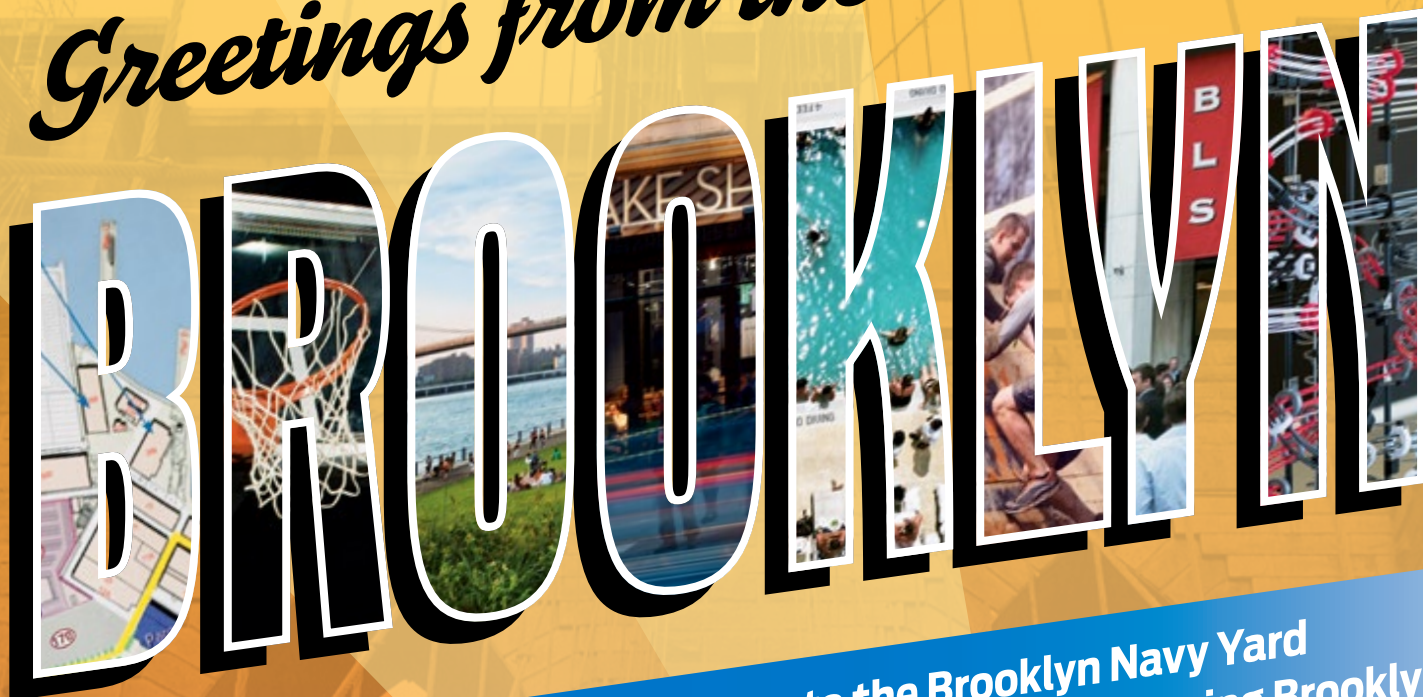


BLS LawNotes

THE MAGAZINE OF BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL | SPRING 2013

Greetings from the New

BROOKLYN



**From Barclays Center to the Brooklyn Navy Yard
and Beyond, BLS Graduates Are Transforming Brooklyn**

THE *Magnificent* SEVEN

Seven of the “Top 50 Women” recognized by *Super Lawyers* this year are Brooklyn Law School alumnae: **Harriet Newman Cohen ’74, Barbara Kaplan ’75, Jane Stevens ’77, BLS Board of Trustees member Eileen Nugent ’78, Lynne Fischman Uniman ’79, Ellen Makofsky ’85, and Colleen Caden ’99.** Cohen and Stevens also appeared on the “Top 100” list.

“The presence of so many alumnae on this list is a source of great pride for the Law School,” said Dean Nick Allard. “It is especially meaningful that it includes graduates from three decades, all of whom have contributed to the development of the law and represent the best of the profession. This honor is especially fitting given that the Law School was one of the first schools in the nation to appoint a woman as its dean. President Joan G. Wexler’s pioneering leadership over the past 20 years has brought us to the forefront of legal education.”

Of particular note is that the lawyers selected for the Top 50 List were chosen by a vote of their peers. Their inclusion is therefore a testament not only to their skill as practitioners and advocates, but also to the high degree of respect with which they are held by their colleagues in the legal community.

On the following pages, we have profiled each of the “Magnificent 7” and have posed a series of questions about their rise to the top and the status of women in the legal profession. What obstacles have they faced? Do they view the partnership track as a level playing field? How do they define success? Their answers are as interesting and varied as their practice areas.



Colleen Caden '99

**Partner, Chair of the Immigration Group
Pryor Cashman**

AREA OF EXPERTISE

Immigration

EDUCATION

J.D., Brooklyn Law School

M.A., New York University

B.A., New York University

NBA guards, NHL goalies, and international journalists are among the clients that come to Colleen Caden for immigration assistance. A partner at Pryor Cashman LLP, Caden joined the firm in 2009 after 10 years at a boutique immigration law firm, to launch Pryor Cashman's corporate immigration group. In the course of three short years, the practice has tripled in size and now includes three partners, three associates, and three paralegals. "Pryor Cashman offered me a rare entrepreneurial opportunity to launch and build a preeminent practice. It has been a very exciting and rewarding professional experience."

She not only counsels a variety of professional NBA and NHL athletes, but she also works with Fortune 100 and 500 companies and represents clients in an array of industries from media to consumer products to pharmaceuticals to consulting. Caden is also sought after for her expertise in helping companies navigate the increasingly complicated web of regulations that govern immigration law. She has set up compliance training programs for her clients and travels on site to educate and advise them on developing and implementing immigration strategies, programs, and policies.

Caden found her calling as an immigration lawyer rather by chance. She came to Brooklyn Law School with the goal of working for the U.S. Department or the United Nations. After her second year at BLS, she was a summer associate at a law firm where she had the opportunity to work on a variety of employment-based immigration matters. "I got hooked," she recalled.

"It was pre-9/11 and business immigration law, in particular, was not a high profile practice area. I worked with large multinational companies and the bright, talented foreign nationals they were hiring to drive and build their companies and who also needed employment visas and green cards. The hands-on client representation involved strategizing and preparing temporary visa as well as green card applications and the work was both fascinating and exciting."

Who have been your most important mentors and why?

I lived at home while I was in law school. Every day, I commuted with my father [the late Eastern District Magistrate Judge John Caden '67]. I would wait for him in chambers after school and got to know his law clerk at the time, Dyan Finguerra-Ducharme '96. She became a mentor and today is a good friend. She had been the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Law & Policy* where I was Articles Editor, and she advised me on the development and drafting of my note. She encouraged me to move to Pryor Cashman.

I also found many career mentors through my involvement as a volunteer with the New York Junior League, where I will begin serving on the Board of Directors beginning this July. Working closely with strong, dynamic women from diverse industries who are breaking ground in their own fields, while taking on leadership positions within the organization, inspired me to do more.

What do you believe are the major obstacles facing women in the legal profession?

One of the biggest obstacles women grapple with in this industry is learning how to market themselves and develop business. It is not something that is taught in law school, but it is absolutely a skill that needs to be developed in order to be successful. To address this challenge, in the past year, we started a Women's Leadership Initiative at Pryor Cashman. The program grew out of the need raised by many women at the firm who wanted to emulate my success and implement a strategy for building a strong practice. The Women's Leadership Initiative provides mentoring, business development advice, and education. It is all about how we can help women move forward.

What are your fondest memories from law school?

I thoroughly enjoyed law school—the coursework, the faculty, and the friendships I made and still enjoy today. I will always cherish my memories of this time because I was able to enjoy it with my father. Throughout my three years at BLS, we would talk about cases I was reading, internships I was enrolled in, as well as my experiences on Moot Court. My father was passionate about the law and always shared his ideas, insights, and opinions with me. His boundless enthusiasm in my career and his love of the law continue to inspire me today. ■