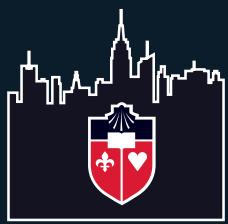




MATTONE  
INSTITUTE  
St. JOHN'S LAW

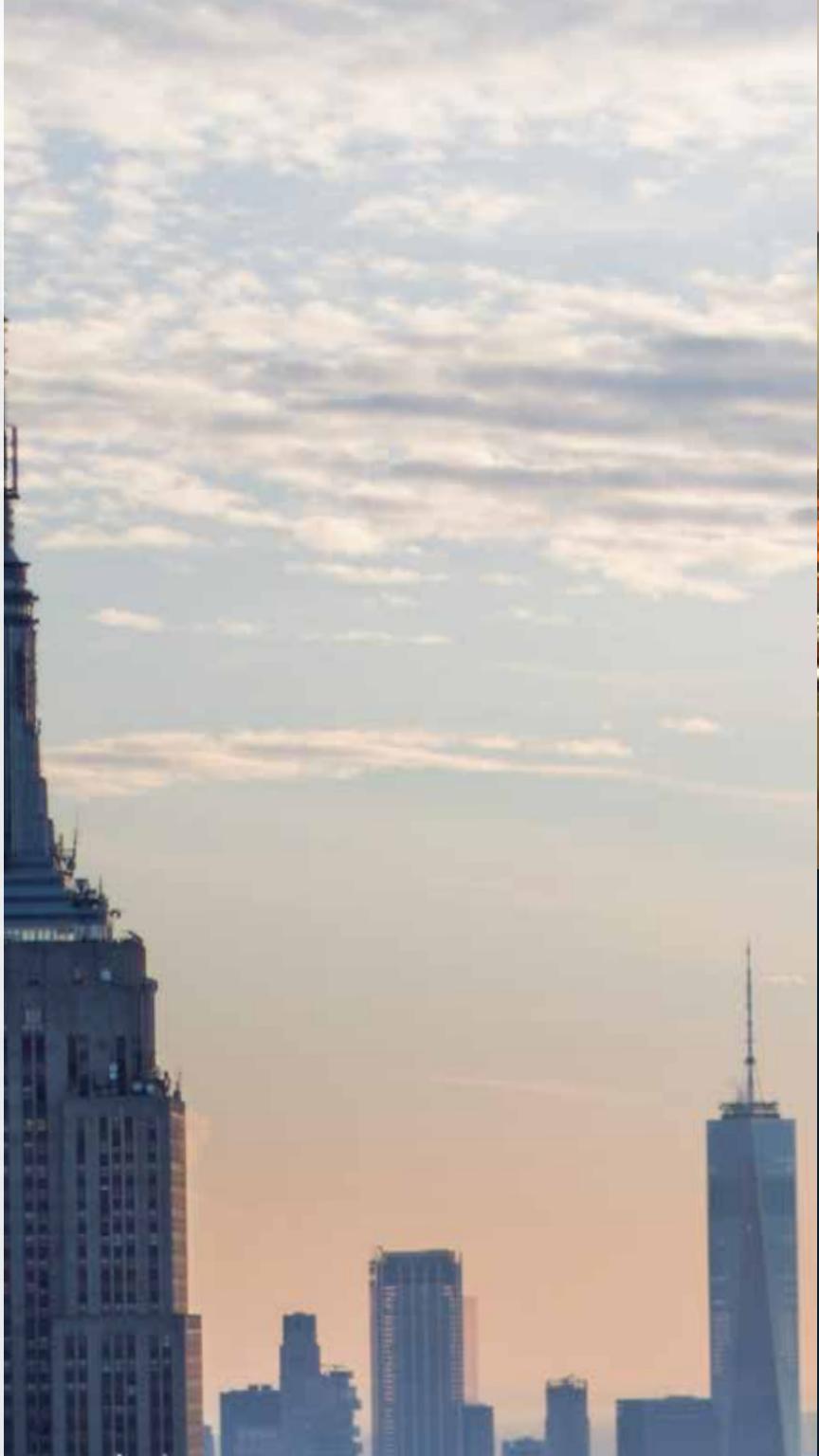




MATTONE  
INSTITUTE

# CONTENTS

- 3** Introduction
- 4** Programs
- 5** Message from the Director
- 6** New York City: The Nation's Best Training Ground for Real Estate Lawyers
- 7** Curriculum
- 8** Faculty
- 9** Real Estate Fellowship Program
- 10** Special Events
- 12** What Our Students Have To Say
- 13** Alumni & Advisory Board
- 15** Other Real Estate Law Activities
- 16** Support the Institute / More Information





ST. JOHN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW



## MATTONE FAMILY INSTITUTE for REAL ESTATE LAW

The Mattone Institute, St. John's Law's focal point for real estate law, is dedicated to preparing aspiring real estate attorneys for practice through exceptional academic programs, unique career development opportunities, and extraordinary special events. In so doing, it builds upon the Law School's nearly century-old tradition of producing outstanding real estate lawyers.

# Preparing Aspiring Real Estate Attorneys for Practice



At St. John's Law, students interested in real estate law participate in a rich array of programs and learning opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, which gives them the tools they need to succeed in practice after graduation:

- **Curriculum** – Students learn the substance of real estate law from leading real estate law scholars and practitioners in our innovative real estate law courses, including courses on advanced topics such as commercial leasing, real estate development, and commercial real estate finance.
- **Real Estate Law Fellowship Program** – 2L and 3L students selected to participate in our Fellowship Program have a unique opportunity to pursue a unified course of study in real estate law.
- **Special Events** – By attending our real estate-focused special events, students gain insight into the real estate business and the practice of real estate law, and develop their professional networks.
- **Career Development Support** – Starting in the first semester of law school, the Mattone Institute's Director and a dedicated career development officer from the Law School's Career Development Office work with students to develop their real estate law credentials, prepare them for interviews, and help them find jobs.
- **Alumni** – Students have access to our superb network of dedicated alumni, including leaders throughout the real estate community in New York City and beyond, some of whom serve on the Mattone Institute's Advisory Board. Alumni frequently mentor students and connect them with job opportunities.
- **Pre-professional, Co-curricular and Extracurricular Activities** – Students interested in real estate generally join the Real Property Law Society, a forum for students to discuss real estate law and the real estate industry. By participating in our real estate-focused externships and internships, students can gain practical skills and bolster their professional credentials. Students selected to be staff members on the N.Y. Real Property Law Journal have the opportunity to hone their legal research and writing skills and gain experience on cutting-edge issues in real estate law.

# Message from the Director



In my view, there is no better place in the world in which to start a career as a real estate lawyer than New York City, and no better law school at which to study real estate law than St. John's Law.

The education, practical skills training, and career development support provided by our real estate law programs help aspiring real estate attorneys to "hit the ground running" towards successful careers in this diverse and exciting field, which is now changing more rapidly than ever before. As our graduates go on to practice real estate law in private practice, in-house, on behalf of governmental entities or non-profits, or in other settings, they continue our longstanding tradition of producing exceptional real estate attorneys, and follow in the paths of hundreds of our alumni who have gone on to be leaders of the real estate law bar in New York City and beyond.

I hope that this brochure provides a useful, albeit brief, introduction to the abundant real estate opportunities available at St. John's Law. I welcome the opportunity to discuss our programs with you in more detail. I can be reached at 718-990-7372 and [seinr@stjohns.edu](mailto:seinr@stjohns.edu).



The Mattone Institute's full-time Director, Robert J. Sein, graduated St. John's Law magna cum laude in 2003, after which he went on to practice commercial real estate in New York City for 13 years with the international law firm Shearman & Sterling LLP. Mr. Sein returned to St. John's Law in 2017 to become Director of the Mattone Institute. As Director, he coordinates the Mattone Institute's programs and initiatives, collaborates with alumni and others in the real estate industry to foster connections with the Law School and its students, and works with students to help them realize their goals in the field of real estate law. Mr. Sein also serves as an adjunct professor, and as faculty advisor to the N.Y. Real Property Law Journal.

*Robert J. Sein '03, Director*



## The Nation's Best Training Ground for Real Estate Lawyers

St. John's Law students are privileged to complete their studies in New York City, which is the hub of the nation's legal profession, a globally preeminent center for real estate, and the nation's best training ground for real estate lawyers. With a continually-evolving landscape of groundbreaking new developments and real estate transactions, New York City provides students with unrivaled opportunities to learn about real estate law and its practice.

The Mattone Institute itself is situated in dedicated offices on the Law School's third floor, including student work space and conference facilities, which frequently serve as host to roundtable discussions and student events focused on real estate law and the real estate industry.



# Curriculum

In addition to courses that teach the fundamentals of real estate law, our curriculum includes courses on specialized topics and advanced courses that emphasize practical skills training.

- Commercial Real Estate Leasing
- Condominiums, Cooperatives, and Homeowner's Associations
- Construction Law
- Drafting: Real Estate Transactions
- Environmental Law
- International Environmental Law
- Land Use Planning
- Property
- Real Estate Development
- Real Estate Finance: Commercial
- Real Estate Finance: Residential
- Real Estate Workouts and Bankruptcy
- Real Estate Transactions

# Faculty

Our real estate courses are taught by a renowned faculty, which includes both respected scholars and seasoned practitioners with expertise in a variety of areas of real estate law and related fields.

## Kate Klonick

Assistant Professor of Law  
A.B., Brown University  
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center  
Ph.D., Yale Law School  
Courses: Property

## Robert E. Parella

Professor of Law (Retired)  
B.A., St. Peter's College  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Drafting: Real Estate Transactions

## Jeremy Sheff

Professor of Law  
B.A., Columbia University  
J.D., Harvard University  
Courses: Property

## Jacob L. Todres

Professor of Law  
B.B.A., Baruch College  
J.D., New York University  
LL.M., New York University  
Courses: Property

## Melissa Corrado

Adjunct Professor  
Law Offices of Melissa P. Corrado  
B.A., St. John's University  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Real Estate Transactions

## Bruce S. DePaola

Adjunct Professor  
Partner  
Paul Hastings LLP  
B.A., College of William & Mary  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Real Estate Development

## Meryl P. Diamond

Adjunct Professor  
Partner  
Alston & Bird LLP  
B.A., SUNY Binghamton  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Real Estate Finance: Commercial

## Christopher Palmer

Adjunct Professor  
Managing Partner  
Cullen & Dykman LLP  
B.A., SUNY Binghamton  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Real Estate Workouts and  
Bankruptcy

## Kevin Reilly

Adjunct Professor  
Principal Appellate Court Attorney  
Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First  
Department  
B.A., St. Joseph's College  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
LL.M., Pace University School of Law  
Courses: Land Use Planning

## Peter Roach

Adjunct Professor  
Peter T. Roach & Associates, P.C.  
B.A., SUNY Binghamton  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Real Estate Finance: Residential

## Thomas J. Rossi

Adjunct Professor  
Rossi & Crowley LLP  
B.A., Fordham University  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Construction Law

## Robert J. Sein

Adjunct Professor  
B.A., Washington & Lee University  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Real Estate Transactions

## Chris M. Smith

Adjunct Professor  
Partner  
DLA Piper LLP  
B.A., Rutgers University  
J.D., Columbia University  
Courses: Commercial Real Estate Leasing

## Francisco Vasquez

Adjunct Professor  
Senior Counsel  
Norton Rose Fulbright  
B.A., Hofstra University  
J.D., St. John's University School of Law  
Courses: Real Estate Workouts and  
Bankruptcy

# Real Estate Law Fellowship Program

The Fellowship Program offers an outstanding educational and pre-professional experience for selected 2L and 3L students who have a strong interest in real estate law, including real estate development, finance and investment. The Fellowship Program provides each fellow an annual stipend of up to \$5,000, and, potentially, additional funds to pursue academic and pre-professional activities. Fellows participate in a unified program of academic and pre-professional instruction designed to prepare them for rewarding careers in real estate law, including real estate-focused externship, mentoring and clinical programs.

Fellows are linked with our strong network of alumni and connections in the real estate industry. They collaborate with the Mattone Institute on networking events, conferences, seminars, and continuing legal education programs. Fellows are given preferential access to limited-enrollment real estate law electives. The Mattone Institute's Director and a dedicated career development officer with expertise in real estate career options work closely with fellows as they make decisions regarding curriculum, publications, internships, externships, and long-term career planning.

*For more information on the Fellowship Program, please refer to our website:  
<https://www.stjohns.edu/law/about/places/mattone-family-institute-real-estate-law>*



# Special Events

A robust calendar of real estate-focused events advances the discussion of real estate law issues and enables St. John's Law students interested in real estate practice to develop their professional networks, refine their career development objectives, and stay abreast of current developments in the real estate industry.

## Periodic events include:

### Site Visits



One Vanderbilt (Spring 2018)



Grand Central Partnership (Fall 2019)



Hudson Yards (Spring 2019)

### CLE Programs



"All About Real Estate Closings"  
Continuing Legal Education Event  
(Spring 2019)

### Guest Lectures



Angela Fernandez, University of Toronto  
*Pierson v. Post, the Hunt for the Fox:  
Law and Professionalization in American  
Legal Culture* (Spring 2019)

### Celebrations



Anniversary Celebration with Mattone  
family (Spring 2019)

## Networking Events



First Semiannual Alumni Perspectives Breakfast (Fall 2017)



N.Y. Real Property Law Journal Networking Event (Spring 2019)



Fourth Semiannual Recent Alumni Perspectives Event (Spring 2019)

## Conferences



Transformation of East Midtown Conference (Fall 2018)



What Real Estate Lawyers Need to Know about Blockchain Technology (Fall 2019)

## Roundtable Discussions



Construction Law Roundtable Discussion with Chris Tarnok '08, of D'Agostino, Levine, Landesman & Lederman LLP (Spring 2018)



Landlord-Tenant Practice In Housing Court - A Discussion With The Hon. John S. Lansden '91 (Spring 2019)

## Student Events



Student Bar Association Fall Fest (Fall 2019)

# What Our Students Have To Say



"The resources available through the Mattone Institute have positively impacted my academic experience in the most significant way by providing me with guidance, focus, and structure. From the hands-on guidance and support of the staff, to the expanded course offerings across different real estate disciplines, to networking opportunities and access to active alumni in the field, the Institute provides a comprehensive infrastructure that fosters success for all students interested in practicing real estate law."

- **Norah Alimonos, '21E**



"By participating and engaging in the various opportunities offered in the Real Estate Fellowship Program, I now possess the necessary skills to become a successful real estate attorney. The Mattone Institute has given me an extraordinary law school experience because it has exposed me to the various legal aspects of the real estate industry through real estate-focused courses, clinics, and alumni/networking events."

- **Kayla Laskin, '19**



"My participation in the Real Estate Fellowship Program has been one of the highlights of my experience at St. John's Law. The Mattone Institute provides opportunities for students to gain practical, hands-on experience through internships and externships, along with ample networking events for students to meet attorneys in practice areas of interest. Additionally, each real estate class at St. John's is taught by leading practitioners in their respective fields, granting St. John's students the unique opportunity to learn first-hand from experts. I'm certain that my involvement in the Mattone Institute has prepared me for a career in real estate law."

- **Mark LoBiondo, '20**



"In addition to providing students with a breadth of real estate-specific courses taught by industry leaders, the Mattone Institute facilitates invaluable interactions with St. John's alumni in the real estate field through events held both on and off campus. Moreover, engagement between the Mattone Institute and alumni help students find externships and internships that provide real estate-specific practical experience to reinforce classroom learning. The Mattone Institute is an incredible resource for students with a genuine interest in real estate."

- **Jack Piontkowski, '19**

# Alumni & Advisory Board

Our alumni can be found at every level, and are leaders, in the real estate industry in New York City and elsewhere in the United States. They include partners in the real estate practice groups of eminent law firms; legal counsel and top executives at real estate investment trusts, private equity funds, financial institutions and construction and brokerage companies; owners of real estate development companies; leaders at non-profit organizations; governmental officials; and recognized practitioners in every field of real estate law. Our dedicated alumni frequently meet with and mentor students, host site visits, review resumes, host interns, and connect students with job opportunities.

Some of our distinguished alumni, and other industry leaders, support the Mattone Institute and our real estate programs as members of the Mattone Institute's Advisory Board. Members of our Advisory Board provide critical support and strategic guidance to the Mattone Institute, and serve as a valuable resource to our students.



# Advisory Board

**Frederic L. Altschuler '72**

Senior Counsel, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

**Maria Castiglie '14\***

Associate, Morrison & Foerster LLP

**Lawrence A. Ceriallo '81**

Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP

**Alfred C. Cerullo, III '86**

President/Chief Executive Officer, Grand Central Partnership; Commissioner, City Planning Commission

**David M. Curry '03**

Partner, Farrell Fritz, P.C.

**Bruce S. DePaola '91**

Partner, Paul Hastings LLP

**Meryl P. Diamond '99**

Partner, Alston & Bird LLP

**Peter J. Irwin '96**

Partner, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

**Brian A. Jarmain '98**

Executive Director, Originations and Sourcing, Commercial Real Estate Finance Group, Silver Point Capital, L.P.

**Christopher Jaskiewicz '96**

President, ICON Orlando 360

**Sean R. Kelly '05**

Senior Director, Ariel Property Advisors

**Michael Kavourias '89**

Chief Operating Officer, York Capital Management, LLC

**Michael X. Mattone '91**

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Mattone Group, LLC

**Pamela McCormack '96**

President, Ladder Capital Corp.

**Krista Miniutti '96**

Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

**Max Patinkin '13\***

Associate, Paul Hastings LLP

**Kelly Porcella '07**

Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel and Secretary, Ladder Capital Corp.

**Stephanie Rainaud '14\***

Associate, Holland & Knight LLP

**Max Rayetsky '14\***

Associate, Zetlin & DeChiara LLP

**Michael J. Rhee '98**

Vice President and General Counsel, The Durst Organization

**Chris M. Smith**

Partner, DLA Piper

**David E. Snediker '75**

Director, Fieldpoint Private Bank & Trust; Of Counsel, Cummings & Lockwood LLP

**John V. Terrana '84**

Partner, Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP

**David A. Viklund '94**

Partner, Paul Hastings LLP

**Nicole Woolard '09\***

Corporate Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, AECOM

**Angela DeMeo Works '78**

Retired Partner, Cassin & Cassin LLP

\*Emerging Leaders Committee Member

# Other Real Estate Law Activities

St. John's Law students participate in an array of outstanding extracurricular, co-curricular and pre-professional activities relating to real estate law, including the following:

- **Real Property Law Society** – The Real Property Law Society, the Mattone Institute's student division, is run by a student executive board. Society members participate in various real estate law-focused activities throughout the academic year, including panel discussions and networking events.
- **N.Y. Real Property Law Journal (NYRPLJ)** – The NYRPLJ, the official publication of the New York State Bar Association Real Property Law Section, publishes articles written by practitioners and law professors on current developments and the latest thinking in real property law. An editorial board comprised of St. John's Law students, in coordination with the NYRPLJ co-editors, prepares quarterly issues containing articles written by practitioners and law professors.
- **Tenant's Rights Advocacy Clinic** – A partnership between the Law School and The Legal Aid Society Queens Neighborhood Office (QNO), this one-semester four-credit clinic enables students, under the supervision of a QNO attorney, to represent income-eligible tenants residing in Queens who are facing eviction and are asserting their rights to safe and habitable conditions, proper rents, and freedom from harassment.
- **Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic** – Part of the St. Vincent de Paul Legal Program, Inc., this is an in-house, one-semester four-credit civil litigation and advocacy clinic. Under the supervision of two full-time clinical faculty members, students represent low-income, elderly Queens residents in cases that include real property matters such as foreclosure defense, predatory lending, and deed theft.
- **Externships and Internships** – St. John's Law students participate in an impressive array of real estate-focused externships and internships. Recent placements include Shearman & Sterling LLP, Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP, The Mattone Group, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, and DLA Piper LLP.

# MATTONE FAMILY INSTITUTE FOR REAL ESTATE LAW

## Support the Institute

The Mattone Institute was endowed with a transformational gift by Joseph M. Mattone, Sr., '53C, '55L, '93HON, the chairman and chief executive officer of The Mattone Group. Our programs and scholarships are also made possible through resources provided by our generous supporters and donors.

To donate, please contact Brian Woods, Associate Dean for Law School Advancement at 718-990-5792 or [brian.woods@stjohns.edu](mailto:brian.woods@stjohns.edu).

## Stay Up-to-Date / More Information

**Website:** <https://www.stjohns.edu/law/mattone-family-institute-real-estate-law>

**Linkedin:** [Linkedin.com/showcase/mattone-institute](https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/mattone-institute)

**Twitter:** @mattoneinst

### For more information, contact:

Robert J. Sein | Director, Mattone Family Institute for Real Estate Law

St. John's University School of Law

8000 Utopia Parkway

Queens, NY, 11439

Email: [seinr@stjohns.edu](mailto:seinr@stjohns.edu) | Telephone: 718-990-7372





ST. JOHN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW