The Sidney and Walter Siben Distinguished Professorship was established in 1984 through a generous gift from the law firm of Siben & Siben. Originally designed to recognize accomplishments in tort law, the professorship was expanded in 1986 to allow for recognition in family law and awarded to Professor John DeWitt Gregory, who held the professorship in that field until 2012.

Convocation to install
Joanna L. Grossman as the
Sidney and Walter Siben Distinguished Professor of Family Law

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 | 6 p.m.
Sidney R. Siben and Walter Siben Moot Courtroom, Room 308
Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University
Joanna Grossman joined the Hofstra Law faculty in 1999. She served as the associate dean for faculty development from 2004-08 and was named the John DeWitt Gregory Research Scholar for 2010-11. She teaches Family Law; Children and the Law; Advanced Family Law; Wills, Trusts and Estates; and a variety of courses relating to gender and law.

Professor Grossman writes extensively about family law, especially state regulation of marriage and nontraditional families. She is the co-author, with Lawrence M. Friedman, of Inside the Castle: Law and the Family in 20th Century America (Princeton 2011), a comprehensive social history of family law in the United States. She also writes about sex discrimination and workplace equality, with a special focus on issues such as sexual harassment and pregnancy discrimination. She is the co-author, with Katharine T. Bartlett and Deborah L. Rhode, of Gender and Law: Theory, Doctrine, Commentary (6th ed., Aspen 2013) and the co-editor, with Linda C. McClain, of Gender Equality: Dimensions of Women's Equal Citizenship (Cambridge University Press 2009), an interdisciplinary anthology that explores persistent gaps between formal commitments to gender equality and the reality of women’s lives. She has published articles in Stanford Law Review, Georgetown Law Journal and Yale Journal of Law & Feminism, among other journals.

Professor Grossman is a regular columnist for Justia’s Verdict, an online source for legal commentary, and has served on the editorial board of Perspectives, the magazine of the American Bar Association’s Commission on Women in the Profession. She was selected to deliver Hofstra University’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture in 2004 and Hofstra University’s Annual Diversity Lecture in 2010. She was inducted into Long Island’s “40 Under 40” in 2005 and was elected to membership in the American Law Institute in 2009.

A graduate with distinction from Stanford Law School, Professor Grossman served as the articles development editor of the Stanford Law Review and was elected to Order of the Coif. She served as a law clerk to Judge William A. Norris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit before spending a year as staff counsel at the National Women’s Law Center in Washington, D.C., as recipient of the Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship. She practiced law from 1996-98 at the Washington, D.C., law firm of Williams & Connolly.