

Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Message from the Director

As we look back on Fiscal Year 2025–2026, we are pleased to share the continued impact and innovative programming of the Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity. This past year has reaffirmed our commitment to advancing ethical leadership, corporate responsibility, and transparency across the business landscape.

Through a wide range of timely programs and collaborative academic initiatives, the Center has deepened its role as a venue for meaningful dialogue and engagement. We are sincerely grateful to the speakers, panelists, attendees, and sponsors whose insight and support have shaped our work. In the pages ahead, you'll find a snapshot of the Center's most significant contributions from the past year.

Sincerely,

Prof. David Rosenberg

Director, Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity

Overview of the Year

Mission & Vision

The Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity remains committed to promoting ethical business practices through education, dialogue, and research. In FY 2025-2026, the Center focused on:

- Enhancing discussions on corporate integrity and governance.
- Engaging with students, professionals, and academics.
- Providing thought leadership on pressing ethical and compliance issues.
- Bringing students into contact with experienced professionals to discuss ethical dilemmas they faced during their careers.

Key Achievements

- Hosted 11 events with leading experts in ethics, compliance, and governance.
 - Engaged over 2,500 students, professionals, and faculty members in discussions.
 - Deepened cross-disciplinary conversations spanning law, finance, AI, and sports ethics.
 - Expanded partnerships with academic institutions and corporate entities.
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List of Events: Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Fall 2025 Events

DIRTBAG BILLIONAIRE: A Conversation with David Gelles on Patagonia

Date: September 11, 2025

Speakers:

- David Gelles, Climate Reporter for The New York Times

Overview: RZCCI kicked off the semester with a special lunchtime conversation with award-winning journalist David Gelles regarding his book, *DIRTBAG BILLIONAIRE: How Yvon Chouinard Built Patagonia, Made a Fortune, and Gave It All Away*. The discussion explored Patagonia's radical approach to corporate activism, sustainable supply chains, and value-driven leadership, showing how a business can successfully embed corporate responsibility into its fundamental structure. Complimentary copies of the book were distributed to attending students.

Big Law In the Trump Era

Co-Sponsored by Baruch Pre-Law Society and Max Berger Pre-Law Program

Date: October 29, 2025

List of Speakers:

- David Rosenberg, Associate Professor of Law, Baruch College, and Director, Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity
- Christopher J. Clark, Partner, Clark Smith Villazor
- Ankush Khardori, Senior Writer and Columnist, Politico
- Rebecca Roiphe, Joseph Solomon Distinguished Professor of Law, New York Law School

Overview: Co-sponsored by the Baruch Pre-Law Society and the Max Berger Pre-Law Program, this timely panel examined how some of the nation's largest law firms navigated complex legal and ethical conflicts in the wake of executive orders targeting them. The discussion centered on professional responsibility, balancing client demands against public scrutiny, and the preservation of legal ethics in the face of hostility from the executive branch of government.

FBI NY Headquarter Visit

In Partnership with Baruch Accounting Society

Date: September 25, 2025

Speakers: FBI Forensic Accountants (Baruch Alumni)

Overview: In collaboration with Baruch College's Accounting Society, RZCCI participated in a student visit to the FBI New York Headquarters. Students heard directly from Baruch alumni currently working as forensic accountants within the bureau. The event offered students a behind-the-scenes look at federal investigative careers, providing unique insights into the alumni's career journeys, workplace culture, and the vital role forensic accounting plays in white-collar criminal investigations and corporate compliance.

Ensuring Integrity: The 20th Annual Audit Conference

Co-Sponsored by National Association of State Boards of Accountancy and The Robert A. Schwartz Center for Trading and Financial Markets Research

Date: November 20, 2025

List of Speakers:

- Alyssa Gallas, Operations Manager, NASBA Center for the Public Trust
- Bruce Weber, Willem Kooyker Dean of the Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College
- Douglas Carmichael, Baruch College
- Halie Creps, Chair, Auditing Standards Board
- Tom Seidenstein, Chair, International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB)
- Anita Douth, Senior Associate Chief Accountant, Office of the Chief Accountant, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Barbara Vanich, Chief Auditor, Office of the Chief Auditor, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB)
- Ellen Burns, Associate General Counsel, Deloitte
- James J. Farrell, Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
- William Ryan, Chief Counsel of Enforcement, PCAOB
- Kurt Hohl, Chief Accountant, SEC
- Bonnie Mann Falk, Partner, Citrin Cooperman
- Amy Fairchild, Vice President, CaseWare
- Jason Jones, Co-Founder, Tellen
- Jeffrey Kovacs, President, Citrin Cooperman & Company
- Artie Minson, CEO, Trullion
- Shelby Murphy, Managing Director, Deloitte
- Michael T. Gonzales, Partner/Principal, Audit, Ernst & Young
- Suzanne Morsfield, CFO, Lukka
- Markus Veith, Partner, Audit Services, Grant Thornton
- George Botic, Acting Chair, PCAOB

Overview: This conference provided a forum on current issues in auditing among business professionals, public accountants, academics, and policymakers from the AICPA. Discussions focused on auditing and assurance services, emphasizing the importance of integrity and transparency in financial reporting.

Financing the Game: Public Policy and the Economics of Sports Venues

Date: December 10, 2025

Speakers:

- Moderated by Marc Edelman, Director of Sports Ethics, RZCCI and Professor, Law Department, Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College
- Neil deMause, Journalist and Author
- Mark Rosentraub, Professor of Sport Management, University of Michigan

Overview: This panel critically scrutinized the controversial role of public funding and taxpayer dollars in building sports facilities. Panelists mapped out the complicated web of government and private interests in stadium financing, analyzing the downstream fiscal, ethical, and community impacts that public-private partnerships have on wider urban development.

Spring 2026 Events

From the Bronx to Building Coach: A Fireside Chat featuring Lew Frankfort

In Partnership with Lawrence N. Field Center for Entrepreneurship

Date: February 5, 2026

Speakers:

- Lew Frankfort, Former CEO and Co-Founder of Coach
- Marlene Leekang, Executive Director, Center for Entrepreneurship, Baruch College

Overview: Co-hosted alongside the Lawrence N. Field Center for Entrepreneurship, this informal fireside chat featured legendary business leader and CUNY Alumnus Lew Frankfort. Frankfort shared personal and professional insights from his career trajectory, focusing on corporate governance, managing scaled growth, and maintaining organizational integrity while spearheading a global luxury brand.

Baruch-JFQA Climate Finance and Sustainability Conference 2026

Presented in Partnership with the Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis (JFQA) and The Robert A. Schwartz Center for Trading and Financial Markets Research

Date: March 12 - 13, 2026

Organizers:

- Lin Peng Krell Chair Professor of Finance, Baruch College
- Dexin Zhou, Associate Professor, Baruch College

- Svenja Dube, Assistant Professor, Baruch College

Keynote Speakers:

- Ran Duchin, Coughlin Family Chair, Boston College
- Laura Starks, George Kozmetsky Centennial Distinguished University Chair, University of Texas at Austin

Overview: Co-sponsored by the Zicklin School of Business and the Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis, this premier academic and industry conference brought together global researchers, standard setters, and asset managers. The multi-day program explored critical intersections of climate risk and financial markets, including asset pricing, Cap-and-Trade hedging, biodiversity regulation, and the anti-ESG movement. In addition to dual keynote addresses, the event featured a dedicated PhD Poster Session highlighting cutting-edge research on climate transition news, wildfire risk pricing, and green supply chain covenants.

Ethical A.I.ms: Addressing A.I. in Contemporary Challenges (Ethics Week Symposium supported by the Office of the Provost)

Date: March 17, 2026

Organizing Committee:

- Elizabeth Edenberg, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Weissman School, Baruch College
- Yafit Lev-Aretz, Associate Professor of Law, Zicklin School, Baruch College
- Rhiannon Neilsen, Assistant Professor of International Security, Marx School, Baruch College

Overview: Sponsored in part by the Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity alongside the Provost's Office and CUNY's Office of Academic Affairs AI Innovation Fund, this comprehensive one-day symposium brought together academia, civic organizations, and industry leaders. The program explored the pressing legal, ethical, social, and policy implications of artificial intelligence across various spheres, including responsible AI use in higher education, impacts on business and finance, environmental footprints of generative AI, and the promises and perils of AI in creative industries. The symposium also proudly marked the official launch of Baruch College's PELTA (Policy, Ethics, Law, Technology, and AI) initiative.

Carla Harris: Leadership, Influence, and Owning Your Career Journey

Date: April 21, 2026

Speakers:

- David Rosenberg, Associate Professor of Law, Baruch College, and Director, RZCCI
- Carla Harris, Senior Client Advisor and former Vice Chairman, Morgan Stanley

Overview: The Zicklin Center welcomed nationally recognized leadership expert and Wall Street veteran Carla Harris for a special conversation tailored for the Baruch College community. Drawing

on over three decades of high-level financial industry experience, Harris shared her signature “Carla’s Pearls” insights focusing on leadership, workplace authenticity, and career strategy. The discussion provided students with practical guidance on navigating competitive corporate environments, building professional influence, and leading with confidence and purpose.

The 24th Annual Financial Reporting Conference

Date: May 7, 2026

List of Speakers:

- Bruce Weber, Dean, Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College
- Marc Siegel, Conference Chair, Baruch College
- Richard Jones, Chairman, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB)
- Kurt Hohl, Chief Accountant, Division of Enforcement, SEC
- Ryan Wolfe, Chief Accountant, Division of Enforcement, SEC
- Sheri York, Deputy Chief Accountant, Office of the Chief Accountant, SEC
- Heather Rosenberger, Chief Accountant, Division of Corporation Finance, SEC
- John Vanosdall, Partner, PwC
- Jackson Day, Technical Director, FASB
- Mark LaMonte, Partner, Williams Marston LLC
- Lara Long, Managing Partner, Riveron
- Howard Schilit, Author
- Kimber Bascom, Partner, KPMG
- Mark Besca, Board Member at Markel Group, Las Vegas Sands and Clarus Corporation
- Robert Herz, Independent Board Member
- Peggy Smyth, Independent Board Member
- Gail Steinel, Independent Director
- Jeff Brickman, Senior Investor Liaison, FASB
- Todd Castagno, Executive Director of Research, Morgan Stanley
- Jason Bond, Partner and Professional Practice Director of ESG Matters, EY
- Michael Cerami, EVP, Strategic Alliances, Business Development & Communications, CPA.com
- Denise Lucas, Vice President & Assistant Controller, IBM
- Jonathan Rhine, Assurance Innovation & Technology, PwC

Overview: This daylong conference served as a forum for interaction between business and accounting executives and policy setters from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Discussions focused on current financial reporting issues, regulatory updates, and emerging trends in the accounting profession.

Big Tech. Big Tobacco. Big Problem: Live C.O.D.E Podcast Recording

Date: May 18, 2026

Speakers:

- Gaia Bernstein, Law Professor, Seton Hall, and Visiting Fellow, Brookings Institution
- Yafit Lev-Aretz, Director of Program on Tech Ethics, Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity, and Associate Professor, Department of Law at Baruch College
- Nizan Packin, Professor of Law, Department of Law at Baruch College

Overview: RZCCI supported this live audience recording of the C.O.D.E Podcast, CUNY's forum for sharp conversations on digital ethics, law, and the future of technology. The session featured a frank discussion with Professor Gaia Bernstein exploring whether major digital platforms are utilizing the same addictive corporate playbooks historically deployed by the cigarette industry. The conversation examined screen addiction as an intentional system design feature requiring a strict regulatory response, alongside Bernstein's emerging work on the "Technologies of Loneliness" and public health frameworks for regulating AI companions. The event concluded with an open Q&A session.

Special Initiatives

- **Partnership with Baruch Student Club, Baruch Accounting Society.** RZCCI has developed a relationship with the club and has held multiple student sessions on professional development and career readiness
 - A Conversation with KPMG Professionals (9/2/2025)
 - Grant Thornton - Mastering Interviews (9/11/2025)
 - JPMC Global Finance and Business Management - Information Session (10/9/2025)
 - Ethics Case Study Session (10/21/2025)
 - Bank of America Office Visit (2/24/2026)
 - Navigating the Recruiting Process featuring Jessica Kaplan, JPMC (3/26/2026)
 - Fireside Chat featuring Edwin Grospe, Managing Director, JPMC (3/31/2026)
 - The 33rd Annual Networking Luncheon (4/28/2026)
 - FAR Bootcamp: Investment in Debt & Equity Securities featuring Peter Olinto (4/30/2026)
 - PwC Speaker Series featuring Allison Rosier & Julie Peters (5/5/2026)
 - **Advisory Board:** Established a dedicated advisory board to provide strategic guidance and strengthen the Center's impact.
 - **Strategic Collaborations and Additions to the Center:** Lin Peng and Marc Siegel continue to provide critical expertise to the Center's core conferences and academic research streams, ensuring strong links with corporate governance and accounting practices.
 - **Cowles Fellowship:** Two student interns, Thomas Solimeo and Manish Kumar, supported by the Cowles Fellowship, made significant contributions to the Center. Thomas has been awarded an internship with the FBI where he will serve as a member of the Student Workforce Trainee; Manish is currently a Risk Intern at Wells Fargo. Interns assisted with event programming and student engagement. Two new interns will be recruited next year.
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Contact Us:

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Robert Zicklin Center for Corporate Integrity

Baruch College, Zicklin School of Business

RZCCI 2025 - 2026 Financial Report

REVENUE

Baruch College Fund Endowment	\$144,418.16
Robert Schwartz Center	\$127,756.10
Financial Reporting Conference Revenue	\$67,555.00
Audit Conference Revenue	\$33,580.00
Climate Conference	\$27,460.00
Cowles Corporate Integrity Student Fellowship	\$7,000.00
Ethics Week funding from Provost Office	\$7,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$414,769.26

EXPENSES

Salaries:

Associate Director	\$118,070.00
Academic Director	\$35,567.09
FRC Conference Chair	\$23,076.96
Cowles Fellowship Stipends	\$7,000.00

Overhead, Fringes and Tax on Salaries:

Associate Director	\$50,242.41
Academic Director	\$2,934.27
FRC Conference Chair	\$1,923.04

Total Salary Expense:	\$238,813.77
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Program Expenses:

Other Programs	\$23,581.88
Climate Conference	\$32,625.65
Financial Reporting Conf.	\$21,554.58
Audit Conference	\$14,464.00

Total Program Expenses:	\$92,226.11
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Non-Program Expenses	\$5,206.05
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Administrative Overhead:	\$949.49
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Credit Card Fees:	\$2,571.87
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TOTAL EXPENSES	\$339,767.29
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Ending Balance

\$75,001.97
