

evidence than the board—but the board will be able to extract stiff administrative penalties and fines. He adds that among the most important aspects of the board is that it has “a dedicated staff to investigate ethics complaints.”

Leading that staff of investigators is Pittell.

“I’m not only new, I’m the first general counsel,” she says, underscoring just how much is yet to be determined. A few things are certain, however, and one is that Pittell will act as both an investigator and a prosecutor. She’ll oversee investigations of misconduct allegations, and in cases where the evidence warrants it, bring cases into open adversarial hearings before the board.


“When we got Stacie, it was our greatest coup,” says Darrin Sobin, the former D.C. assistant attorney general who’s now the board’s first executive director. “She brought many years of investigative experience, and it really says something about her character that she was willing to take a chance on a start-up organization, to do something she felt was important to the people of the District.”

The board also provides ethics advice and training, meaning that Pittell, as general counsel, will perform those roles as well. They’re new to her, but they’re ones she’s glad to take on. “I’ve never been in that kind of position before, where you see people at the front end,” she says. “They want to do the right thing. And they’d rather not do it than do the wrong thing.”

Pittell estimates that as of this spring, the board gets about two requests for advice on any given day. “As we get our name out there,” she says, “it’s picking up.”

The board publishes all its formal opinions on its website. Pittell believes the board’s open operations will encourage public confidence. She notes that the board’s monthly public meetings, have been well attended so far. “People come and participate,” she says. “We post a written agenda beforehand, we have issues that we put out, and people have an opportunity to come and speak. We’ve gotten good ideas from people.”

The stakes for the board’s success are high. In D.C.—a city that can’t pass its budget without the approval of Congress—political corruption always brings with it the risk of more federal intervention.

Pittell puts it starkly. “You don’t want to have problem after problem and scandal after scandal and have the federal government look at you and say, ‘You can’t run your own city.’” 

In the News

JO ANNE PEDRO-CARROLL ’84 (PHD) LENDS HELPING HAND ON SESAME STREET

Sesame Street’s Abby Cadabby got some solid advice on coping with her parents’ divorce from clinical psychologist **Jo Anne Pedro-Carroll** ’84 (PhD). Now she’s sharing that advice with her young fans.

An expert on children and divorce, Pedro-Carroll was hired as a consultant to Sesame Workshop, the digital educational initiative affiliated with the classic PBS children’s television show *Sesame Street*. Pedro-Carroll was among four experts who shaped the multimedia project “Little Children, Big Challenges: Divorce.” The project, designed for children ages two to eight, includes

resources for parents, such as a guide and online toolkit, as well as for children.

In a DVD and a storybook, the muppet Abby Cadabby—who’s lived alongside Big Bird and friends on *Sesame Street* since 2006—shares with her young fans her feelings and experiences before, during, and after her parents’ divorce.

Pedro-Carroll is the author of the 2010 book *Putting Children First: Proven Parenting Strategies for Helping Children Thrive Through Divorce* (Penguin).



HOW SHE GOT TO SESAME STREET: Pedro-Carroll, an expert on children and divorce, wrote an award-winning book that captured the attention of the nonprofit Sesame Workshop.

NORMAN NEUREITER ’52 HONORED BY AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT

Norman Neureiter ’52 has been awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art. The award, bestowed by the Austrian government, recognized Neureiter for his work with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, founded in 1972 to bring scientists across the Cold War divide together to address global problems. The institute, which today includes member nations from five continents, is located near Vienna.

Neureiter, a chemist and the acting director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Center for Science, Technology, and Security Policy, was honored by the Japanese government in 2011. He received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star decoration, in recognition of his work promoting cooperation between the United States and Japan in science.

AT CARNEGIE HALL, AN EASTMAN COLLABORATION

Carnegie Hall was the stage for an Eastman artistic reunion this spring. In April, classical guitarist **Peter Fletcher** ’95E (MM) performed *Diary of a Camino*, by **Jeremy Gill** ’96E, as part of a concert honoring the 120th anniversary of the birth of composer Federico Mompou. Gill wrote the piece for Fletcher, who recorded *Federico Mompou: Guitar Works* (Centaur) in 2002. *Diary of a Camino* was inspired by a walk Gill took along the Camino Francés—an ancient pilgrimage route to the Galician city of Santiago de Compostela, where Mompou lectured.

In program notes, which Fletcher posted on his blog at www.peterfletcher.com/blog, Gill writes: “Beginning in Samos, at its imposing medieval monastery, I walked the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, each day keeping a sonic diary of the trip. Besides the morning bells at the monastery of Samos (O mosteiro de Samos), which symbolically began my journey (and begins this work), my ‘entries’ included notations of birds (paxaros), evening bells (campás no serán), a hypnotically asymmetrical ticking clock (reloxo), and musical depictions of fog and wind (brétema e vento), double rainbows (arcos da vella), and a solitary willow (un salgueiro solitario) . . . I assembled the work from these sketches.”