

Faculty Bios

(in alphabetical order)

Sil Lai Abrams

Sil Lai Abrams is a NABJ award-winning writer, inspirational speaker, and domestic violence awareness activist. Her passionate belief in the transformative power of greater self-awareness and personal accountability is the motivating force behind her work to empower others to create empowered lives, healthier relationships and end violence against women and children. Sil Lai is the founder of Truth in Reality, a media advocacy organization committed to changing the way that women of color and violence are portrayed in the media.

Sil Lai has appeared on ABC, CNN, MSNBC, TV One, Al Jazeera, FOX, BET, Court TV, and TruTV as an expert on relationships and domestic violence, and been featured in national magazines such as *Modern Woman*, *Essence*, *Oprah*, *Redbook*, *EBONY*, *Black Enterprise* and *Sister 2 Sister*. Her inspirational life story and practical spiritually-based advice has helped Sil Lai become a highly sought after public speaker and workshop facilitator, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Medical Association, Harvard University, and Dress for Success being just a few of the distinguished organizations that have used her speaking services. She has also been featured in PINE-SOL'S "POWERFUL DIFFERENCE" CAMPAIGN, a national cause marketing effort that celebrates women making a positive difference in their communities.

Sil Lai has been an active supporter of organizations that combat domestic violence for over a decade. In addition to being the founder of Truth in Reality, she has served on the Board of Directors for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Safe Horizon

Stephanie Aranyos

Stephanie Aranyos serves as of counsel in the New York City office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C. Ms. Aranyos advises and represents employers in a broad spectrum of employment and labor matters involving the Fair Labor Standards Act, Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the National Labor Relations Act as well as many other federal and state laws affecting employment and labor. Ms. Aranyos frequently represents employers before federal and state courts and before administrative agencies on matters, including: employment discrimination, wage and hour complaints, union organization campaigns, wrongful discharge and breach of contract litigation. Ms. Aranyos also defends employers in class and collective actions brought in federal courts and New York state courts.

Ms. Aranyos also counsels clients regularly on policy development, leave laws, handling the interactive process for accommodation requests, workforce reductions, corporate reorganizations, WARN act requirements, disciplinary action, worker classifications, employment handbooks, wage/hour matters, implications of social media in the workplace, terminations and internal investigations. Mr. Aranyos represents clients in a number of industries, including staffing, retail, manufacturing, financial services, as well as cultural institutions.

Paula Barnes, Esq.

Paula Barnes is Senior Counsel with Macy's, Inc. and serves as a marketing law and corporate retail law generalist advising her Macy's, Bloomingdale's and Bluemercury clients on a variety

of retail operational issues. Her practice area at Macy's, Inc. includes providing advice on advertising, social media and digital marketing, cause marketing, Corporate Social Responsibility issues, regulatory including FTC Endorsement guidelines and brand protection matters, as well as reviewing, drafting and negotiating vendor contracts, Designer collaboration and other licensing/co-branding agreements, sponsorship, special event, software and SEO agreements, data analytics, digital agreements, and talent releases. In addition, Ms. Barnes serves as primary counsel to Macy's and Bloomingdale's corporate executive and regional management on store asset protection policies and procedures and provides counsel on theft investigations.

Ms. Barnes has been active in a number of local and national bar associations and public service and social justice organizations. She is a member of the United Nations Association, New York chapter, formerly served as a Board Member of the Association of Black Women Attorneys and serves as an Adjunct Professor with Fordham University School of Law. Ms. Barnes participates in the Women In-House Council Leadership Institute and is a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel's Retail Law group, as well as a member of Corporate Counsel Women of Color. At Macy's she served as a member of the Law Department's Diversity and Inclusion Council, working with the Communication and Pipeline sub-committee, is a 2015 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow and served as the past Office Chair for the Street Law Mentoring program and Bag Hunger campaign. At MetLife, Ms. Barnes served as a Co-Chair of the Diversity Committee's Bar Association Liaison sub-committee, where she oversaw the subcommittee's budget, executed strategy to meet the goals and objectives of both the sub-committee and overall Diversity Committee's mission and helped plan a number of the sub-committee's signature events, including the annual Diverse Bar Leaders' Roundtables.

Prior to joining Macy's, Ms. Barnes was counsel with MetLife and served as an Assistant District Attorney with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office under Robert Morgenthau. While at MetLife, Ms. Barnes provided counsel on the distribution of MetLife products through the agent and independent broker channels, including the review of sales and promotional material for regulatory and IP compliance, and the drafting and negotiation of vendor agreements. Her expertise included serving as a primary distribution attorney for MetLife's field agencies providing advice to management regarding branding initiatives, including marketing campaigns, as well as brand enforcement measures.

AJ Cartas

AJ Cartas is a social media influencer who grew his following to over 1.2 million followers total across his social media platforms. AJ's biggest social media platform is on Instagram, but he gained popularity on Vine with over 50 million views. AJ has worked with brands such as Google, Wal-Mart, Dreamworks, Pixar, and Redbox. With his unique perspective in influencer marketing as an influencer himself, he decided to leave his third-year of college and move to Silicon Valley to help companies grow and lead their social media initiatives. In 2017, AJ eventually became Head of Social Media for ByteDance, a \$10 billion company that recently acquired Musical.ly. After parting with ByteDance, AJ launched RaiseFluence, an influencer agency that specializes in helping international brands with their social media marketing in the U.S. He is also in the process of publishing his first book, Start-Ups & Downs, where he talks about his entrepreneurial journey in Silicon Valley.

Toi V. Eaton

Toi is the Chief Human Resources Officer of Blacture. She has over 25 years of human resources leadership experience within a multitude of industries, including media, advertising, healthcare, public relations, publishing and insurance.

Toi joined Blacture from the New York Presbyterian member hospital, Gracie Square Hospital, where she was the Chief Human Resources and Compliance Officer. In addition, Toi's media background includes Omnicom Media Group, where she served as Sr. Director of Human Resources. Prior to Omnicom, she was with Ogilvy & Mather as a Director/VP Human Resources for Ogilvy Public Relations and Ogilvy Advertising. Additionally, she has lent her expertise to Wall Street and global financial markets thru crisis and issues management, capital markets communications, public affairs, mergers & acquisitions, life sciences & healthcare, technology & telecommunications, business-to-business and retail communications sectors as HR Director at FTI Consulting/FD. Toi served as strategic HR Director at McGraw-Hill Companies focused on organizational and executive development, change management, global succession planning and outsourcing for IT and Global Customer Operations. Prior to McGraw-Hill, Toi was HR Manager for The Economist where she was involved in acquisitions and divestitures for the group as well as the launch of new media divisions – Economist.com, CFO.com and the continued growth of EIU.com. Her breadth of experience includes specialized areas such Diversity Initiatives, Performance Management, Training and Development, and Employee Relations from her tenure with Allstate Insurance Company.

Toi began her career as a Media/Public Relations Assistant for Greer, Margolis, Mitchell & Grunwald in Washington, D.C., for the 1992 Clinton- Gore Presidential campaign. She holds a SPHR certification, Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations from Howard University and a MPA in Human Resource Administration from Rutgers University. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated - Central Jersey Alumnae Chapter and The Links, Incorporated - Raritan Valley (NJ) Chapter where she devotes many hours of community service and mentoring

Jamie Lieberman, Esq.

As a founding partner of Hashtag Legal, Jamie brings extensive experience drafting and reviewing contracts, advising clients on intellectual property issues, drafting website and mobile application terms and conditions, advising about proper FTC disclosures and compliance, and negotiating on behalf of clients, coupled with a deep understanding of business and corporate law.

A practicing lawyer for over 10 years, Jamie worked for a large, international law firm in New York City on complex commercial matters and for a Federal District Judge on both civil and criminal federal cases. Jamie also worked for an influencer network as the Director of Operations and Chief Counsel, overseeing national influencer marketing campaigns and conferences. She is also an adjunct professor at Seton Hall Law School.

Jamie is a highly experienced speaker and specializes in working with influencers, agencies, and brands at live events. She is licensed to practice in New York and New Jersey.

LeAura Luciano, Esq.

LeAura Luciano is a social media professional with over 9 years of experience in the digital world. With her background as journalist, writer and content creator she has written for top magazines, digital publications including Latina, Refinery29 and The New York Daily News. She has also worked with brands to create content for their social media channel and create and build influencer partnerships with influencers in beauty and fashion. This includes brands such as Touch in Sol, Pact Park, MakeupGeek, and BioEffect.

As the founder of her blog EverSoPopular.com, she is on the pulse of top trends in beauty, fashion, travel and lifestyle categories. In her role as a digital influencer, she has been an ambassador for a wide array of brands, including Cantu, Tide, Toyota, HBO, Suave, Verizon, Maybelline and more on successful partnerships. LeAura is a graduate of Hofstra Law School and New York University.

Sarah Robertson, Esq.

Sarah is a partner in the New York City office of the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney LLP. She has over fifteen years' experience helping clients protect, enforce and exploit their intellectual property assets and overseeing clients' general business needs, with particular depth in the creative industries, tech, financial and consumer product sectors.

Sarah has extensive experience in a wide scope of corporate and commercial agreements and transactions involving intellectual property, and assisting with the day-to-day needs of clients. She clears, registers and enforces brand names in the U.S. and internationally. She handles sales and distribution issues, as well as complex licensing matters. She represents clients in Trademark Trial and Appeal Board proceedings and in disputes involving intellectual property, including mobile app and domain name conflicts. She also counsels clients on marketing, advertising, contest and online reputation management issues.

Also admitted to practice in Canada, Sarah has extensive experience in Canadian cross-border issues and helps Canadian businesses enter the U.S. market.

Sarah is the head of Dorsey's New York Trademark Group and President of the Canadian American Bar Association.

Katherine Rosenfeld, Esq.

Katherine (Katie) Rosenfeld is a partner at Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP. She is an experienced litigator and advocate with over fifteen years of experience representing clients in complex civil litigation. Her practice includes civil rights and commercial matters in both federal and state courts at the trial and appellate level.

Ms. Rosenfeld has substantial experience in class action litigation, including against the New York City Police Department, New York City Department of Correction, and New York City Transit Authority. She has successfully represented classes of medical residents, victims of excessive force and police misconduct, Limited English Proficient individuals, and people with disabilities seeking access to government services.

Ms. Rosenfeld maintains a diverse civil rights practice that includes constitutional litigation; sexual harassment and assault; employment and housing discrimination cases alleging discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, familial status, pregnancy, disability, and source of income; and police and prison abuse.

Her commercial practice includes contract, business, and tort disputes. She also advises companies on workplace issues such as terminations and internal investigation, and negotiates separation and severance agreements for employees, including high-level executives of major corporations. She has also successfully represented students in academic discipline issues including internal appeals.

From 2014 to 2017, Ms. Rosenfeld served as the Legal Director of New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), where she led the organization's advocacy work. At NYLPI, Ms. Rosenfeld directed litigation and policy campaigns on behalf of individuals, community groups, and organizations in the areas of disability discrimination, transportation access, educational equity, immigrants' rights, housing discrimination, public accommodations, language access, criminal justice reform, and health and environmental conditions. She also oversaw the publication of several significant public reports, including *Detained and Denied: Healthcare Access in Immigration Detention* (2017). Prior to her role at NYLPI, Ms. Rosenfeld was a partner at the firm, where for a decade she litigated a wide variety of civil rights and commercial cases in federal and state courts. Ms. Rosenfeld is a 2015 recipient of the Fair Housing Justice Center's Acting for Justice Award.

Before joining the firm in 2004, Ms. Rosenfeld worked as an associate at Koob & Magoolahan where she focused on prisoners' rights and employment discrimination. She was also a law clerk for the Honorable Dean D. Pregerson in the United States District Court for the Central District of California. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago and Yale Law School.

James Scully

With his 30 + years in the fashion industry, James' career has taken him from retail and fashion P.R., to fashion show production, and finally as bookings editor of Harpers Bazaar before setting up shop 16 years ago as a freelance casting director and producer.

From his first casting in 1993 for Todd Oldham to his definitive role in shaping the line ups for Gucci and YSL during the Tom Ford Era and a diverse roster of clients from Tom Ford, Stella McCartney, Derek Lam, Jason Wu, Carolina Herrera and newcomer Brandon Maxwell, Scully is also known for giving big modeling breaks to industry veterans such as Liya Kebede, Natalia Vodionova, and instagram stars Gigi and Bella Hadad as well as Lucky Blue Smith.

As a board member of the Model Alliance, working along with the CFDA health Initiative and Bethann Hardison's balance diversity, he has been stridently vocal about issues pertaining to the proliferation of under aged models, lack of diversity, unhealthy body image and the current epidemic of bullying and racism in the business. His goal is to keep these issues in the spotlight to guarantee that future generations of models will have the opportunity to work in fair, safe conditions and the future promise of a career with longevity.

Andrew W. Singer, Esq.

As co-managing partner, Andrew leads Tannenbaum Helpert Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP's employment law practice, which offers a broad spectrum of legal services from counseling clients on day-to-day human resource issues to defending companies in complex employment

litigation. He has extensive experience in all aspects of employment law and regularly advises companies and HR professionals on issues including employment agreements, restrictive covenant enforceability counseling, HR compliance, discrimination, wage and hour, sexual harassment and HR policies such as social media, technology, email usage, audits, equal employment opportunity claims, workforce reduction, and employment-related litigation. With more than 25 years of experience, Andrew has represented businesses from across industries, including staffing, financial services, hospitality, retail, technology, manufacturing, and more. A frequent speaker and trainer on various employment and HR topics, he has been selected for inclusion in the New York Super Lawyers list from 2010 to 2017.

Agatha Schmaedick Tan, the Coalition of Immokalee Worker's (CIW) Associate General Counsel, is a labor and migrants' rights advocate with over fifteen years of experience internationally and in the U.S. As a founding member of both the United Students Against Sweatshops and the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC), Agatha helped to uncover and resolve many abuses in the global garment industry through harnessing and combining consumers' and workers' power to hold apparel retailers accountable to abuses in their supply chains. For seven years, Agatha served first as the Field Director for Southeast Asia and ultimately as the Director of Field Operations at the WRC. Prior to this, Agatha served as the Program Director of the Network for Immigrant Justice, a coalition of community organizations providing support to migrant farmworkers in her home state of Oregon. As an Equal Justice Works Law Fellow at the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center in Washington, D.C., Agatha provided legal services to low-income immigrant workers in matters of employment and immigration law, including representing survivors of labor trafficking in civil and criminal cases. Agatha earned her Juris Doctor from Georgetown University, where she attended as a Public Interest Law Scholar and was awarded the ABA Award for Excellence in Labor and Employment Law.

Mirande Valbrune, Esq.

Mirande Valbrune is an employment lawyer with a passion for performing strategic, value added Employee Relations work. Mirande has over 15 years of experience, with a majority of those spent in senior leadership roles making pro-active, preventive in-house contributions, including sexual harassment trainings, policy and investigations work. Mirande holds degrees from two Ivy League institutions that are renowned for their Employment Law programs and has worked for two prominent management side Labor and Employment law firms. Mirande is admitted to the New York bar and has earned the Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) designation. She has been featured in many publications, including Forbes, NBC News and New York Magazine, to share her employment law expertise on a range of topics and news items.

Mirande believes in living life with a purpose. Therefore, she seizes upon multiple opportunities to give back to her community. Mirande has assumed leadership roles outside of work and has a broad network which has been cultivated by her membership in organizations such as the Council of Urban Professionals and Corporate Counsel Women of Color in New York. Mirande co-founded a charity, Living Measure, which raises funds for other charities of choice.

In her highly engaging debut business book, *#MeToo: A Practical Guide to Navigating Today's Cultural Workplace Revolution*, Mirande harnesses her knowledge and expertise to highlight the events that catalyzed the #MeToo movement and to provide practical guidance and tools that can be used to handle a variety of workplace scenarios inspired by real #MeToo stories. The case studies provided in this book can serve to help employees, employers, and those "afraid of getting it wrong" to handle more effectively instances and allegations of sexual abuse or harassment that may arise at work.

Julie Zerbo, Esq.

Julie Zerbo is an attorney and the founder and editor-in-chief of The Fashion Law, an independent source of objective fashion law and business analysis, and a go-to resource for the fashion industry and legal professionals. She authored a chapter and assisted in editing *Fashion Law: A Guide for Designers, Fashion Executives, and Attorneys*, a leading fashion law textbook in law schools in the U.S. and exclusively pens the "Law Review" column for *Women's Wear Daily*.