

Sculptors of Modern America in Law, Industry, and Finance

Among the thousands of students whom Walter LaFeber taught during his forty-six years at Cornell, some became history professors, some became foreign policymakers, but most went on to successful careers in business, government service, the law, and higher education. These “Sculptors of Modern America” left their marks on Fortune 500 corporations and elite law firms, they fought the good fight in Congress and Federal agencies, and they provided administrative leadership to colleges and universities. All of the contributors to this roundtable confirm that their favorite professor also left his mark on them.

Moderator

Andrew Tisch (Cornell BS, Class of 1971) is Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Loews Corporation. A former vice-chairman of the Cornell Board of Trustees, he currently serves on the Board of Overseers at Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell Tech. Mr. Tisch is a trustee of the Brookings Institution, a past chairman of the Economic Club of New York, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a co-founder of the No Labels Coalition. He and his brother endowed Cornell’s Andrew and James Tisch distinguished university professorship, whose first holder was Walt LaFeber. Mr. Tisch holds an MBA from Harvard University.

Participants

Stephen Arbogast (Cornell BA, Class of 1970) is Director of the Kenan-Flager Energy Center and Professor of Practice of Finance at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he has taught since 2014. He earned an MA in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. He is the author of *Resisting Corporate Corruption, Case Studies in Practical Ethics from Enron through SPACs* (4th ed.). For thirty-two years, Mr. Arbogast held executive positions at Exxon-Mobil, both at corporate headquarters and overseas in Brazil and Thailand. From 1997 to 2004, he served as the treasurer of Exxon-Mobil Chemical, where he financed operations and investments of the firm’s \$50 billion global portfolio.

Alison Dreizen (Cornell BA, Class of 1974) is counsel at Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP, where she focuses on cross-border transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and joint ventures. Previously, she was a partner at White & Case LLP where she spent a year in their Hong Kong office and two years as head of their Moscow office. Ms. Dreizen is a former member of the Cornell Alumni Council and a founding member of the President’s Council of Cornell Women. As part of her pro bono work, she currently serves as general counsel of the American Historical Association. Ms. Dreizen holds a JD from Harvard Law School.

LizAnn Rogovoy Eisen (Cornell BA Class of 1994) is an Acting Professor of the Practice at Cornell Law School/Cornell Tech, and a Senior Regulatory and Strategic Partner at Braven, an early-stage investment firm. Previously she was corporate partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and, from January 2022 to September 2022, she served as Deputy Director, Disclosure Operation, in the Division of Corporation Finance at the Securities and Exchange Commission. Ms. Eisen holds a JD from the University of Pennsylvania.

David Maisel (Cornell Class of 1968) spent his career in the financial industry, where he specialized in municipal bonds. He maintained a lifelong correspondence with Walt LaFeber, who introduced him to another storied Cornell historian, Joel Silbey. In 1995, Mr. Maisel and his wife, Martha, endowed the LaFeber-Silbey Program in American History, which every year brings distinguished historians and foreign policy officials to Ithaca to interact with small groups of Cornell undergraduates. The LaFeber-Silbey Program has funded a substantial portion of the scholarly tribute to Walt LaFeber to be published by Cornell University Press in 2024.

Eduardo M. Peñalver (Cornell BA, Class of 1995) is President of Seattle University. He was a Rhodes scholar at Oriel College, Oxford, and holds a JD from Yale University. After completing law school, Mr.

Peñalver clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and for Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. He has held faculty positions at the Fordham, Cornell, and University of Chicago law schools and was a visiting professor at Harvard and Yale. In 2014, Mr. Peñalver returned to Ithaca, where he served as Dean of the Cornell Law School until 2021.

Peter Schuck (Cornell BA, Class of 1962) is the Simeon E. Baldwin Professor of Law Emeritus at Yale University, where he taught for thirty years, serving briefly as deputy dean of the law school. Prior to joining the Yale faculty in 1979, he served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and as Director of the Washington Office of Consumers Union. Mr. Schuck holds an LLM in International Law from NYU and a JD from Harvard and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2015.

C. Evan Stewart (Cornell BA, Class of 1974, JD Class of 1977) is a senior partner at Cohen and Gresser LLP in Manhattan, where he specializes in securities litigation. He is an adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University and has taught courses in Cornell's Summer Law Program in New York City for seventeen years. Mr. Stewart is a columnist for the *New York Law Journal* and a member of the Council of Foreign Relations. His biography of Myron C. Taylor, chief benefactor of the Cornell Law School and FDR's ambassador to the Vatican, was published in 2023 by Twelve Tables Press. Mr. Stewart has served as a Cornell University Trustee.

David Zalaznick (Cornell BA, Class of 1976) Co-founding partner of The Jordan Company, and Jordan/Zalaznick Advisers Inc., two private equity firms; he currently serves as Chairman of Jordan/Zalaznick Advisers Inc. Mr. Zalaznick served as Vice Chairman of Cornell's Board of Trustees; he is a Trustee Emeritus. Mr. Zalaznick is a Trustee and member of the Executive Committees of The New York Historical Society and The Whitney Museum of American Art. Mr. Zalaznick and his wife have endowed The Barbara and David Zalaznick Reading Series that brings novelists and poets to campus and have helped establish the University's Entrepreneurship Council. Mr. Zalaznick holds an MBA from Columbia University.