



EVERY VOICE: A Princeton University
Conference for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender & Ally Alumni

Plenary Session Speaker Biographies

Marisa Demeo '88



In 2009, President Obama nominated Marisa Demeo to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The Senate confirmed her nomination in 2010. Since becoming an Associate Judge, she has handled over 300 criminal bench trials. Judge Demeo graduated from Princeton University in 1988, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics. In 1993, she received her Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law, where she served on the Law Review and was a Root-Tilden Scholar. After graduating from law school, Judge Demeo served as an Honors Program trial attorney in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. Beginning in 1997, she worked for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where she served as a national advocate on a wide array of Latino civil rights issues. In 2004, Judge Demeo joined the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where she handled 45 criminal trials. In 2007, Judge Demeo was appointed as a Magistrate Judge. From August of 2007 through 2009, she served as a criminal trial judge presiding over trials involving criminal traffic and minor misdemeanor charges. In 2010, before becoming an Associate Judge, she handled detention hearings for misdemeanor and felony cases. Judge Demeo taught as an Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Law, where she taught criminal procedure as well as immigration law.

Jodi Picoult '87



Jodi Picoult, 46, is one of the top selling novelists in the world with multiple #1 bestsellers in the United States, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, and South Africa. Her nineteen previous novels are *Songs of the Humpback Whale* (1992), *Harvesting the Heart* (1993), *Picture Perfect* (1995), *Mercy* (1996), *The Pact* (1998), *Keeping Faith* (1999), *Plain Truth* (2000), *Salem Falls* (2001), *Perfect Match* (2002), *Second Glance* (2003) and the New York Times best sellers *My Sister's Keeper* (2004), *Vanishing Acts* (2005), *The Tenth Circle* (2006), *Nineteen Minutes* (2007), *Change of Heart* (2008), *Handle with Care* (2009), *House Rules* (2010), *Sing You Home* (2011) and *Lone Wolf* (2012). Many paperback and e-book editions of her novels are mainstays of those bestseller lists. Picoult is the co-author with her son, Jake, of a musical play for teens, *Over the Moon* (Ellen Wilber, who composed the music for *Sing You Home* is the musical collaborator), and she co-authored with her teenage daughter, Samantha, the young adult novel, *Between the Lines*, which was on the New York Times bestseller list for eight weeks in the



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summer of 2012. In 2007, she wrote five issues of Wonder Woman for DC Comics, only the second woman to script the series since the character's creation in the 1940s. The comics are available as a hardcover book. *My Sister's Keeper* was a 2009 New Line Cinema movie directed by Nick Cassavetes and starring Cameron Diaz and Abigail Breslin. *Salem Falls*, *The Tenth Circle*, *The Pact* and *Plain Truth* were made into television movies for the Lifetime Network, garnering the network some of its biggest ratings. She has been nominated for three different British book awards and, for her body of work, Picoult was awarded The New England Bookseller Award for Fiction in 2003. She is also the recipient of Honorary Doctorates from Dartmouth and University of New Haven. Born and raised on Long Island, Picoult studied creative writing with Mary Morris at Princeton, and had two short stories published in Seventeen while still a student. After graduation, Picoult held a number of different jobs before entering Harvard to pursue a master's in education. She married Tim Van Leer, whom she had known at Princeton, and it was while she was pregnant with her first child that she wrote her first novel, *Songs of the Humpback Whale*. She and Tim live in Hanover, NH with their three children.

Jennifer Weiner '91

Jennifer is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of ten books, including *Good in Bed*, *In Her Shoes*



(which was made into a major motion picture), and *The Next Best Thing*. Jennifer was born in 1970 on an army base in Louisiana. She grew up in Connecticut and graduated with a degree in English literature from Princeton University in 1991 and currently lives in Philadelphia. She worked as a newspaper reporter in central Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Philadelphia until the publication of her first novel in 2001, and has been a full-time fiction writer ever since. Jen is a frequent public speaker who has appeared on The Today Show, The CBS Early Show, The Martha Stewart Show, The Rachael Ray Show, and a number of defunct national talk shows that she suspects she killed just by showing up. Her work has appeared in Seventeen, Salon, Redbook, Glamour, Good Housekeeping, In Style and Elle. She writes occasionally for the Huffington Post and on her own blog. In 2011, Time Magazine named her as one of its 140 Best Twitter feeds.



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Stephen Macedo *87



Stephen has been at Princeton University since 1999, where he is the Laurance S. Rockefeller Professor of Politics and the University Center for Human Values. Before coming to Princeton he taught for eight years in the Government Department at Harvard University, and spent four years in Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, where he was the first Michael O. Sawyer Professor of Constitutional Law and Politics. At Princeton he served as Founding Director of the Program in Law and Public Affairs, in 1999-2001, and following that he spent eight years as Director of the University Center for Human Values. He has authored, co-authored or edited many books and dozens of articles on topics ranging from the liberal political tradition and its critics (*Liberal Virtues: Citizenship, Virtue, and Community in Liberal Constitutionalism*, Oxford, 1990), to civic education in the context of religious and ethical pluralism (*Diversity and Distrust: Civic Education in a Multicultural Democracy*), and the problem of fostering capable citizenship (*Democracy at Risk: How Political Choices Undermine Citizen Participation, and What We Can Do About It*, Brookings Institution, 2005). More recently he has written on problems of immigration and global justice and democracy and international institutions. He first published on gay and lesbian rights twenty-five years ago in *The New Right v. The Constitution* (Cato Institute, 1987, pp. 67-80) in response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Bowers vs. Hardwick* (106 S.Ct. 2841, 1986). His article "Homosexuality and the Conservative Mind," and "Reply to Critics" (Robert George and Gerard Bradley, and Hadley Arkes), *Georgetown Law Journal*, v. 84 (December 1995), 261-300, 329-338) won the 1997 Berger Prize of the American Philosophical Association, for the best article in Law and Philosophy for the previous two years. He is currently completing a book manuscript tentatively titled, *The Future of Marriage? Justice, Love, and the Law*.

Anthony Romero '87



Anthony D. Romero is the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, the nation's premier defender of liberty and individual freedom. He took the helm of the organization just seven days before the September 11, 2001 attacks. Shortly afterward, the ACLU launched its national Keep America Safe and Free campaign to protect basic freedoms during a time of crisis, achieving court victories on the Patriot Act, uncovering thousands of pages of documents detailing the torture and abuse of detainees in U.S. custody, and



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filing the first successful legal challenge to the Bush administration's illegal NSA spying program. Romero also led the ACLU in establishing the John Adams Project, a joint effort with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers to assist the under-resourced military defense lawyers in the Guantánamo military commissions.

Romero has also led the ACLU in its unique legal challenge to the patents held by a private company on the human genes associated with breast and ovarian cancer; in its landmark lawsuit challenging Arizona's anti-immigrant law that invites law enforcement to engage in racial profiling; and in its ongoing campaign to end mass incarceration, which has achieved significant victories, including the 2010 passage of the federal Fair Sentencing Act and the implementation of less punitive, evidence-based criminal justice reforms in several states.

An attorney with a history of public-interest activism, Romero has presided over the most successful membership growth in the ACLU's history and a large increase in national and affiliate staff. This extraordinary growth has allowed the ACLU to expand its nationwide litigation, lobbying and public education efforts, including new initiatives focused on human rights, racial justice, religious freedom, technology and privacy, reproductive freedom, criminal law reform and LGBT rights. In 2010, the ACLU completed the largest fundraising campaign on behalf of civil rights and civil liberties in American history. "Leading Freedom Forward: The ACLU Campaign for the Future," along with the ongoing Strategic Affiliate Initiative, launched an unprecedented effort to build the organization's infrastructure by increasing funding to key state affiliates, enhancing advocacy capabilities nationwide and securing the ACLU's financial future.

Romero is the ACLU's sixth executive director, and the first Latino and openly gay man to serve in that capacity. In 2005, Romero was named one of Time Magazine's 25 Most Influential Hispanics in America, and has received dozens of public service awards and an honorary doctorate from the City University of New York School of Law.

In 2007, Romero and co-author and NPR correspondent Dina Temple-Raston published "In Defense of Our America: The Fight for Civil Liberties in the Age of Terror," a book that takes a critical look at civil liberties in this country at a time when constitutional freedoms are in peril.

Born in New York City to parents who hailed from Puerto Rico, Romero was the first in his family to graduate from high school. He is a graduate of Stanford University Law School and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy and International Affairs. He is a member of the New York Bar Association and has sat on numerous nonprofit boards.



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Hayley Gorenberg '87



Hayley is the Deputy Legal Director for Lambda Legal, the oldest and largest national legal organization committed to achieving full recognition of the rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and people affected by HIV. Gorenberg is lead counsel in Lambda Legal's New Jersey marriage case, asserting that barring lesbians and gay men from marriage violates the state and federal constitutions. She served as lead counsel in Lambda Legal's high-impact legal action against Cirque du Soleil on behalf of performer Matthew Cusick, fired because he has HIV. The case resulted in the

largest award ever for an HIV-discrimination complaint settled with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, as well as revised disability nondiscrimination policies and training for Cirque employees worldwide. Gorenberg's litigation experience spans the range of Lambda Legal's mission.

She advocates, writes and speaks widely on cutting-edge issues, including the rights of youth in schools, relationship rights for same-sex couples, workplace fairness, HIV issues and the rights of transgender people. She is involved in schools-related litigation, legal advocacy, and formulation of model policies promoting the rights of LGBTQ students, schools professionals, administrators, and allies across the nation. Her work has been featured in the [New York Times](#), [USA Today](#), wire services such as the Associated Press, Salon.com, and the Huffington Post. She has appeared as a commentator and featured guest on Talk of the Nation, On Point, The Takeaway, MSNBC, and Fox News.

Gorenberg serves as co-chair of the American Bar Association's Civil Rights Litigation Committee, and has been appointed to the Advisory Council for the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies at Princeton University. She chaired the Special Committee on AIDS for the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and served on the ABCNY's Bioethics Committee. She also served as a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard School of Law.

Prior to joining Lambda Legal, Gorenberg was the Coordinating Attorney for HIV Advocacy at the Legal Support Unit of Legal Services for New York City, where she ran a citywide legal task force addressing the emerging needs of low-income New Yorkers with HIV. Earlier, as the first staff attorney in the HIV Advocacy Project of Legal Services' Queens office, she engaged in a comprehensive civil litigation practice representing people with HIV. Before joining Legal Services, Gorenberg completed a federal clerkship in the Southern District of New York. Gorenberg graduated with honors from Princeton University. She earned her law degree from New York University School of Law, where she received the National Association of Women Lawyers Award. Prior to studying law, she had a successful career as a journalist.



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David Huebner '82



David currently serves as the American Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa. Prior to assuming his current position, he practiced international law from an office he established in Shanghai. A graduate of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs and Yale Law School, he began his career at a public interest law center in Los Angeles and then transitioned to international arbitration, specializing in state-entity, intellectual property, and investment disputes. Over the course of his career he practiced in several jurisdictions around the world, served as Chairman & CEO of a large international law firm, taught international law and policy at the University of Southern California, lectured on international law and business topics at universities in China, chaired the California Law Revision Commission, and served on the boards of several NGOs. He is an avid Netizen and has received awards for his innovative work as Ambassador. At Princeton, he was president of Quadrangle Club and an officer of the Princeton University Band. His spouse of 24 years is Duane E. McWaine, MD '80.

Jared Polis '96



Jared is an independent leader who uses his private and public sector experience to find pragmatic solutions to the challenges facing Colorado and the nation. First elected to represent Colorado's Second Congressional District in 2008, Polis serves on the powerful Committee on Rules, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. Polis believes that education is the single most meaningful investment America can make in its economic future and in its people. His efforts in this area focus on getting accountability right at all levels, expanding educational models that work, and improving persistently failing schools with data-driven models to reduce achievement gaps. Polis also works with Democrats and Republicans to reform our nation's broken immigration policies, to advance the cause of civil rights and equality for all, and to protect Colorado and the world's natural beauty and environment.

While still attending Princeton University, Polis co-founded his first company, American Information Systems, a success he followed with the launching of bluemountain.com and Proflowers.com.

He has been named an "Entrepreneur of the Year" by Ernst and Young.



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Jordan Roth '97



Jordan is the President of Jujamcyn Theaters, whose current productions include *The Book of Mormon*, *Jersey Boys*, *Kinky Boots* and *The Testament of Mary*. Recent productions have included *American Idiot*, *Elf*, *Fela!*, *Hair*, *How to Succeed*, *Manilow On Broadway* and *Spring Awakening*. Jordan produced the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning Best Play *Clybourne Park* and the Broadway revival of *The Rocky Horror Show*, as well as the long running *The Donkey Show* Off-Broadway. He hosts a popular interview series at the venerable 92nd Street Y, where recent guests have included Bono and the Edge, Daniel Radcliffe, Harry Connick, Jr., Nathan Lane, Laura Linney, Elaine Stritch and Harvey Fierstein among others. Jordan created Givenik.com, where theatergoers can purchase tickets and give 5% of their ticket price to the charity of their choice.

He serves on the boards of The Broadway League, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and The Times Square Alliance. Jordan graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Princeton University in 1997 with degrees in philosophy and theatre, and received his MBA from Columbia Business School.