn to the Supreme Court on October 4, 2017 and she was sworn in on November 1, 2017. Prior to this appointment, Justice Kahn served as a judge of the Appellate Court and as a judge of the Superior Court, where she primarily heard criminal matters.

Before becoming a judge, Justice Kahn was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New Haven. As a federal prosecutor, Justice Kahn was responsible for complex white collar investigations and prosecutions, both civil and criminal, in the areas of health care fraud, bank fraud, bankruptcy fraud and trade secrets.

Justice Kahn has been honored on several occasions with awards including: the Department of Justice Special Achievement Awards in 1998 to 2006, and the Department of Health and Human Services, OIG, Integrity Awards. On November 3, 2017, the Portuguese Bar Association presented Justice Kahn with the “Americo Ventura Lifetime Achievement Award.”

Justice Kahn is co-chair of the Judicial Branch’s Access to Justice Commission and the Limited English Proficiency Committee. She was also a member of the Judges’ Education Committee and has taught several courses at the Connecticut Judges’ Institute. Justice Kahn is a James W. Cooper Fellow with the Connecticut Bar Foundation.

Alex Berke ’14, Employment Litigator, Berke-Weiss Law Pregnancy Project

Alex Berke is an employment litigator and provides advice and counsel on sex harassment and discrimination cases, including pregnancy, disability, race and gender discrimination. Alex also provides advice and counsel regarding employer policies, health insurance and COBRA eligibility for employees and employers. Alex spearheads Berke-Weiss Law’s Pregnancy Project, providing pregnant women and families with the necessary tools to exercise their rights during and after pregnancy.

Alessandra Biaggi ‘12, New York State Senator

Alessandra Biaggi is the Democratic New York State Senator in her home district (Bronx/Westchester), and Chair of the revived Ethics and Internal Governance Committee. The granddaughter of Italian immigrants who lived in Hunts Point, she is the fourth generation of her family to live in District 34.

Within her first two months in office, Senator Biaggi chaired the first public hearings in 27 years on sexual harassment in the workplace, and led the charge in New York to pass legislation that strengthens protections for survivors and holds employers accountable for addressing sexual misconduct. In a joint effort with her colleagues in the Democratic conference, the Senator worked to pass transformational legislation including tenant-centered housing reforms, bold climate-change initiatives, unprecedented criminal justice reform, comprehensive workplace protections, and expansive legislation making it easier to vote.

Before launching her campaign, she served in Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Counsel’s Office focusing on the New York State’s women’s policy agenda, advocating for passage of the Reproductive Health Act and the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act. During the historic 2016 election, Alessandra was the Deputy
National Operations Director for Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign, overseeing a budget of $500 million, 38 state directors and 45 associated staff.

Her run for office was preceded by a decade of advocacy and service to the people of New York. She interned for the Kings County D.A.’s Office, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, and was a legal fellow for New York State Homes and Community Renewal, working to ensure that families across New York State had access to affordable housing. She served as Assistant General Counsel for Governor Cuomo’s Office of Storm Recovery, working with small businesses and municipalities to rebuild New York after Hurricane Sandy. She was a 2015 New Leaders Council (NLC) fellow, sat on NLC’s Advisory Board, and is a member of The New Agenda’s Young Women Leadership Council.

Alessandra attended Pelham public schools and holds degrees from New York University and Fordham Law School. She is also a graduate of the Women’s Campaign School at Yale University.

LeeAnn Black, Chief Operating Officer, Latham & Watkins

LeeAnn is the Chief Operating Officer of Latham & Watkins, a global law firm with offices in the world’s major financial and regulatory centers. For more than 20 years, she has helped lead Latham’s extraordinary growth, both in size and reputation.

LeeAnn serves on numerous Latham governance committees, including the Executive Committee, the firm’s highest management body. She is a member of the advisory boards for The Roundtable Collaborative, a group of 50 Chief Operating Officers representing law firms from around the world, and Thomson Reuters’ Transforming Women’s Leadership in the Law (TWLL) initiative. She also serves as a board director of Pro Bono Net, an organization focused on increasing access to justice, and as the chair of the board of trustees of the Chapin School, an all-girls K-12 school dedicated to academic excellence, personal integrity, and community responsibility.

LeeAnn has been selected as one of the Most Powerful and Influential Women of the Tri-State Area by the National Diversity Council, a nonprofit organization that champions diversity and inclusion. She was also named a 2017 Top 10 Legal Innovator for North America by the Financial Times and a 2018 Gold Achievement Gala honoree by the Girl Scouts of Greater New York.

Before joining Latham & Watkins, LeeAnn was a Senior Auditor with Arthur Andersen & Co.

Lindsey Boyle, Senior Manager, Hiring & Pipeline Strategies, OnRamp Fellowship

Lindsey joined Diversity Lab and the OnRamp Fellowship program in 2017 as the Senior Manager, Hiring & Pipeline Strategies, with over 10 years of experience in the legal recruiting and professional development field. At OnRamp, Lindsey is responsible for developing and maintaining strong relationships with the OnRamp Fellowship partner organizations and working closely with OnRamp candidates, fellows, and alumnae of the program. In addition, Lindsey assists the Diversity Lab team with piloting initiatives to come out of the Diversity in Law Hackathon series.

Prior to joining OnRamp, Lindsey was a member of the legal recruiting team at Goodwin Procter LLP, where she was responsible for firm-wide relationships with law schools, including strategic outreach, designing attorney/student programming, enhancing law school relationships, and increasing the student recruiting pipeline. She also collaborated with firm leaders on lawyer hiring strategy and helped manage the recruiting, hiring, and integration processes at the firm.

Most recently, Lindsey served as the Assistant Director for Employer Relations & Outcomes at Boston University School of Law, where she managed the relationship between the law school with employers in all sectors. She also was responsible for the school’s on- and off-campus recruitment programs along with general career-related programming and the annual résumé review and mock interview programs.

Lindsey received her B.A. from Hobart & William Smith Colleges and her law degree from Suffolk
University Law School. She briefly practiced in the field of labor and employment law for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts before returning to her pre-law career (and first love), legal recruiting.

**Lauren M. Colasacco ‘10, Partner, Kirkland and Ellis**

Lauren Colasacco is a corporate partner in the New York office. Lauren regularly represents private equity firms, private companies and public companies in a wide variety of mergers and acquisitions transactions, including significant leveraged buyouts, strategic mergers, carve-outs, joint ventures and other complex strategic transactions. She also counsels clients with respect to general corporate and governance matters.

Lauren earned her B.A. in Political Science and French Studies from Duke University and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law, where she graduated magna cum laude. At Fordham Law, she received the National Association of Women Lawyers Award and was an Associate Editor of Fordham Law Review.

**Susan Herman, President, Board of Directors, American Civil Liberties Union**

Susan N. Herman was elected President of the American Civil Liberties Union in 2008, after having served on the ACLU National Board of Directors, as a member of the Executive Committee, and as General Counsel. She holds a chair as Centennial Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, where she teaches courses in Constitutional Law and Criminal Procedure, and seminars on Law and Literature, and Terrorism and Civil Liberties.

She writes extensively on constitutional and criminal procedure topics for scholarly and other publications. Her most recent book, Taking Liberties: The War on Terror and the Erosion of American Democracy, (Oxford University Press 2011; 2014 paperback), is the winner of the 2012 Roy C. Palmer Civil Liberties Prize. Herman also participated in Supreme Court litigation, writing and collaborating on amicus curiae briefs for the ACLU on a range of constitutional criminal procedure issues, most recently in Riley v. California, 134 S. Ct. 2473 (2014).

Herman received a B.A. from Barnard College as a philosophy major, and a J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was a Note and Comment Editor on the N.Y.U. Law Review. Before entering teaching, Professor Herman was Pro Se Law Clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and Staff Attorney and then Associate Director of Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York.

**Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO and Executive Director, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies ‘93**

Jennifer Jones Austin, a child and family advocate, is Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies (FPWA), an anti-poverty, policy and advocacy organization with 170 member human services agencies and faith partners operating throughout New York City. Prior to joining FPWA, Ms. Jones Austin served as Senior Vice President of United Way of New York City, Family Services Coordinator for Mayor Bloomberg, Deputy Commissioner for the NYC Administration for Children’s Services, Civil Rights Deputy Bureau Chief for Attorney General Elliot Spitzer, and Vice President for LearnNow/Edison Schools Inc.

Ms. Jones Austin has chaired and served on several influential boards and commissions, including serving as Co-Chair of NYC Mayor de Blasio’s Transition Committee, Chair of the NYC Procurement Policy Board, and Co-Chair of the New York State Supermarket Commission. She currently is a Board Member of the National Action Network, the NYC Board of Correction, and the Brooklyn Museum. Jennifer is also a member of the Feerick Center for Social Justice’s Advisory Board.

**Miyoshie Lamothe-Aime ‘19, Associate, Fried Frank**

Miyoshie Lamothe-Aime is a law clerk in the Corporate Department of Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson LLP and is based in the firm’s New York office. Ms. Lamothe-Aime’s practice
focuses on Mergers & Acquisitions and Private Equity transactions.

Ms. Lamothe-Aime is a recent graduate of Fordham University School of Law, Class of 2019, where she served as Stein Scholar, Editor-in-Chief of the Fordham Urban Law Journal, Captain of the Jessup International Moot Court team, and Secretary of the Black Law Students Association. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Affairs from the George Washington University’s Elliot School of International Affairs.

Séverine Losembe ‘15, Associate, Milbank
Séverine Losembe is an associate in the New York office of Milbank and a member of the firm’s Global Project, Energy and Infrastructure Finance Group. Séverine’s practice focuses on the representation of financial institutions and sponsors in a range of US and international energy, infrastructure and mining project financings.

Séverine earned her J.D. from Fordham Law School, cum laude, where she served as President of the Black Law Student Association. She received a B.A. from Barnard College, Columbia University.

Yarelyn Mena ‘19, Law Clerk, Brown Rudnik
Yarelyn Mena is a recent graduate of Fordham University School of Law, ’19. During her time at Fordham Law, she served as president of the Latin American Law Students Association (2018-2019), teacher’s assistant in the Legal Writing Program, staff member of Fordham’s Intellectual Property, Media & Entertainment Law Journal, and Legal Intern at Fordham Law’s Samuel-Glushko Intellectual Property and Information Law Clinic.

As a law student, she also served as Vice-President of Pipeline Program for MetroLALSA and became an HNBA/Microsoft Intellectual Property Law Scholar. Yarelyn is currently a first-year Associate in the Intellectual Property Litigation group at Brown Rudnick LLP. Prior to law school, Yarelyn earned a BA in psychology cum laude from Hunter College, City University of New York.

Nalini Saxena, CEO and Founder, Elicit Consulting
Nalini Saxena is a strategist and executive advisor. She helps entrepreneurs, individuals, and organizations break through obstacles and reveal their latent talents, express their strengths, and achieve inspiring successes. Her client list ranges from top tier global financial institutions to Shark Tank contestants. As a robust generalist, Nalini provides guidance and implementation on business strategy, financial strategy, leadership direction, management development, and communication.

She has positioned small businesses to multiply their revenue by overhauling their approach to managing their business and finances. A trusted guide, she expertly identifies the challenges inhibiting her clients and strategically maps out a clear, customized path to overcome these challenges. She has positioned larger organizations to succeed against an increasingly competitive landscape by addressing culture, client relationship management, and operational efficiency. She has developed winning pitch decks that have secured millions of dollars in capital raising for her entrepreneurial clients. She has coached ambitious professionals through career transition and targeted development of both hard and soft skills.

Through Elicit™ Consulting, Nalini and her team of experts employ an evidence-based approach to delivering results. Nalini’s academic and professional backgrounds, along with her intellectual curiosity and commitment to ethics, drive this approach. Elicit is known for empowering clients through a code of strength-building, listening, partnership, and thoughtful design of custom solutions.

Nalini earned her BA in Neuroscience & Behavior from Barnard College, Columbia University and her MBA in Strategy, Leadership & Ethics, and Brand Marketing from The Fuqua School of Business, Duke University. Nalini is a member of the Forbes Coaches Council.

Suzie Scanlon Rabinowitz ‘95, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Bliss Lawyers and SRD Legal Group
Suzie Scanlon is active in the pursuit of practicing law differently and has been working as a pioneer in the virtual law firm space for more than ten years and is an advocate for legal industry change.
Suzie has co-authored a book to be released by the ABA in January 2015, entitled FINDING BLISS: Innovative Legal Models for Happy Clients & Happy Lawyers. She is a proponent of alternative legal fees and developing innovative legal solutions.

Suzie practices in the fields of commercial transactions, licensing in the technology industry and marketing material review for alternative investments. She specializes in legal process management and high-volume work flows for financial services companies. Prior to joining the virtual law firm world, she worked as a traditional lawyer at the law firms Sullivan & Cromwell and Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. She also worked at the National Association of Securities Dealers (predecessor to FINRA) and in the New York State Executive Chamber of Governor Mario M. Cuomo as a Press Aide. Suzie earned her law degree in 1995 from Fordham Law School where she served as the Annual Survey Editor of the Fordham Law Review and was the recipient of the American Jurisprudence Award for Torts and Criminal Law.

Geeta Tewari ’05, Director, Fordham Urban Law Center
Geeta Tewari is the Director of the Urban Law Center at Fordham Law School, where she launched the Women in Urban Law Leadership Initiative in Spring 2019. She graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in Government, and from Fordham University School of Law. At the Law School, she served as an editor for the Fordham International Law Journal and was granted the Archibald R. Murray Dean’s Award of Excellence for Outstanding Public Service. Tewari is admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C., and has practiced with the New York City Law Department and the Washington D.C. Office of the Attorney General. Tewari also holds a Master of Fine Arts in Writing from Columbia University, where she has taught creative and expository writing, and served on the Fiction Board of the Columbia Journal of Literature and Art. Her fiction has appeared in Granta Magazine, New England Review, and other literary publications. She is a member of the New York Women Bar Association’s Advancing the Status of Women Committee, and her legal scholarship on gender equity and narrative justice is forthcoming from Michigan Journal of Race and Law and N.Y.U. Journal of Law and Business.

Carroll Welch, Executive, Career and Leadership Coach, Carroll Welch Consulting
Carroll Welch is a career, executive and leadership coach who supports professionals in all industries on issues involving career and leadership development, transition and reentry. Carroll also has extensive experience supporting relaunchers as they seek to return to the paid workforce after a career break, and is an Affiliate Coach with iRelaunch. Prior to becoming a coach, Carroll was a practicing employment and litigation attorney; she has also served as a director of New Directions, an attorney reentry program run for several years by Pace Law School.

Carroll received a certificate in Executive and Organizational Coaching from New York University, and is a member of the International Coach Federation and holds their Professional Certified Coach credential. She is a Forbes Coaches Council Member and Contributor and credentialed in the GetFive job search methodology platform. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law. She serves as a mentor and advisory board member for Campus Bound Scholars, a nonprofit that supports first generation college students.
About Us

About the Women’s Leadership Institute
This full-day institute provides leadership training to female law students and recent graduates, with the goal of delivering useful and practical skills that empower participants to be better equipped to succeed in the practice of law. During the planning committee’s time in law school and as they started their careers, they observed firsthand the sexism that still pervades the legal profession and witnessed female peers struggle with confidence, assertiveness, and the ability and desire to lead. We believe there is a deficit in leadership training for law students and young attorneys, and our goal is to start to fill that gap with inspiring and constructive advice tailored for young women.

About the 2020 Conference
This year’s interactive institute aims to equip participants to succeed in the legal field with sessions on the practice of law as a business, returning to the legal workforce after a hiatus, overcoming imposter syndrome, and more.

2020 Planning Committee
Kara Krakower ’19
Molly Ryan ’15
Hopi Costello ’16

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2. Open your web browser and navigate to a frequently refreshed URL, such as CNN.com. You will automatically be directed to the Fordham network welcome page. Select Join as a Guest. (Note: For Apple iOS devices, use only the Safari browser for this process.)
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CLE Credit

Continuing legal education credits have been approved in accordance with the requirements of the New York State CLE Board for a maximum of 4.5 transitional and non-transitional credits. (0.5 Skills, 1.0 Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias, 3.0 Professional Practice)

CLE course materials available at: law.fordham.edu/clematerials

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