

## WELCOME

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* is an appropriate time to reflect on our purpose and mission as clinical teachers. The modern clinical legal education movement emerged in response to social and political movements of the 1960s. Clinical legal education began with a social justice agenda designed to respond to the perceived irrelevance of traditional legal education while providing service to poor clients and lay advocates working to eradicate poverty and racism. While conditions for many of our clients have changed since the 1960s, globalization and rapid changes in technology have resulted in worse conditions for some. But clinicians, using skills training as an anchor, continue to provide individual representation and law reform strategies to expand social justice.

This conference, “Back to Basics/Back to the Future,” is an exciting time to reflect on the origins of clinical legal education and to embrace the innovative and dynamic work happening across the country and internationally in clinical programs. The future of legal education will continue to include clinical work as a critical part of a comprehensive legal education. The market demands the skills and values taught in clinical programs – negotiation, problem solving and the ability to collaborate with other professionals sometimes across national and international borders.

We begin this clinical conference with an exploration of the roots of clinical education and a reexamination of fundamental educational theory. Next, we pause to commemorate *Brown* and celebrate *Grutter* and *Lawrence*. Thereafter, we examine the fight for social and economic justice. The last day of the conference is devoted to Workshops for the Future, six concurrent workshops that provide a unique opportunity for us to delve more deeply and to think critically about: criminal law and innocence/post conviction projects; immigration and international human rights; career paths; ethics, professionalism and reform; community economic development, small business, tax and intellectual property; and technology. This conference is further distinguished by an unprecedented number of clinicians on panels, in concurrent sessions, workshops for the future and small groups making it a truly collaborative conference.

Susan R. Jones, Chair

The George Washington University Law School  
on behalf of the Planning Committee for the 2004  
Conference on Clinical Legal Education

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