

AALS CLINICAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021

Welcome to the Spring 2021 AALS Clinical Section Newsletter. We, your editors, are pleased to bring you exciting information and updates from both the Section and from schools and programs around the country.

From the Clinical Section Chairs

Friends,

The coronavirus pandemic has been the great illuminator. As clinicians, our Clinical Section and CLEA wrote as early as March 19, 2020 that “we know that much of the mainstream outlook on coronavirus preparation and mitigation, as well as vulnerability to the virus, misses crucial issues facing large swathes of our nation.” That statement went on to name the issues that have, indeed, made this year so very difficult—known to us with our experiences in vulnerable, underserved communities, and now better known to the rest of the world as well. As clinicians, this means that as we start to perceive an end to the pandemic, we fervently hope we will not be “back to normal” but to a new normal shaped by all that the pandemic revealed to the world: deep food insecurity; patchwork public health structures that do not extend to vulnerable communities; unjustifiably high rates of incarceration; pervasive gender inequities; and more.

During the pandemic, of course, another more entrenched issue became illuminated for Americans who had not previously paid attention: racial injustice, particularly systemic anti-Black racism. In the wake of anti-Asian violence in Georgia, we recognize that racism comes in many forms. But we hope and trust that focusing on the structures of anti-Black racism creates the space to root out racism in all its forms. The Clinical Section is carrying this focus into 2021 in several ways. We have asked each of our hard-working committees to consider how their work could incorporate anti-racism (and we have gratefully welcomed many new members to strengthen the capacity of those committees); we have created an ad hoc Racial Justice Committee, which is being chaired by **Daniel Harawa** of Washington University in Saint Louis (with Executive Committee member **Anita Sinha** of American University providing liaison guidance); we will be doing a double-length event at the January 2022 AALS Conference focused both on teaching anti-racism, and on improving diversity within the halls of clinical academia; and our

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Association of American Law Schools

Policy Committee, chaired by Executive Committee member **Kele Stewart** of the University of Miami, is undertaking analysis and advocacy around the faculty diversity issue as well.

A third illumination also happened over this strange pandemic year: our response to the year has shown an astonishing level of resilience. As we shift our attention slowly and hesitatingly back to what we all hope we will be a new and better “normal,” it is worth taking a moment to appreciate the herculean work done to keep our clinics operating this year. We continued to deliver rich learning experiences for our students, and we continued to meet the needs—and sometimes transform our work to meet *new* needs—of the communities with whom we work. We are all hungry to be back in person at clinical conferences in the future, but we have also discovered cost-effective ways of collaborating with and learning from each other even when we cannot gather in-person.

And speaking of clinical conferences, we are looking forward to seeing you virtually in April, to celebrating the winners of the M. Shanara Gilbert Award and the Steve Ellmann Memorial Scholarship Award, to finding ways to welcome new clinicians, and—as always—to learn from you all. We are so grateful to the planning committee which, thanks to COVID, has served in this role for **two years**:

- **Jayesh Rathod**, American University Washington College of Law (chair)
- **Lisa R. Bliss**, Georgia State University College of Law
- **Robert Edward Lancaster**, Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center
- **Dana Malkus**, St. Louis University School of Law
- **Kim McLaurin**, Suffolk University Law School
- **Lynnise E. Phillips Pantin**, Columbia Law School
- **Eda (Katie) Katharine Tinto**, University of California, Irvine School of Law
- **Cindy Wilson**, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law

Thanks so much to Jayesh, Lisa, Robert, Dana, Kim, Lynnise, Katie, and Cindy, and to all the many volunteers in all our Section’s committees and membership. Please be in touch with us with your ideas and suggestions!

With great hope for the future,
Liz Keyes & Fatma Marouf, Section Co-Chairs

Program Updates

American University Washington College of Law

Our Immigrant Justice Clinic (IJC) continues to develop its Defending the AU Dream Initiative (AU Dream), with a new staff attorney, Saba Ahmed. In addition to providing direct legal services, AU Dream continues to engage in community education and outreach, namely with: United We Dream; high school students and college applicants in Maryland; AU undergrads in community-based learning courses; and Montgomery College students. IJC, together with Just Futures Law, released Sanctuary or Snare? Sanctuary Policies in the District of Columbia. The report highlights critical gaps in sanctuary policies and patterns of noncompliance which leave noncitizens vulnerable to apprehension by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This year, IJC students participated in a medical-legal partnership with La Clinica del Pueblo, providing Know Your Rights workshops and screenings for the LGBTQ community in DC.

Our Criminal Justice Clinic (CJC) students are working on a variety of compassionate release, parole, and other criminal legal system matters. CJC has had several clients recently released after serving many years of their sentences, at a time when COVID-19 is surging in prisons and every day incarcerated can be a death sentence. CJC students are also working on a policy project seeking to repeal a local Maryland ordinance that criminalizes public urination and imposes a potential 6-month sentence.

Florida State University College of Law

The Florida Bar Foundation awarded the Florida State University College of Law, Human Trafficking and Exploitation Law Project (HELP), the 1st Runner Up Winner of the 2021 Paul Doyle Children's Advocacy Award for its exceptional legal advocacy. HELP students advocated for the passage of a statewide rule that requires all Florida public school children, about 2,700,000 children, to receive training on human trafficking prevention. The

Florida Board of Education adopted the HELP students' proposed rule and is now the law of Florida.



Professor Paolo Annino

Georgetown Law Center's clinics have worked tirelessly to adapt their representation to address clients' needs arising from the Covid-19 crisis.

The Domestic Violence Clinic collaborated with The George Washington University Family Justice Litigation Clinic and The Catholic University of America's Families and the Law Clinic to launch a Helpline phone service for persons seeking protection from intimate partner abuse.

The Harrison Institute for Public Law (Policy Clinic) has been collaborating with other universities to organize a national working group to set standards for university food purchasing that protect food workers, who are particularly affected by the Covid-19 crisis and ensure compliance with public health guidance.

The Appellate Litigation Clinic successfully argued for a videoconference resentencing -- instead of a delay -- for one of their clients in the US District Court for the District of Columbia.

The Juvenile Justice Clinic is working with the Youth Justice Coalition to ensure that detention is not prolonged due to Covid-19 and has developed an online resource center for clients.

Students in the Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic and the Criminal Justice Clinic

have been appointed to file emergency bond review motions and some students have been successful in obtaining release for their clients.

The Health Justice Alliance has adapted its operations to serve families remotely and identify their most urgent needs, including by helping to shore up food and housing security for clients, ensuring that clients have Medicaid coverage, and advocating for educational support, particularly for children with disabilities whose special education needs are not being met through distance learning.

The Environmental Law and Justice Clinic has been representing various national health groups and local environmental organizations in their efforts to combat the Trump Administration's increasing efforts to dismantle protective environmental programs.

Harvard Law School's Election Law Clinic, formerly the Voting Rights Litigation and Advocacy Clinic, will launch in Fall 2021 as an in-house clinic.

HLS clinics released publications and hosted programming on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Food Law & Policy Clinic partnered with the National Sustainable Agricultural Coalition to analyze USDA's Farmers to Families Food Box Program and identify policy solutions in An Evaluation of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program. The LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic and the Human Rights Program hosted a webinar The Impact of COVID on LGBTQ Persons.

The Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program published two new public reports: Rethinking Boston's Public Safety System and Power, Protest, and Political Change. The Human Rights Program hosted the second webinar in their series exploring racial justice and human rights 'Human Rights, Civil Rights, and the struggle for Racial Justice'. Harvard Defenders hosted their annual Litman Symposium on Reimagining Criminal Justice: Reform and Abolition.

Further, HLS clinics filed amicus briefs: The Harvard Immigration & Refugee Clinical Program submitted a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the case *Sanchez v. Mayorkas* in support of Temporary Protected Status recipients from the Harvard community. The Emmett Environmental Law & Policy Clinic submitted a brief on behalf of 11 clinical law professors in support of the appellants in *Sierra Club v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*.

On the litigation front, the Tax Law Clinic won an appeal in the Third Circuit, with the court ruling in favor of the plaintiffs in a case argued by clinical student Oliver Roberts '22 in January 2021.

Further, a secret USDA policy uncovered by Harvard Law School's Animal Law & Policy Clinic student Brett Richey '21 in a FOIA case the clinic is litigating for Rise for Animals and Animal Legal Defense Fund shows that the USDA does not conduct inspections of all research labs to ensure compliance with Animal Welfare Act standards.

In March 2021, students from the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project won a ruling from the Massachusetts Appeals Court that will improve access to courts for incarcerated people challenging the discipline that is meted out against them.

Finally, in April 2021, the International Human Rights Clinic, co-counsel and their clients achieved a critical win in the *Mamani v. Sánchez de Lozada and Sánchez Berzain* case against Bolivian leaders for 2003 massacre.

SMU Dedman School of Law

In response to courthouse Covid restrictions, the criminal clinic at SMU Dedman School of Law has ventured into a new area of practice – representing clients in felony probation revocation matters. Our COVID-19 Helpline is going strong; after a successful summer launch, students from the Civil Clinic have continued to staff the Hotline during the academic year. Lastly, two of our clinics have developed new collaborative institutional partnerships – the Family Law Clinic is working with

the International Rescue Committee to obtain predicate orders for children seeking special immigrant juvenile status and the Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women is a new partner of the Lone Star Justice Alliance's Survivor's Project.

St. Mary's University School of Law has partnered with the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys and the Compassionate Release Clearinghouse to assist inmates facing the threat of COVID-19, to review inmate applications for compassionate release. As of April 7, 2021, the Board of Prisons has reported 230 inmate deaths from COVID-19 and 374 federal inmates and 1,248 staff with confirmed cases of COVID-19. Inmates sentenced to serve a few years to pay their debt to society are now facing the potential of a death sentence. Staff who must return home to their families and communities may further spread the virus. In 1984, the federal government passed legislation allowing inmates to petition for release based on compassionate reasons. The elderly and those with certain medical issues may qualify as having the extraordinary and compelling reasons contemplated by this legislation. St. Mary's students will interview inmates and family members, obtain, and review medical records, seek out expert opinions when necessary, draft appropriate motions and orders, and present these matters to the court to assist inmates with claims for compassionate release due to COVID-19.

With the elimination of Spring Break from our academic calendar, this semester required forgoing our annual offering of week-long Spring Break placements with public interest legal organizations.

The Pro Bono Program recreated these opportunities during our longer than usual winter break, utilizing the now well-established remote work capabilities of our students and community partner organizations. Over 40 students worked with legal organizations in week- to month-long placements, providing much needed legal services on matters ranging from housing to immigration.

Stetson College of Law, like so many other law schools, transitioned to an online format in abrupt fashion. We met the challenges and are also proud of the incredible innovations of this past year. In the summer of 2020, we created three new courses (Covid-19 in the Civil system, Covid-19 in the Criminal System and Judicial Practice) to address the potential deficit of externship placements. In addition, we created a Compassionate Release Practicum course in partnership with the Federal Public Defender's office. For more about this new practicum, come join the AALS Clinical Conference Hot Topic panel on Compassionate Release to learn how to structure and engage in this type of work across the country. In early 2020, we were awarded an American Bar Endowment grant which funded four student fellows to work on Florida's Amendment 4 voter restoration of rights issues. As part of that project, Stetson fellows assisted 485 returning citizens and of whom 148 were then registered to vote before October. We continue to seek more ways to address systemic issues in Florida on voter restitution of rights. This past year the law school also engaged and helped organize a racial justice consortium which connects law schools across the state to work on issues related to structural racism and equity. In September 2020 Stetson Law's Veterans Advocacy Clinic celebrated other victories for veterans and their families in need – this time for a Vietnam combat veteran who was terminally ill with esophageal cancer. The Board of Veterans' Appeals decided that this veteran's cancer *was* service connected. They agreed to pay him \$142,000 in back benefits. They also determined his wife will be entitled to widow benefits after he passes away, which was his primary concern. In a second case, the VA agreed to award a veteran who developed MS after exposure to insecticides in service over one million dollars in back benefits to include reimbursement of nursing home care he had been fighting for since 2008.

Suffolk University Law School's 12 full-year clinics are wrapping up our first-ever primarily remote year, with students, faculty and staff serving

our clients and communities in creative ways. To help blunt the impact of COVID-19 on our clients, we launched a client impact fund to provide much-needed emergency assistance to our clients, permitted under new ethical guidelines by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

To improve access to justice, the Legal Innovation and Technology (LIT) Lab has expanded on its groundbreaking Document Assembly Line project, facilitating guided online mobile-friendly interviews in the areas of family law, housing, consumer protection, benefits law, and more. The Lab has partnered with Massachusetts courts, as well as with partners in Louisiana and Illinois to replicate this work. This expansion has included a four-week Assembly Line bootcamp where LIT Lab Director David Colarusso, Clinical Fellow Quinten Steenhuis, and Clinical Fellow Bryce Willey, along with multiple Assembly Line volunteers, trained participants from around the globe in the team's tools and processes. The Lab will be hosting an online international Legal Tech Global Showcase in May, allowing folks to meet law lab staff from around the world. Details to follow at [https://lawlabshowcase.org/!](https://lawlabshowcase.org/)

Suffolk's Housing Discrimination Testing Program (HDTP) is partnering with the City of Boston to identify and combat race-based housing discrimination using HDTP's expertise in undercover testing and empirical analysis, adapting its testing strategies to fit an online rental market. HDTP is also in the throes of planning a national conference for fair housing professionals and advocates to be held in November of 2021. More details to come!

Suffolk's new Transactional Clinic, led by Prof. Carlos Teuscher, is representing BIPOC-owned businesses, cooperatives, and non-profits, assisting them with a host of transactional needs. The Clinic seeks to empower individuals and entities that contribute to building equitable communities.

Texas A& M University School of Law's faculty shared practical information about the CARES Act through several free public webinars. Bob Probasco, Director of the Tax Clinic, discussed individual incentives offered through the IRS, Luz Herrera, Director of the Community Development and Entrepreneurship Law Clinic, focused her presentation on the impact of COVID-19 on commercial leases, and Fatma Marouf, Director of the Immigrant Rights Clinic, presented on the health care implications for vulnerable populations. The webinars and materials are available at tamulawanswers.info. In addition, the Family and Veterans Advocacy (FVAC) Clinic created videos to provide general information for the public on legal issues related to COVID-19.

Prof. Fatma Marouf, Prof. Sehla Ashai, and students working with the Immigrant Rights Clinic are advocating for the release of individuals at the Prairieland Detention Center in North Texas who are at high risk for contracting coronavirus or have already tested positive. Prof. Marouf also spearheaded a letter on behalf of immigration professors to the Acting Chief Immigration Judge urging the Executive Office for Immigration Review to immediately develop and implement proactive plans for the prevention and management of COVID-19 at all U.S. immigration courts.

This summer, the Family and Veterans Advocacy Clinic and Tax Clinic will operate remotely. In addition, the Probate and Estate Planning Clinic will host students who will assist in developing estate plans for first responders and medical personnel in Texas for pro bono credit.

The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law is thrilled to announce that Laura Barrera will shortly be joining us as a visiting professor to help develop and launch an Immigration Clinic, which will open with the Fall 2021 semester. Laura is coming to Ohio State from the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Tucson, Arizona, where she has been serving as a managing attorney and staff attorney and has collaborated with the immigration

clinic at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. Before joining the Florence project, Laura served as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow, and then a Bernstein Fellow, in the immigration clinic at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law. She is a graduate of Wayne State University Law School and the University of Michigan. Laura has left indelible marks in both the Las Vegas and Tucson legal communities, and Ohio State is proud and excited to be bringing her back to the Midwest!

Tulane University Law School's Immigrant Rights Clinic has recently been recognized as a site for the national immigrant defender training program, Immigrant Justice Corps.

The Public Law Center (TPLC) at Tulane Law School, home of the Legislative and Administrative Advocacy Clinic directed by David Marcello, participated in a European Symposium on March 11, 2021 on the topic of "Teaching, Training, and Technology in Legislative Drafting," and presented on potential applications of artificial intelligence in legislative drafting.

University of Baltimore School of Law's clinicians have carried forward racial justice work from last summer, including through a clinic retreat focused on conducting conversations about race, teaching implicit bias, and more. Clinicians Liz Keyes and Veryl Pow created a zero-credit course on "Law and Organizing," inspired by the organizing that arose among our University of Baltimore students after the murder of George Floyd. In early April, Nickole Miller organized a discussion by Interim Dean Eduardo Capulong, and Professors Monte Mills and Andrew King-Ries to discuss their article "Antiracism, Reflection, and Professional Identity."

UC Hastings College of Law's Clinical Programs has had a dynamic last semester with innovative ways of serving our community, new initiatives and timely panels. All of our clinics were virtual the entire academic year yet continued to engage in important work for the community. To do so,

however, they often had to be creative. For instance, our Medical Legal Partnership for Seniors (MLPS) Clinic directed by Professor Yvonne Troya, piloted an inventive way to safely meet with homebound clients by using an Amazon Fire Tablet and mobile router to bring Wifi to the clients. Our Mediation Clinic, directed by Professors Carol Izumi and Gail Silverstein, which normally provided day-of-trial mediations at Small Claims Court, started a novel virtual mediation calendar with the local court where the students served as clerks and mediators for cases on calendar. Professor Richard Boswell, who directs our Immigrants' Rights Clinic, in coordination with the Hastings Students for Immigrant Rights, took 8 students virtually to the border to assist asylum seekers and women at a detention center in Texas during Spring Break.

UC Hastings started a new Indigenous Law Center. This is one of the 11 interrelated initiatives that the law school will implement to account for the inhumane actions of our founder against the Yuki people, who are part of the Round Valley Indian Tribe (RVIT). Clinical or experiential educational programs to address the specific needs of the RVIT are also being developed through the work of the Restorative Justice Advisory Board.

Lastly, Professors Alina Ball and Shauna Marshall's Center for Racial and Economic Justice hosted, along with other entities, three critically relevant panels this last year that can be accessed for viewing on their website: *From Prop 209 to Prop 16: Historical, Legal and Activist Perspectives on Affirmative Action*; *Racial Health Disparities: Economic Injustice as an Underlying Condition of COVID*; and *Racial Health Disparities: Police Violence as an Underlying Health Condition*.

UC Irvine School of Law

On March 12, the UCI Law Intellectual Property, Arts, and Technology Clinic filed a \$100,000 civil rights claim against Los Angeles County, alleging that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department violated a student journalist's First and Fourth

Amendment rights by wrongfully arresting him at a Black Lives Matter protest, confiscating his equipment, and losing his camera memory card containing two years of work. The representation is led by Clinic's Press Freedom and Transparency team, with IPAT Certified Law Students working under the supervision of Professor Susan Seager.

In addition to the client representation that has continued throughout COVID, the UCI Law Domestic Violence Clinic (DVC), which Jane Stoever directs, has engaged in multiple community-based projects and legislative advocacy projects. On behalf of multiple clients, the DVC suggested a bill to add "reproductive coercion" to the definition of "domestic abuse" in California's Domestic Violence Prevention Act (SB 374 Min), with the DVC providing background research, statutory recommendations, and client testimonials, and with Prof. Stoever and her students testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Additionally, the DVC worked with the Irvine mayor's office on an initiative for Irvine to support the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), providing background research, written comment, and testimony prior to the City Council unanimously voting to adopt the CEDAW resolution.

UIC John Marshall Law School's Fair Housing Clinic, directed by Allison Bethel, has been busy with the many new housing issues that surfaced in the pandemic. The Clinic has worked with area advocates on various proposals for emergency relief. The Chicago area has source of income protections in its fair housing laws which enabled the Clinic to help in cases where housing providers were reluctant to deal with people receiving assistance. A particularly interesting case for the Clinic involved a children's quarantine center, a place of last resort for children in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services needing a safe place to quarantine. The municipality where the Center is located sought to close the Center and the Clinic worked with private counsel to prevent a shut down and continue operations. As of the writing of this

note, the TRO remains in place and the litigation continues. The case presented some issues of first impression, such as whether the Center was covered under the Fair Housing Act and the applicability of disability provisions. The case presents a wonderful opportunity for students to see how the law works in novel situations as well as how to practice law in a pandemic!

The International Human Rights Clinic, directed by Sarah Dávila-Ruhaak, recently published a report, with Access Now, on the mass electronic and digital surveillance campaign in Syria. The report "Digital Dominion: The Syrian Regime's Use of Pervasive Digital Monitoring to Control its People in Violation of Human Rights" seeks to raise awareness of the mass electronic and digital surveillance of activists who oppose the Assad regime. The report documents how state-sanctioned hacking groups target major news organizations, NGOs, local opposition groups, and individual activists, resulting in the arrest, torture, forced disappearance, and death of Syrian people. The report seeks to contribute to accountability for human rights violations of Syrian citizens by the Assad regime. The report is part of the Privacy and Human Rights Project of the Clinic and is the result of a multi-year investigative project that arose out of representing Syrians in asylum cases.

University of Tennessee College of Law's Legal Clinic took on new initiatives including federal compassionate release cases and pandemic-related unemployment cases in response to COVID-19. The students collaborated with the federal defenders to nine federal prisoners with dire health conditions in their compassionate release motions. One client's motion was granted, and he was released in January! The addition of an unemployment docket has added a new dimension to our clinic work as students struggle with the obstacles facing low-wage workers, especially during a pandemic.

The Clinic also hosted a successful virtual Voter Restoration Event that began with a Facebook-live education workshop led by clinic students. The workshop outlines the basics of Voter Restoration in

Tennessee to encourage people to register for one-on-one law student legal assistance. Clinic and pro bono students worked together to review criminal histories and help individuals understand how they could restore their voting rights after a felony conviction.

Additionally, this semester, the Clinic launched three clinic-wide initiatives to integrate education and action around racial justice issues throughout our curriculum. Critical Conversations on Race are monthly zoom sessions devoted to delving into racial injustice issues. These zoom sessions are required for all clinic students and open to the public. The Racial Justice Listening Project (RJLP) is a commitment to embark on a deliberate listening process with the communities most harmed by systemic racism to learn how we can be more responsive to their needs. We committed to use this listening process to inform our choices on case and project work. We have assembled a participatory research team and held initial listening sessions with local community leaders to help shape our IRB qualitative research proposal and question guides. The Racial Justice Listening Course with Professor Wendy Bach is a new 3-credit course. Students will study the racial history of civil and criminal legal services provision; learn about qualitative interviewing skills and qualitative data analysis; conduct interviews with a wide range of community members for our RJLP; research models of service delivery that are responsive to the community; and work collectively on a report to be presented to the clinic summarizing their work and recommendations. https://law.utk.edu/2021/01/22/legal-clinic-launches-effort-to-study-systemic-racism/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=legal-clinic-launches-effort-to-study-systemic-racism

The Clinic also held a Clinic-wide 3-hour Interactive Workshop called Uprooting Oppression in Our Practice led by Shannon Cumberbatch, who founded the non-profit Uprooted and works at the Bronx Defenders.

The UT Legal Clinic also launched a clinic-wide wellness initiative led by our field placement students from the UT School of Social Work. This new curriculum focused on teaching students how to develop wellness plans and then introduced monthly modules focused on emotional wellness, physical wellness, and time-management.

University of St. Thomas School of Law's new three credit Special Education Clinic at the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) led by Professor Lisa Schiltz serves elementary and secondary students who have been identified as qualifying for special education services, with a particular focus on students of color with EBD (emotional behavioral disorder) diagnoses, and the parents of these students. The students in the clinic collaborate with the staff of the Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC), a division of Mid Minnesota Legal Aid, which serves as Minnesota's designed federal Protection and Advocacy System (P&A). Starting this spring, a cohort of parents/students identified by MDLC has received legal training and ongoing support to become strong self-advocates in navigating the special education system. Law students work with these cohorts on training, analysis of individualized education plans, and, as appropriate, counseling on individual cases or group or class complaints.

University of Virginia School of Law

These days, changing law with bipartisan support is rare. But the new State and Local Government Policy Clinic at the University of Virginia School of Law, which provides Virginia's lawmakers and governmental executives legal and policy research support for their initiatives, is doing just that.

In its inaugural year, the clinic helped all of its state lawmaker clients — Republicans and Democrats — see their bills through to approval, including two pieces of legislation whose prospects for passage were anything but a given.

One bill involves changes to federally mandated testing for students in grades 3-8. The other transforms how mentally impaired criminal defendants are adjudicated.

In both cases, law students were helpful in bringing opposing stakeholders together in cooperation.

The cases are among several other policy victories for the clinic, to be signed into law by the Gov. Ralph Northam by the end of March. Clinic Director Andrew Block said working with



legislators of both political parties is a critical aspect of the clinic.

“Being part of a state school, it’s important for us to look beyond party affiliation and be a service to everyone,” said Block, a former director of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice who currently serves as vice chair for the Commission to Examine Racial Inequity in Virginia Law.

Students in the clinic researched and wrote initial drafts of legislation, produced talking points and other communication materials, met with stakeholders and, in many cases, testified in support of the bills, making them essential to the outcomes.

“For some of their clients, students were in text groups with the legislators during the legislative committee hearings, sharing information and advice in real-time as questions came up,” Block said.

University of Washington School of Law’s students and faculty in the Innocence Clinic received an order from the Washington Supreme Court, on March 12, 2021, finding that the conditions of confinement for Mr. Williams violated the state constitution’s prohibition against cruel punishment, as well as the federal constitution’s prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. The clinic’s client, Mr. Williams, is a 78-year-old Black veteran, who is wheelchair-bound and largely immobilized on his right side after suffering a stroke in 2010 in prison. In this case of first impression, the Court found that Article 1, Section 14 of the Washington State Constitution provides more protection than its federal counterpart and that Mr. Williams’ current conditions of confinement were cruel. The Court ordered the Department of Corrections to immediately remedy the cruel conditions and if that could not be done to either transfer him to home confinement or release him.

This victory is the culmination of litigation that began in May of 2020 in response to the pandemic. After losing in the Court of Appeals, Division III by a 2-1 decision, the clinic students filed a motion for discretionary review, which was granted by the State Supreme Court. Due to the pandemic, the students asked for and were granted a special setting of the case in March of 2021. Arguments were made on March 11, 2021 and the Court issued its Order the following day.

The University of Washington’s Adelante Pro Bono Project engages in legal services and advocacy in support of asylum seekers at our southern border and is directed by Haiyun Damon-Feng. Haiyun and her student, Michelle Browne, worked with a pro bono team at Microsoft to reunify a family—a mother and her two young children—who were forcibly separated at the US-Mexico border. The children are in U.S. immigration custody and have been severely traumatized by the separation; the mother has been trapped in Mexico, where she has been kidnapped, sexually assaulted and tortured. Haiyun, Michelle and their team represented the mother in seeking humanitarian parole and reunification with her

children in the U.S. Due to Title 42 and the immigration policies and practices currently in place at the U.S.-Mexico border, there was no clear path to relief or reunification for the family, but just yesterday (April 6, 2021), our client was paroled into the U.S. and she should be with her children again soon.

In another case, Joanne Gottesman (Rutgers), Haiyun Damon-Feng (University of Washington), Mauricio Norona (Cardozo) and Reena Parikh (Boston College) recently won a significant victory at the New Jersey Supreme Court. The group authored an amicus brief on behalf of a national group of immigration law scholars and Joanne argued the case on behalf of amici. The Court considered whether the New Jersey Criminal Justice Reform Act (CJRA) empowers judges to detain defendants who are non-citizens to prevent immigration officials from removing them from the country before trial. In an opinion authored by Chief Justice Rabner, the Court held that the CJRA does not authorize judges to detain defendants to thwart their possible removal by ICE. The Court cited to the immigration law scholars' brief in finding that "decisions relating to the removal of non-citizens are highly discretionary and involve complex legal issues, making the risk of deportation extremely difficult to predict." The Court concluded that state judges would not be able to assess deportability in a way that would be compatible with the high evidentiary standard required to order pretrial detention under the CJRA. The case is *State v. Oscar Lopez-Carrera* (A-8-20) (084750) and *State v. Juan C. Molchor; State v. Jose A. Rios* (A-9-20) (084694).

The Federal Tax Clinic will be submitting its annual report next week. For 2020, the Tax Clinic worked a total of 271 cases, saving taxpayers \$818,763 and procuring refunds of \$125,728. A total of 527 separate issues were worked on, including assisting taxpayers in recovering their stimulus payments.

The Immigration Clinic is participating in the Take Back Tech Fellowship, a national cohort of people (including law school clinic, technology specialists,

and organizers) that is working with a range of grassroots groups across the country on projects related to policing, surveillance, incarceration, and deportation, in collaboration with Just Futures Law and Mijente.

Vanderbilt Law School's assistant dean for public interest, Spring Miller, launched a workers' rights initiative where law students provide consultations to vulnerable Tennessee workers precipitated by the pandemic.

Working fully remotely with the Immigration Practice Clinic directed by Professor Karla McKanders students helped pass the Metro Council Resolution RS 2020-433, which supports communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The resolution recognizes increased discrimination and harassment, stating "[F]ear and misinformation around the COVID-19 pandemic has led to blanket discrimination against the Asian and Pacific Islander community and emboldened racist sentiments in Nashville."

The Turner Family Community Enterprise Clinic directed by Professor Lauren Rogal represented human trafficking survivor and criminal justice reform advocate Cyntoia Brown-Long. After her case received national attention, Governor Bill Haslam granted Brown-Long clemency in 2019. Her story was featured in the Netflix documentary *Murder to Mercy: The Cyntoia Brown Story*. The Community Enterprise Clinic helped Cyntoia and her husband Jamie Long form a nonprofit: The Foundation for Justice, Freedom and Mercy ("JFAM").



Announcements

Georgetown Law Center

As Sandy Ogilvy and Wally Mlyniec recently mentioned, The National Archive of Clinical Legal Education (the Collection) has moved from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law to the Georgetown Law Library's Special Collections. It can be accessed at <https://aspace.ll.georgetown.edu/public/repositories/3/resources/265>.

The new finding aid (a tool for helping a user find and access information in the collection) is available in the online collection portal. This finding aid provides information about the entire collection including links to the digital materials that had been available from the website hosted by Catholic University Law Library.

The Collection contains newsletters of the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education from 1969-2019, oral histories (1969-2019) including 54 oral history transcripts, conference materials spanning 1977-2019, Remington Center materials and more. From the Technola Blog (November 20, 2008): "The [National Archive of Clinical Legal Education] contains an extensive bibliography of articles and conference proceedings on clinical legal education, articles on the history of various clinics, and wonderful transcripts of oral histories by those involved in the development of clinical legal education..." It is important to note that not all of the material listed in the finding aid for the collection are available in digital form.

Georgetown Law Library's Special Collections will accept newsletters and conference programs that are not currently in the collection, and other materials will be evaluated on an individual basis to determine if they fall within the department's collecting scope, either as an addition to the NACLE collection or as a separate but affiliated collection. If you have material that is not already in the Collection and believe it should be included, please contact lawspecl@georgetown.edu.

The Collection does not have Conference Proceedings or Newsletters from 2020 or 2021. If you were the Chair of those conferences or an editor of the AALS Section or CLEA newsletters issued during 2020 or will be in 2021, please send them to lawspecl@georgetown.edu.

Rutgers Law School

Rutgers Law School is thrilled to announce the creation of the New Jersey Innocence Project at Rutgers University. The first New Jersey-based affiliate of the national Innocence Network, the NJIP will investigate and litigate claims of factual innocence on behalf of wrongfully convicted clients and advocate for legislative, regulatory, and policy reform. The project arose out of and will be centered in a unique, inter-disciplinary collaboration among Rutgers faculty in forensic science, criminal justice, social work, and law, including Jill Friedman, Associate Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest, and Laura Cohen, Distinguished Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Rutgers Criminal and Youth Justice Clinic. The search for an Executive Director is underway, with an anticipated launch in July 2021.

Texas A&M University School of Law (TAMU)

Texas A&M Legal Clinic Starts Medical Legal Partnership Texas A&M University School of Law Legal Clinic announced its Medical Legal Partnership with Cook Children's Network. Attorney Kimberly Stoner and Lydia Alvarado, paralegal, are the team who lead this partnership. They are working with Cook Children's Network to develop online resources and virtual assistance during this difficult time.

TAMU Family and Veterans Advocacy (FVAC clinic) received a \$75,000 grant to begin a new program for veterans. The grant is funded by the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' Assistance. The Fund for Veterans' Assistance (FVA) provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families in three rural counties neighboring the DFW area.

Immigrant Rights Clinic TAMU School of Law Professor Fatma Marouf received a Presidential Transformational Teaching Grant of \$20,000 to support a project that would expand the experiential learning opportunities offered by the Immigrant Rights Clinic at TAMU School of Law. The project's components: (1) Expand access to legal assistance for detained immigrants and involve medical and mental health providers in advocating for their release; (2) Train students in health-related fields to perform medical and mental health evaluations of asylum seekers and other vulnerable populations; and (3) Support the law school's new Medical-Legal Partnership with Cook Children's Health Care System by providing much-needed immigration expertise on issues that impact patient care.

TAMU School of Law joined with Cook Children's Network to create a new medical-legal partnership. The mission of this collaboration is to provide free legal services to patients and families with legal needs that affect their health and access to medical care. Most families at Cook Children's are unable to access legal services. Social workers at the medical center are contacted by patient families that don't qualify for public benefits, cannot obtain guardianship for their incapacitated adult child or need help to remediate unsafe housing issues. Clinic students who engage in these cases are exposed to the various social, economic and environmental factors that impact a child's health.

The St. Thomas University, College of Law

Tax Clinic has joined other local tax clinics to offer virtual tax representation to low-income taxpayers in the IRS Chief Counsel's Area 3 Offices which cover Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee as part of the IRS' National Settlement Initiative.

University of Baltimore School of Law, Center for Families, Children, and the Courts (CFCC)

Offered exclusively online, the certificate program addresses the demand for an advanced family law curriculum that offers a holistic and interdisciplinary blend of theory and practice. The program is for new attorneys and attorneys seeking to add family law to their practice. Limited scholarships are now available. Visit http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/post_jd_graduate_programs/familylawcert/.

CFCC is using a virtual platform to operate its Truancy Court Program in six Baltimore City public schools. The TCP Team meets weekly at each school and reaches out to families to support distance learning, to provide resources, and to help navigate legal issues they may face during this pandemic.

CFCC has published the Benchbook for Family Courts on Substance Use Disorders, Second Edition, addressing issues around substance use, its effects on family courts, addiction as a disease, and juvenile substance use. Copies are \$29 as an e-book on Amazon or as a PDF. Download your order form here.

University of Maryland, Carey School of Law

We are excited to announce that the University of Maryland Carey School of Law has received a \$5 million gift from biotech entrepreneurs Marco and Debbie Chacón to establish the Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice. The

new center will be dedicated to improving the lives of immigrants and their families while providing invaluable training for future lawyers.

Building on the recognized success of the Maryland Carey Law Immigration Clinic, the Chacón Center will establish a permanent immigration law center at the law school, ensuring that Maryland's immigrant community will always have a place to turn for high quality legal representation.

The funding will continue critical clinic representation in deportation cases while simultaneously broadening our reach by creating a new Federal Appellate Clinic focused on immigration, launching a citizenship initiative, and expanding legislative efforts to promote critical law reform advocacy. The gift will endow a faculty position and a permanent managing director for the new center.

In addition to providing vital legal services, the gift will also create the Chacón Scholarship, which will allow Maryland Carey Law to recruit students interested in immigration law.

Professor Maureen Sweeney, who directs our Immigration Clinic, will also direct the new Center. We will conduct a search this fall for the professor who will direct the new Federal Appellate Clinic

University of New Mexico School of Law

The University of New Mexico School of Law has received private foundation grant funding for a Border Justice Initiative. The Initiative will provide students from all sections of our mandatory clinical law program an opportunity to work to address the human suffering of children and families seeking asylum at our southern border. It will also fund Summer Border Justice Externships to our students, and other experiential learning opportunities across our curriculum.

University of Washington

The Entrepreneurial Law Clinic will have a social entrepreneurship fellow joining the clinic this summer. More information is located here: <https://www.washington.edu/populationhealth/education-and-training/social-entrepreneurship-fellowship/>.

Additionally, John Clynch, the Managing Director of the Federal Tax Clinic, will be stepping down in July of 2020. John became involved with the clinic as a student in 2005 when he returned to UW Law to get his Masters in Tax. In 2009, he became a staff attorney, and in 2012 the Managing Director. John, a former Public Defender, will remain teaching at the law school in the areas of Evidence and Criminal Law.

University of Wisconsin Law School

Economic Justice Institute (EJI) of the University of WI Law School has undertaken new efforts over the past years to increase its representation to children in immigration court. In 2019, Attorney Jennifer Binkley joined EJI as director of the Family Court Clinic (FCC) and committed to continuing and increasing efforts to achieve Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) for children involved in immigration proceedings. SIJS findings must be made in family or juvenile court in Wisconsin before they can be utilized later by a child to apply for a green card. The Immigration Justice Clinic (IJC) of EJI directed by Attorney Erin Barbato, works with children in these matters, often alongside the Attorney and students of the FCC. Fortunately, a generous donor allowed IJC to add Attorney Perla Rubio Terrones, a recent IJC alum, to the program as a clinical instructor in the fall of 2020. To cap off the expansion of these valuable services at a time when their need could not be greater, Attorney Natalia Lucak joined IJC as a clinical instructor in January of 2021 thanks to the thanks to generous support from the UW College of Letters and Science. Attorney Lucak brings with her a wealth of knowledge about SIJS proceedings

from her work with Catholic Charities Community Services in New York City where she assessed and mentored cases for pro bono representation, specializing in cases involving immigrant youth who face legal challenges in both family court and immigration court.

Even with the increase in immigration resources and the always consistently strong interest in student participation in these clinical programs at the University of WI Law School, the need for assistance for families continues to be overwhelming. In the future FCC and IJC hope to train and mentor family law attorneys in the community that can provide pro bono representation in family court, where they have experience and expertise, to obtain necessary SIJS findings for children in need. But for now, EJI is thrilled to have a new team of dedicated and talented attorneys and law students fighting for these children that deserve access to justice, due process, and so much more.

Vanderbilt Law School

This year Vanderbilt Legal Clinic celebrates its fiftieth year!

Dean Spring received the 2020 B. Riney Green Access to Justice Award from TALS for the creation of this program which recognizes attorneys who promote state-wide collaboration among legal advocacy organizations and attorneys.

Call for Papers

University of Baltimore School of Law

Professor Barbara Babb, CFCC Director and Editor in Chief of Family Court Review (FCR), invites members to submit articles for publication in FCR, the leading interdisciplinary academic and research journal for international family law professionals. Visit <http://www.afccnet.org/Publications/Family-Court-Review/Submit-an-article> or contact Professor Babb at bbabb@ubalt.edu.

Honors, Accolades and Victories

Suffolk University Law School

The Suffolk Law School thanks and recognizes Nataly Cabrera for spending this unprecedented year with us as a Visiting Practitioner in Residence in our Immigration Clinic. Working remotely from her home in Texas, Prof. Cabrera provided outstanding and seamless supervision to student attorneys. Prof. Cabrera is a 2009 graduate of Suffolk Law and practices immigration law in Houston, Texas.

Associate Dean Kim McLaurin was recently named as one of the 50 Most Influential People of Color in Higher Education by “Get Konnected.” Kim was honored at a virtual event on March 30th that was hosted by Boston public radio station, WGBH.

Quinten Steenhuis was recently named as one of ten Legal Rebels for 2021 by the ABA Journal. Quinten is a Clinical Fellow in the Legal Innovation and Technology (LIT) Lab, where he has been instrumental in launching the Document Assembly Line project.

Suffolk's Housing Discrimination Testing Program (HDTP) will be honored by the Citizens Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) with its Fair Housing Hero Award at CHAPA's virtual fair housing symposium on April 29, 2021. Professor Bill Berman, along with Clinical Fellows Jamie Langowski, Catherine LaRaia, and Kelly Vieira will be in attendance to receive the award.

Texas A& M University School of Law

Bob Probasco, director of the Tax Clinic, was named to the LITC Advisory Board of the National Center for Taxpayer Rights.

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

The Federal *Pro Se* Legal Assistance Clinic received the national Federal Bar Association's 2020 Ilene and Michael Shaw Public Service Award. The Shaw Public Service Award is made possible by the generous contributions of Ilene and Michael Shaw and is designed to assist and encourage members in providing service to their communities.

The Federal Pro Se Legal Assistance Clinic assists pro se litigants who have filed or will file a case in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division. The Clinic has an office in the federal courthouse and operates three afternoons a week. Through the services of a staff attorney, law student clinicians, and volunteer attorneys, the Clinic provides limited scope legal assistance to indigent and low-income non-prisoner pro se litigants at no cost to the litigants. Available client services include pre-screening of cases for federal court jurisdiction, assistance clarifying claims and amending the complaint, education of litigants as to the court process and available forms, assistance completing forms, assistance with discovery and motions, advice on substantive and procedural matters, legal research, limited drafting of pleadings, and assistance at other stages of the proceedings.

UC Irvine School of Law

The UCI Law Criminal Justice Clinic, supervised by Katie Tinto, has gotten three prisoners released in the last month: two were granted executive clemency and were serving life sentences, and one was granted compassionate release by the federal court. All had served about 30 years in prison. <https://www.law.uci.edu/news/press-releases/2021/cjc-compassionate-release-project.html>

University of Washington

Funding Awards

The Washington Pro Bono Patent Network at UW, which pairs low-income inventors with pro bono patent attorneys, received additional funding from the USPTO for 2021-2022.

UW's Entrepreneurial Law Clinic received a \$20,000 economic recovery grant from UW's Population Health Initiative to help entrepreneurs historically underrepresented in entrepreneurship. For more information, <https://www.washington.edu/news/2021/03/19/a-turning-point-uw-population-health-initiatives-pandemic-grants-changed-how-the-university-works/>

Awards

Jennifer Koh Received Attorney of the Year award from the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association (March 2021).

University Faculty Lecture. On January 28, 2021, Professor Jackie McMurtrie gave the University of Washington's Faculty Lecture. Her lecture titled, Stand With the Innocent: Wrongful Convictions and Criminal Justice Reform, broke attendance records and was incredibly well received. Here is a link to her presentation: <https://www.washington.edu/facultystaff/lecture/>. The award honors faculty whose research, scholarship or art has been widely recognized by their peers and whose achievements have had a substantial impact on their profession, the research or performance of others, and society as a whole. It is a tremendous honor, awarded each year to only one faculty member at the University, across all disciplines.

New Hires, Promotions, and Retirements

Harvard Law School

Premal Dharia will be joining the Institute to End Mass Incarceration as its inaugural executive director. Formerly a public defender and civil rights attorney, she has spent the last two decades fighting against injustice in the criminal system. She will bring the work and strategies of Defender Impact Initiative with her to the new Institute.

Ruth Greenwood will be promoted from Lecturer on Law to Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor of Law in July 2021 and will serve as Director of the Election Law Clinic.

Andrew Crespo will serve as executive faculty director of the new Institute to End Mass Incarceration.

Suffolk University Law School

James Matthews will join the ranks of Suffolk Law's tenure-track clinical faculty effective July 1, 2021 as an Assistant Clinical Professor of Law and the director of the Accelerator to Practice Program (A2P). James helped to launch A2P as a Clinical Fellow and currently serves as a Practitioner in Residence. James brings a unique combination of experience in fair housing litigation, law practice management, and legal technology.

Loletta Darden was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor of Law. Loletta is continuing work on a practice-oriented intellectual property textbook and an article on the constitutionality of certain patent proceedings.

Quinten Steenhuis joined Suffolk on March 16, 2020 as the Legal Innovation and Technology Clinical Fellow. Quinten has been all hands-on deck since joining as highlighted in this recent article about his work with colleague David Colarusso and over 100 volunteers.

University of Baltimore School of Law

The founder and Director of the Center for Families, Children, and the Courts (CFCC) Professor Barbara Babb will retire effective August 1, 2021, after 32 years as a faculty member at the University of Baltimore School of Law, including teaching in the law school's Family Law Clinic for 13 years and 20 years at the helm of CCC.

University of New Mexico School of Law

We are pleased to announce that we will soon be joined on the School of Law faculty by Professor Sam Winder. Sam is a graduate of Stanford University and the University of New Mexico School of Law. Samuel is a former

New Mexico District Court Judge and a citizen of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. He has extensive experience in the areas of Indian Law and criminal law. Sam will be teaching regularly in our Southwest Indian Law Clinic (SILC), which supervised as a Visiting Professor in 2019. SILC was created in 1994 as one of the first law clinics dedicated to serving the needs of Native peoples, including the 24 federally recognized Tribal Nations that have territories and homelands within New Mexico.

University of Washington

John Clynych, the Managing Director of the Federal Tax Clinic, will be stepping down in July of 2020. John became involved with the clinic as a student in 2005 when he returned to UW Law to get his Masters in Tax. In 2009, he became a staff attorney, and in 2012 the Managing Director. John, a former Public Defender, will remain teaching at the law school in the areas of Evidence and Criminal Law.

Vanderbilt Law School

This year Professor Karla McKanders become the Associate Director of the Clinical Program assisting with the Clinic's expansive growth of adding four new clinical offerings over the past five years: Immigration Clinic, Community Enterprise Clinic, First Amendment Clinic, Youth Opportunity Clinic and Housing Clinic.

Vanderbilt Legal Clinic welcomed Professor Jennifer Prusak who started the law school's first Housing Clinic. The Housing Law Clinic spent its first semester working on behalf of Nashvillians impacted by the COVID-19 housing crisis.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

University of Baltimore School of Law

On April 8, 2021, CFCC will host a Virtual Celebration, commemorating the 20th Anniversary of CFCC and the 15th Anniversary of its Truancy Court Program. CFCC is grateful for all the people and partnerships who have supported our work and have helped us build a better tomorrow.

The 12th Feminist Legal Theory Conference at the University of Baltimore School of Law will take place on April 22 and 23. This year we explore the topic of applied feminism and privacy, including menstrual justice; controlling personal data; resisting intrusions into physical privacy; and protecting decisional autonomy to shape identity and families. Our Keynote Speaker is Fatima Goss Graves, CEO and President, National Women's Law Center. Here is the schedule: https://law.ubalt.edu/centers/caf/conference/2020_Schedule.cfm.

In Memoriam



It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of our colleague **Laura Macklin**, the former director of the Family Advocacy Clinic at Georgetown Law, who passed away on February 13, 2020. Laura taught in and supervised several clinics during her time at Georgetown, culminating in her founding of the Family Advocacy Clinic in 1995. She served as the Clinic's Director until her retirement from Georgetown in 2007. Laura operated the Clinic as a destination for low-income families whose children had special education needs and who required legal representation in order to ensure that these children were able to access the quality of education guaranteed by the law. Laura was a valued member of the clinical faculty who made innumerable contributions to our clinical program. She will be deeply missed by her colleagues and former students. Laura's family has asked that contributions in her memory be made to the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

at <https://www.legalclinic.org/donate/> or The Tom Williamson Endowment of the Neighborhood Legal Services Program at <http://www.nlsp.org/donate/tom-williamson-endowment-fund>.

Wendy Jacobs '81, one of the nation's most highly celebrated environmental law experts and the founder of the first-ever environmental law and policy clinic at Harvard Law School, passed on February 1, 2021 after a long illness. During her decades of private practice and her long-time tenure as the Emmett Clinical Professor of Environmental Law at Harvard Law School, Jacobs dedicated her career to protecting the environment and developing the next generation of environmental advocates.