

Pro Bono & Justice

A periodic publication of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities

News from Jennifer!

Summer, 2018



As I prepare to head to Cape Cod tomorrow for our annual family 4th of July vacation, I'm feeling like it's both much-needed in order to escape the news cycle but also guilt-inducing because so many people simply can't. Sound familiar?

For this summer edition, I'd hoped to offer calm reflections on the year and well wishes for soaking in some sunshine, sand and surf before welcoming a new batch of bright 1Ls in August. Like (no doubt) all of you, I instead am taking deep breaths to quell the anxiety and frustration brought on by the state of our nation. But I'm also heartened by the activism going on around the globe. We are an important part of these ongoing movements through activities we pursue in our personal capacities as well as the role we play in mobilizing our students to utilize their specialized training to protect the underrepresented and exercise their freedom of speech. We can do this!

In that spirit, let's talk about an opportunity coming up to celebrate great work. On the next page you'll read about the earlier deadline this year for submitting nominees for the Deborah L. Rhode and Father Robert Drinan Awards, which are both selected by the Pro Bono & Public Service Opportunities Section. AALS moved the date earlier in order to be able to publish the award winners in the 2019 Annual Meeting materials. It's a wonderful way to recognize outstanding work, so please consider nominating someone by **August 15!**

Speaking of great work, you'll also find in the newsletter updates about a number of Section initiatives.

The Collaboration Committee recently discussed participants' respective projects and where we can complement one another's efforts. That included the Membership Committee's endeavor to create an online member database and an upcoming effort by the NALP Pro Bono Work Group to assess what additional best practices resources would be most useful to our community. Stay tuned for updates!

Finally, we've confirmed a fantastic panel for our Encouraging and Empowering the Next Generation of Public Interest and Pro Bono Leaders program at the 2019 Annual Meeting. We're pleased to be co-sponsoring with the new Leadership Section chaired by Deborah Rhode. We're also excited about co-sponsoring a service project with the Poverty Law Section on Friday of that week at Ozanam Inn, which we'll share more about once registration opens.

Seeking Drinan and Rhode Award Nominations

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – DEADLINE AUGUST 15, 2018

The AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities will present two awards at the AALS Annual meeting in January 2019. The purpose of these awards is to honor those who have dedicated significant efforts toward increasing access to justice through the law school environment and to inspire similar efforts from others. The intent is to honor those who personally design and manage pro bono programs, those leaders in legal education who promote these programs and those who personally give of their time and talents in pro bono service.

Note that the nominations timeline is much earlier this year than in past years (because AALS requires honoree names earlier); please consider this a summer project. Nominations are due August 15.

The Deborah L. Rhode Award will be awarded to a full-time faculty member or dean who has made an outstanding contribution to increasing pro bono and public service in the law school setting through scholarship, leadership, or service.

The Father Robert Drinan Award will be presented to a professional faculty or staff member at a law school who has forwarded the ethic of pro bono service through personal service, program design or management.

Nominations of others or oneself may be made by any member of AALS until August 15, 2018 at 5:00 PM EST. Note this deadline, which is much earlier than in past years.

- Please email nominations to Jill Friedman, Secretary of the Section on Pro-Bono and Public Service Opportunities, at jill.friedman@rutgers.edu <<mailto:jill.friedman@rutgers.edu>>.
- Nomination letters should be no longer than five pages and may be accompanied by no more than three letters of support.
- Please use a descriptive subject line such as “Nomination of xxx by xxx for the Rhode Award,” or “Letter of support for nomination of xxx for Father Drinan Award from xxx.”
- Optimally the nomination and letters of support will be submitted together as one PDF.
- Re-nomination of persons who have been previously nominated but not selected is encouraged.
- Awards Subcommittee members are: Josh Borderud (Baylor); Jill Friedman, chair (Rutgers); Janet Heppard (Houston); Allison Standard (UNC); and Rashida West (Drexel Kline)

Feel free to call Jill at 856-225-6263 with questions.

Current Section Leadership

Chairs: Jennifer Tschirch (Georgetown University) Jennifer.Tschirch@law.georgetown.edu

Chair-Elect: Stephen Rispoli (Baylor University) Stephen_Rispoli@baylor.edu

Secretary/Awards Chair: Jill Friedman (Rutgers Law School) jillfrie@camden.rutgers.edu

Treasurer: Bridget Fuselier (Baylor) Bridget_Fuselier@baylor.edu

Publications/Communications: Pam Robinson (University of South Carolina) Robinspd@law.sc.edu

Immediate Past Chair: Tara Casey (University of Richmond) & Tom Schoenherr (Fordham University)
tcasey@richmond.edu tschoenherr@fordham.edu

At Large: Sande Buhai (Loyola LA): buhais@lls.edu Sam Halpert(NALP) shalpert@nalp.org;

Janet Heppard (Houston) jheppard@central.uh.edu; Nura Maznavi (Chicago) nmaznavi@uchicago.edu

Congratulations Colleagues

Luz Herrera & Laura Cohen honored at 2018 National Lawyers Guild-LA Awards Dinner!

Professor Luz Herrera is Associate Dean for Clinical Education, Experiential Learning, and Public Service at Texas A&M School of Law. Professor Laura Cohen is Director of Southwestern Law School's, Street Law Clinic and Public Service Programs. Together, they co-founded the Los Angeles Incubator Consortium: the only modest-means legal incubator supporting new lawyers as they build affordable, community based, diverse practices.



AALS 2019 Annual Meeting - Section Session

Encouraging and Empowering the Next Generation of Public Interest and Pro Bono Leaders

Many law students are asking how they can use their skillset to make a difference. A critical role of law schools is redefining what it means to be a lawyer. While many believe that 'real' lawyering means litigating cases, this session will explore ways to guide students looking for a different path – policy advocacy, restorative justice, community lawyering, social entrepreneurship, traditional pro-bono work, leadership in public-interest organizations, and more.

Lawyers are more satisfied when they are meaningfully engaged. As leaders, we help students identify their values and how they can effectuate them through experiences, resources, and relationships. This session will examine how students seek alternative paths in their careers; discuss creative ways to help them explore pathways consistent with their values; and provide ideas attendees can translate into action. As we help students build bridges between their coursework and legal careers, we must help them forge paths into uncharted territory.

This interactive session will be presented on Thursday, Jan. 1:30-3:15. A seasoned contingent of facilitators will lead small group discussions about the issues explored by the panelist. The Section Awards and Business meeting will follow the session.

The panel will include:

Sue Schechter (Moderator) - Berkeley

Diane Chin - Stanford

Alanah Odoms Hebert - Rutgers Newark

Bill Quigley - Tulane

A'Niya Robinson - Loyola

A team of experienced pro bono directors will serve as facilitators for the small group portion of the Session.



Books We Love

Not a Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America

by

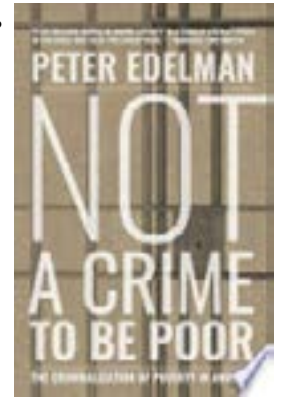
Peter Edelman

New York: The New Press, 2017. 320p. \$26.95, hardcover. Also available as an e-book and an audiobook.

Reviewed by Eve Ross*

In its 2015 report, the Justice Department detailed how Ferguson, Missouri's municipal court and local law enforcement emphasized generating revenue through fees and fines, instead of prioritizing public safety and community engagement. The report notes that policing for revenue is unconstitutional in itself, separate from Ferguson's racial bias problem. In **Not a Crime to Be Poor: The Criminalization of Poverty in America**, Peter Edelman examines how Ferguson's revenue focus is replicated to a greater or lesser degree all across the United States, with excessive fees and fines increasingly resulting in jail time that keeps people in poverty.

Fees and fines for minor infractions are not the whole story. Edelman scrutinizes a web of policies that have a disparate impact on poor people, such as cash bail; self-pay probation and parole monitoring; school discipline that criminalizes K-12 students' misbehavior; and inaccessible or inadequate treatment for addiction and mental health. Edelman does not merely describe the problem of criminalizing poverty; he also suggests solutions (including lawyers for those who need them), and provides hopeful examples of what some communities are doing to make headway.



*Eve Ross, 2018. Reference Librarian, Law Library, University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, South Carolina.

AALS 2019 Annual Meeting - Service Project

Get inspired and remember why you are in the trenches when it comes to public interest Law! The Poverty Law and the Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities Sections have joined forces for a Service Project. This year we will walk to [Ozanam Inn](#) and learn about the homeless population in New Orleans as we provide services. This is a definite hands-on project! There is no fee but you will be asked to sign up when you register for the Conference. More details later!





Welcome to the *Pro Bono Collaboration Corner*. AALS members have come together with representatives from NALP, Equal Justice Works (EJW), the ABA Center for Pro Bono, and the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) to share information on law school pro bono. The goal is to provide our greater communities with news, events, conference recaps, and more so that we are not working in parallel or at cross-purposes.

The *Collaboration Corner* group urges every Section member to participate in the upcoming Membership Survey. The information from the Survey will greatly assist schools who are trying to foster a greater public interest culture while providing a valuable resource for keeping all of us connected.

Efforts to meet informally prior to each of the main public interest and pro bono conferences are being implemented. If you are attending one of these conferences and would like to connect with colleagues, contact Sam Halpert at shalpert@nalp.org

New “Best Practices” Guides Released from Pro Bono Collaboration Committee

The Pro Bono Collaboration Committee has authored a series of “**Best Practices**” Guides designed to help law schools create or improve their programs for coordinating pro bono volunteer efforts among their students. The guides cover everything from cultivating interest in pro bono volunteering through volunteer training and management, hours tracking, and overall management of the pro bono program itself. The Committee has released these guides on PSJD.org, where students and administrators alike will be able to learn from them. (Look in the Pro Bono Section of PSJD’s Resource Library.)

Save the Date for the 10th Annual National Celebration of Pro Bono October 21-27, 2018

Over the past nine years, with your help, the ABA’s Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service has succeeded in focusing an annual national spotlight on pro bono. During the 2017 National Celebration, over 700 organizations participating by planning more than 1300 events!

This year’s National Celebration is only a few short months away. We are proud to join with ABA President Elect Bob Carlson to encourage you to plan and participate in events focused on disaster resiliency as part of the 2018 National Celebration of Pro Bono. Disaster survivors face countless legal issues—from insurance disputes, FEMA appeals, landlord tenant disputes, consumer fraud, health and education issues, and so much more. Moreover, even before a disaster strikes, communities need legal assistance with disaster preparedness through business continuity planning, securing title documents, meeting insurance needs, and other assistance. September is National Disaster Preparedness month, which is the perfect lead up to the 2018 National Celebration of Pro Bono. We are asking you to do your part to assist with disaster resiliency efforts by offering pro bono assistance to survivors or evacuees of disasters or by helping your community to prepare for a disaster. Visit the National Celebration of Pro Bono website for planning resources and ideas, to purchase items for your event, or simply to learn more! Contact the ABA’s Center for Pro Bono to help facilitate your planning.



As always, activities involving all aspects of pro bono are welcome and encouraged. Find additional resources for law school pro bono here. Highlight the events happening in your community by adding them to the national registry. The hashtag for the Celebration is [#celebrateprobono](https://twitter.com/celebrateprobono), let us know on social media how you are planning to Celebrate in 2018!

Do Good. Do Justice. Do Pro Bono.
Sponsored by the Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service

Law School Pro Bono Advisors Come Together at the Equal Justice Conference 2018

A Recap by: Marissa LaVette, Assistant Staff Counsel, ABA Center for Pro Bono

The 2018 Equal Justice Conference took place in San Diego, CA from May 10-12. The annual EJC Law School Pro Bono Advisors Pre-conference on May 9 was another great opportunity for law school pro bono advisors to come together to learn from one another and strengthen their community.

This year's pre-conference offered programming on a variety of topics relevant to law school pro bono advisors. Norma Chavez-Peterson from the ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties opened the pre-conference with an inspirational and interactive session exploring self-care for pro bono advisors to sustain themselves and their students in challenging times.

Sue Schechter of Berkeley Law and Pamela Robinson of University of South Carolina School of Law then led attendees in a session to connect with each other. This Connecting with Colleagues session included a report on the results of an informal survey of the law school community. Many commonalities emerged when individuals were asked about common obstacles to completing their work and what they find most fulfilling about their jobs.



Participants then headed into breakout sessions that addressed:

- The basics of running a law school pro bono program for those newer to the field, led by Anna Davis of University of California, Irvine School of Law, Carolyn Goodwin of Boston University School of Law, and Laren Spierer of Columbia Law School.
- Dilemmas and advanced issues that arise in law school pro bono programs for more seasoned attendees, facilitated by Pamela Robinson of University of South Carolina School of Law and Tom Schoenherr of Fordham Law School.
- Rapid mobilization to meet immediate legal needs across the country in the wake of disasters, legislation, and other situations requiring rapid response, led by Greg Zlotnick of St. Mary's University School of Law, Shawna Smith of Texas A&M University School of Law, and Brittany Glidden of University of California Hastings College of Law.
- Innovative law school pro bono projects with an exchange of ideas on different models of pro bono projects used by schools across the country, facilitated by Nura Maznavi of University of Chicago Law School and Marissa LaVette of the ABA Center for Pro Bono.

The day closed with an eye-opening session on unconscious bias, presented by Jack Manhire of Texas A&M University. The Equal Justice Conference included several additional law school pro bono related sessions, covering topics such as encouraging pro bono leadership and skills from law school on, law school partnership programs, and more.

The 2019 Equal Justice Conference is May 9-11, 2019 in Louisville, KY. The Law School Pro Bono Advisors Pre-Conference will be on May 8, 2019. If you would like to assist in the planning of the 2019 Pre-conference or have questions regarding the submission process for sessions for the 2019 Conference, please contact Marissa LaVette at marissa.lavette@americanbar.org.

Have you updated your law school's information in the ABA Directory of Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs?

Check it out and send in your updates!

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service/resources/directory_of_law_school_public_interest_pro_bono_programs/lawschool_directory_home.html

National Pro Bono and Public Interest Calendar of Events

2018

October 26, 27, 2018

**Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair
Arlington, VA**

2019

January 2-6, 2019

**AALS Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA**

April 9-12, 2019

**NALP Conference
San Diego, CA**

May 3-7, 2019

**AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education
San Francisco, CA**

May 9-11, 2019

**ABA Equal Justice Conference
Louisville, KY**

AALS -Association for American Law Schools
<http://www.aals.org>

ABA- American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service.html

EJW- Equal Justice Works
<http://www.equaljusticeworks.org>

NALP- National Association for Law Placement
<http://www.nalp.org>

Unable to attend the 2018 AALS Annual Conference?
Podcasts and presenter material and now available online!

Log in to the AALS website with your username and access the free audio recordings of the presentations at: www.aals.org/am2018/podcasts



RESULTS

Periodically the Section will post a Survey question on the Listserv, results will be published in the next newsletter

PopUp Survey Question #8

Q1

If a donor walked in with a million dollars and asked, “What can you do with this?”, what would you say? Or has this already happened and what did you do?

Create an endowment for our fall/winter/spring break trips program and eliminate the need for student fundraising.
Allison Standard, UNC School of Law, Director of Pro Bono Initiatives, standard@email.unc.edu

We would help our public interest graduates pay off their law school debt.
RWU Law

Create/endorse fellowships to train/send students to work in public interest agencies near and far!
Marni Lennon, Asst. Dean for Public Interest and Pro Bono

Fortunately for us, this essentially did happen. We structured the Maida Public Interest Fellowships Program, that funds summer and post-graduate public interest fellowships. Needless to say, it's been one of the best things ever to happen at Rutgers Law School.

Jill Friedman, Rutgers Law School, Associate Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest, jill.friedman@rutgers.edu

I would love for this to happen! I would love to create postgraduate pro bono fellowships to cultivate professional pathways for our grads, contribute meaningfully to our community, and increase the delivery of pro bono legal services.
Tara Casey, University of Richmond School of Law, tcasey@richmond.edu

I'd establish and endorse a public interest summer fellowship program for our students. Summer and/or post-graduate fellowship funding. My phone number is 210-431-5718 if anyone is interested ??
Greg Zlotnick, St. Mary's Law

I will think about this while on vacation and really hope it happens one day!”
Jenn Tschirch, Georgetown

This just happened to me! Good thing I had ideas on a note under my keyboard. Right now the plan is to expand on our summer public interest fellowships and buy a bus! Yes, we want to create a mobile legal office to reach out to rural areas with little or no access to attorneys or information. Watch this space! Note: our donor wanted this to be a gift and not an endowment!

Pamela Robinson, USC School of Law

I would start an endowment for our pro bono program, I would ensure that we can provide transportation to pro bono projects, and I would hire another staff person to help. I would also start a wellness program at our school, complete with coursework, staffing, etc.

Scholarships and Fellowships. Always scholarships and fellowships. On-ramps to law school. Gateways to public interest careers.

I would jump for joy! Then, ask if they want to 'name the public service program' & if the funds can support a position from here forward. Then, that position would be tasked with identifying pro bono projects that our students could participate in throughout the year. It would be great to have the position secure rather than be budget-dependent.

establish an endowment / increase size of existing endowment to support specifically career and leadership development programming through summer scholarships/grants, postgraduate school-to-hire/bridge to practice fellowships/subsidies, student-led pro bono projects, travel sponsorship to seminars/ conferences, regional recruitment events, etc.

I would love to start another clinic serving low income clients. We got a quarter of that which we used to work on Unaccompanied Minor asylum cases.

I would use it to endow a post-graduate fellowship.

Editor's Note: I thought it was interesting that no one suggested they get a raise! We all immediately thought of how we could improve things for our students and our communities. For this we should be proud!

Old strategies, New strategies: Refining your experiential teaching.

This conference is designed to be relevant for folks involved with in-house clinics, externships, pro bono, and simulation courses. We welcome proposals and participation from all of you! **Save the Date....Friday, October 12, 2018**



Roger Williams University School of Law

Providence, Rhode Island

PROPOSALS

Submit a proposal to present at the New England Clinical Conference. Presentations are scheduled for 75 minute sessions. The deadline to submit is **September 10, 2018**. Proposals may be submitted online. Questions may be directed to Lisa Brown at lbrown20@suffolk.edu

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Works-In-Progress are now being accepted. The abstract deadline is September 10, 2018 with a full paper deadline of **October 4, 2018**. Send WIPS to Mary Holper at mary.holper@bc.edu



**Interested in more engagement with the Section?
Join in for the *Quarterly Call***

Watch the Listserv for details/ Information on website

Meet a Colleague

Pro bono leaders are spread across the entire country! You may know the leaders in your state, city or community. Expand your networking by learning a bit about a fellow leader. In each Newsletter we will introduce you to one of your colleagues through a short Q & A. Learn about what makes them tick!

Name: Stephen Rispoli

Title: Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Pro Bono Programs

School: Baylor Law School

Please give a brief description of your school pro bono program or efforts? And your role in making things happen.

Pro bono work – protecting the rights and interests of those who would otherwise have no advocate in their corner – is essential to a functioning rule of law society. Baylor Law’s program is intentionally designed to encourage students to pursue pro bono opportunities while simulating the pressures of the practice of law. Our guidelines were created knowing that there is never a good time during the practice of law for pro bono work – there will always be paying clients, family, and friend commitments. Yet, every student leaves Baylor Law understanding the importance of pro bono and access to justice with the confidence that they can take on pro bono matters while serving their clients and maintaining a healthy family. My personal goal is to inspire all of our students to take action, help them find opportunities (and create an opportunity if it isn’t available), and encourage them to continue their pro bono work well after graduation.

Why do you think this job is important?

The rule of law is not possible if the average person does not believe that the law and the legal system is not for them. Pro bono work by lawyers protects some of society’s most vulnerable citizens in their time of need. This help, when it is needed most, is vital to protecting our nation’s conception of the rule of law – “Equal Justice Under Law,” a phrase so fundamental that we have it emblazoned over the doors of the United States Supreme Court. I believe that my role in encouraging students is a small part of ensuring that we, as the legal profession, live up to that aspiration.

What special skills or attributes to you bring to it?

I believe that one of my best attributes is organization. I enjoy helping students build new organizations or projects to serve others.

Who is your go-to person when you need advice on law school pro bono matters?

I turn to my colleagues in the Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities Section for advice and guidance on all sorts of issues. An email to an individual member that I know has dealt with an issue before, or an email to all on the listserv, has proven to be an invaluable resource. I can also seek guidance from my Texas law school colleagues. We all get together every year at the Texas Access to Justice Commission to discuss challenges, share new ideas, and brainstorm new initiatives. I always leave that meeting with something that I can implement at Baylor Law.

Do you have a favorite quote? Is yes, will you share it with us.

“But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? And they may well ask why climb the highest mountain? Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic? Why does Rice play Texas?”

We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too.”

-JFK

This quote inspires me to take on challenging tasks and make hard choices. I believe that adversity shows us what we are made of; and doing difficult things makes us ever stronger.

Will you share something about yourself that your colleagues might not know about you? Your hobbies? Cat or dog person? Favorite place on Earth? What makes you laugh?

My wife, Jeanine (who is also a Baylor Lawyer), and I love to travel.



Although I love to read, the thing that I do to unwind is work at the family ranch with my dad. There is always something that needs to be fixed, a project that we've been wanting to start or complete, or feed that needs to be put out for the cattle and deer. I also enjoy working on my 1968 Ford Torino, a project that I started over ten years ago with my dad. Doing these things melts the stress away.

