

# Cristine Delaney '06

BY TROY WATKINS

# PROTECTING THOSE WHO CAN'T PROTECT THEMSELVES



Defending children and human rights is a passion for Cristine Delaney '06, an attorney for the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) in New York City. Her commitment to those who need a voice was cultivated at Assumption, and blossomed during her experience as a Fulbright Scholar in Norway.

Delaney is one of more than a dozen Assumption students who have been awarded Fulbright grants since 2001, and she chose to study for a master's of philosophy in international human rights at the University of Oslo in Norway. She focused on the law and philosophy of human rights, while completing an independent research project on how to communicate issues of peace and social justice through artistic means. She remained in Norway to complete her degree with a grant from a Norwegian organization called Fritt Ord (Free Word). During her studies, she had the opportunity to attend the European Court of Human Rights.

"I studied in Norway for two years and will always consider it my second home," says Delaney. "The Fulbright Scholarship brought immeasurable joy to my life." Her time in Norway convinced Delaney to pursue a career in law.

She came back to the United States and was accepted at Fordham University School of Law. While at Fordham, she was a staff member for the *International Law Journal* and served two years as the president of the Legal Education and Advocacy Project. She was also Crowley Scholar, and studied the right to adequate housing, which involved a fact-finding mission to Tanzania. She was a Leitner Center legal intern for two summers, one for Scholars at Risk, studying the right to academic freedom, and the other at the Committee on the Administration of Justice, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She also spent two semesters in

the former Feerick Social Justice Clinic and worked for two semesters as a Durr fellow at Lawyers for Children, Inc.

Delaney graduated in 2011 and today she litigates cases of child abuse and neglect on behalf of the city, while serving on the New York City Bar Association's International Human Rights Committee.

"I enjoy my work at the ACS very much," says Delaney. "It's a very fast-paced and challenging job that requires me to be in the courtroom almost every day. I like the work because of the immediate impact I can make on children's lives, and I work with a great group of motivated people, all of whom are committed to the purpose and goals of ACS."

Her Assumption education provided a strong foundation for her career choice. At Assumption, she double majored in political science and history, with a minor in English. "My Assumption professors were exceptionally supportive, encouraging my best work," she says. "As I've progressed in my career, I have the confidence to speak out, and I recognize the importance of making personal connections with my colleagues."

Other aspects of her Assumption education were essential to her development as well. She was highly involved in volunteering with the Reach Out Center, and she was guided by professors/mentors such as Matthew Lenoe, **Ken Moynihan AP'64**, Pierce Harman and Peter Schultz. She is still close friends with Academic Support Center Director Allen Bruehl, who "always encouraged a well-rounded and clearheaded approach to life."

Delaney has taken his advice to heart and to work. She is fully immersed in her profession, and also planning a fall 2013 wedding with her fiancé, Benjamin Goldman, executive director in the equity division at Oppenheimer & Co. Purpose-driven and passionate, Delaney is a force for positive change for the children she represents and the cause for which she advocates. ❖

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