New York City Program Reboots with New Opportunities

UB Law Forum
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One of the Law School’s most distinctive and successful initiatives is hitting the 10-year mark by returning to its roots. The New York City Program on Finance & Law, which takes law students to the heart of the nation’s financial capital for an intensive semester of hands-on learning, is welcoming a cohort of School of Management students into this year’s class.

That mix of law and management students was at the heart of the program when it was begun by Professor Philip Halpern in 2006, but shortly after the program launched, changes in the management school core curriculum schedule prevented MBA students from participating. Beginning in 2016, the New York City Program on Finance & Law, which takes law students to the heart of the nation’s financial capital for an intensive semester of hands-on learning, is welcoming a cohort of School of Management students into this year’s class.

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In the program, students spend the fall semester in New York City engaging with a series of experts presenting on their particular niche of the corporate finance world. In addition to School of Law faculty, this year the program includes School of Management Adjunct Professor John Dunbar and Sudhir Suchak, clinical assistant professor in finance & managerial economics. However, adjuncts and guest lecturers who are high-level professionals in the fields of corporate finance, capital markets, financial services, regulation and compliance form the backbone of the semester’s teaching. “This year we are very lucky to have increased teaching time from Erik Lindauer ’81, a newly retired Sullivan & Cromwell partner. He has hosted the final project presentations since the program’s inception,” Breen says.

It’s a heady mixture, and students need to be at the top of their game to keep up. “It’s highly participatory,” Breen says. “We’re in the classroom Monday through Thursday and, when the speakers come in, the students need to have prepared with background reading on the topic they’re presenting so we can engage in a meaningful conversation. These are extremely busy, highly successful experts in their field, and they’re very generous with their time, so the composition of the NYC student group is critical.”

New this year is a placement program in which some students will spend two afternoons a week, plus a full day on Fridays, in a professional setting, such as the New York office of the federal Securities and Exchange Commission. Besides the additional learning that results, Breen says, the hope is that students will develop an even wider network of contacts toward their post-MBA or Law School job search.

Another fall 2016 program component is a student trip to Washington, D.C., to connect with financial regulators and other alumni in the finance world. An important part of that experience will be a social networking event with D.C. UB alumni. Donations are being sought from alumni for the trip, which will cost about $300 per student.

For more information or to donate, please contact Lucie Dadd at ladadd@buffalo.edu or (716) 645-2113.