

Pro Bono & Justice

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

Tara and Tom Talks

December, 2017

Dear Friends,

It is hard to imagine that this is our final letter as the Section's Co-Chairs. This past year, we have seen the rising importance of legal service to those most vulnerable in our society, as well as the law school community's obligation to be a leader in that effort.

For years, many of us have striven to inculcate a spirit of service among our students, with the hope that they will continue that service beyond graduation. And, for many of us, we often feel as if we are an army of one. Our positions take a variety of administrative or academic forms depending upon the needs of our institutions. Such an existence can sometimes lead to feeling as if you are alone in the wilderness – wondering if your work has a meaningful impact, if your efforts are aligned with the need.

One of the great benefits of this Section has always been the connection we provide to a country of colleagues who are here to say – your work has purpose. This past Fall, we saw law schools mobilize to respond to the planned DACA rescission, the devastation wrought by hurricanes, and the increased incidence of acts of intolerance and bigotry. When confronted by injustice in our society, law students turned to us to ask, “What can I do? What can we do?” We used these moments to teach, learn, respond, and – ultimately – serve.

We also took our students out of the law school environment to serve in ways that increased their cultural competency. So much of being a good lawyer comes from understanding your community, which means volunteering outside of the four walls of a legal classroom, office, or courtroom. Because of you, law students have learned about marginalized communities, food insecurity, generational poverty, and the high wire many in our society walk to stay out of crisis.

We hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting in January. Our Section program and service project represent the walk behind the talk and are emblematic of all we do throughout the year. The Annual Meeting is a time to learn from each other, be inspired by each other, and develop plans for the future with each other. As we shift out of our roles as Co-Chairs, we thank you for all the good work that you continue to do, and will always remain in our roles as colleagues to you in our wonderful collaborative community.

Best wishes and Happy Holidays,

Tara Casey
University of Richmond School of Law

Tom Schoenherr
Fordham University School of Law

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders: Mobilizing Students and Community Partner Collaboration to Respond to the Unexpected

Wednesday, January 3, 2018 – 1:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Please plan to join us for our section program at the 2018 Annual Meeting in San Diego!

This past year has presented unexpected opportunities for us to work with our students on rapid response pro bono projects. Our panel will explore multiple ways in which our law school pro bono programs can lend help collaborating not only with our typical not-for-profit legal partners, but also with law firms, bar associations, and non-legal service providers at this time of expanded and unpredictable need. We will also focus upon the ways in which these projects provide unique leadership skills development opportunities for our motivated students. We will discuss ways in which we and our students can meaningfully connect with this broad range of volunteer providers with existing/evolving rapid response initiatives while remaining realistic about what our students can and cannot do given their status as students and the demands of their coursework and other law school activities.

Our speakers will also address: How do we balance our personal views with our role as administrator and advisor? How can we now attempt to prospectively identify issues and mobilize law students for future work? What models have been established already for rapid response? What's replicable?

Moderator:

Laura Burstein – SMU Deadman School of Law – Director of Public Service and Academic Success.

Panelists:

Alison Korn – UCLA Law School – Clinical Director for the Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy and one of the former law student national leaders of the Student Hurricane Network.

Mary Spector – SMU Deadman School of School – Dean of Clinics and Director of the Consumer Law Clinic.

Saralyn Cohen – Shearman & Sterling LLP – Pro Bono Counsel and Global Director of Pro Bono

Sasha Novis – UCLA Law School Class of 2019 – Co-Executive Director of Law Students for Immigrant Justice at UCLA.

SERVICE PROJECT @ 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

On January 4, 2018 members of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities will show what real pro bono work looks like by engaging in a hands on project serving the local San Diego community. The service project will be held at **Mama's Kitchen** (<http://www.mamaskitchen.org/>), a community-driven organization that provides nutrition support to men, women, and children affected by AIDS or cancer who are vulnerable to hunger.



Mama's Kitchen strives to help clients stay healthy, preserve their dignity, and keep their families together by providing free, culturally appropriate home-delivered meals, along with pantry services and nutrition education. Participants will prepare meals and pack grocery bags to be delivered to those in need. Close-toed shoes are required and sleeveless shirts are prohibited. Hats may be worn or hairnets will be provided.

The project site (3960 Home Ave.) is 3.7 miles from the Annual Meeting, and participants are asked to provide their own transportation. Those interested in ride-sharing should meet in the lobby of the Marriott Marquis Hotel at Noon to depart at 12:15pm.

Your Voice Matters: AALS Pro Bono Survey Needs You

In an effort to estimate how much legal education contributes to the delivery of much-needed legal services, AALS is collecting information for an annual report that will detail the total number of service hours, hours per student, and some specific examples of how law schools are giving back to their communities. The focus of the report will be on the most recent graduating class. The school's individual pro bono data will not be published and schools will not be individually ranked using the data. Only the total number of hours and averages for all students at all law schools will be reported. Last year's report is available [here](#).

Please submit your school's pro bono information using this [form](#) by **Friday, December 15, 2017**. The total number of hours will be calculated and released at the AALS Annual Meeting in January.

We are assuming that every hour of service will be nearly impossible to capture and the actual number will be higher than is able to be calculated. As we are not publishing any individual law school data, estimations are acceptable. The project is trying to capture any hours that contribute to the delivery of legal services to individuals or communities in need. This could include work performed in:

- * a law school clinic,
- * an unpaid internship/externship at a legal aid or public interest organization,
- * an unpaid government internship/externship,
- * pro bono service,
- * a practicum, or
- * law related volunteer project.

We are keeping the definition broad to try to get a ballpark figure and work with the numbers law schools are already calculating as part of their internal reporting process to make it as easy as possible. The questions in the survey are located below this email to aid in the gathering of information since the form cannot be saved in progress. Please let us know if you have any questions about the form or the project. We also welcome feedback on ways we can adjust the form for future years. Looking forward to learning more about your school's public service efforts. Thank you for participating in the law student pro bono hours survey.

Take care,
James Greif | Director of Communications
Association of American Law Schools | 202.296.1593 | jgreif@aals.org
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www.aals.org

The form cannot be saved while in progress.

EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND PRO BONO PROJECTS

Please post links to articles about your school's clinics public service projects and other pro bono activities. This information will be used in a narrative describing the various clinical offerings and pro bono projects across the country.

Up to 5 links may be included in the form. Additional links can be sent via email to jgreif@aals.org.

Thank you for participating in the law student pro bono hours survey.



Books **The New Jim Crow: We Mass Incarceration in the Love Age of Colorblindness** Michelle T. Alexander

Reviewed by Eve Ross

Ten years before writing *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander would have staunchly denied its central thesis: that a racial caste system exists in the United States. So she says in her introduction. Her work at the ACLU on criminal justice reform shifted her views from simply acknowledging that there is some racial bias in the system, to seeing mass incarceration as a comprehensive system of racialized social control.

A graduate of Stanford Law School, Alexander masterfully builds her argument that legalized mass incarceration today is as thoroughly racist as the Jim Crow laws of the past. She backs this argument with legal and historical references, and effectively deploys statistics to make the book powerfully convincing. The author does not claim this core insight as her own, however. She credits incarcerated people and the radical groups serving incarcerated people for opening her eyes to systemic racism that she previously had not recognized.

Pro bono directors know there is no law school class more enlightening than the experience of working directly with people who need legal services. The pro bono experience helps students develop insights into how the legal system works, while they use their budding legal skills to translate that awareness into change that has a real-world effect on people's lives. Law students involved in pro bono service should in some sense emulate Alexander's authorship of this book: listen to and empathize with marginalized people through personal interactions with them, then clothe the cry of suffering people in legal language, logical analysis, and proper supporting citations so that it might be heard by those in power.

The first chapter on the history of race in the United States provides important background. Becoming aware of the patterns of the past enables us to see where those patterns are being reproduced in the present. Chapters 2 and 3 cite cases law students will likely have read and discussed in their classes (*Terry v. Ohio*, *Ohio v. Robinette*, *McCleskey v. Kemp*, *Alexander v. Sandoval*, and others), explaining how those decisions have built racism into the justice system, despite surface-level colorblindness. Chapters 4 and 5 detail collateral effects of racialized mass incarceration on people who have been released from prison, their families, and their communities. Chapter 5 clearly draws the analogy from the historical racial discrimination discussed in Chapter 1 to the reality of the system today, which is not significantly different from the past in its racially discriminatory effect. In Chapter 6, Alexander describes past attempts at reform and offers a glimmer of hope that there may yet be real change if we work for it.

Cornel West's foreword places *The New Jim Crow* in a canon of secular scripture in which the written word opens the reader's eyes to the suffering that surrounds them and motivates the reader to take loving action to tear down social structures that divide and degrade people. He quotes Alexander's Chapter 6: "It is this failure to care, really care across color lines, that lies at the core of this system of control and every racial caste system that has existed in the United States or anywhere else in the world." Working hand in hand across color lines in a pro bono program is just one way to help develop and embody the caring that is necessary if we are to build a society truly based in justice.

Eve Ross, Reference Librarian, Law Library, University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia, SC

Drinan and Rhode Award Recipients Announced

On behalf of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities, I am delighted to announce the 2018 recipients of the [Deborah L. Rhode](#) and [Father Robert Drinan Awards](#), selected from an impressive slate of nominees. The Awards will be presented at the annual meeting in San Diego.

The [Deborah L. Rhode Award](#), 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, will be presented to Professor Angela Drake, founding director of the Veterans' Clinic at the University of Missouri School of Law. Professor Drake will be honored for her passionate and relentless dedication to her clients and for her equally zealous efforts to engage students and practicing lawyers to serve veterans, and to enhance best practices throughout the nation.

The [Father Robert Drinan Award](#), which will be presented to Tom Schoenherr of Fordham Law School, recognizes 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. Tom is universally recognized as a superhero in the field. Over his 30 years at Fordham, by personal example, strategic program design, and broad collaboration and leadership, Tom has set the standard for cultivating law students who internalize the pro bono ethos throughout their careers; he also has earned the respect and love of the pro bono and public interest community.

The Section's program, *Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders: Mobilizing Students and Community Partner Collaboration to Respond to the Unexpected*, is scheduled for January 3 from 3:30PM to 5:15PM, and the awards portion of the program should start around 4:30. The selection committee included Josh Borderud (Baylor); Tara Casey (Richmond); Anna Davis (UC Irvine); and Jennifer Tschirch (Georgetown).

The Section warmly invites you to join us in congratulating Angela and Tom, and to attend the Awards presentation on January 3.

Jill Friedman

Secretary/Awards Committee Chair, AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities

Current Section Leadership

Co-chairs: Tara Casey (University of Richmond) & Tom Schoenherr (Fordham University)
tcasey@richmond.edu tschoenherr@fordham.edu

Chair-Elect: Jennifer Tschirch (Georgetown University) Jennifer.Tschirch@law.georgetown.edu

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

Treasurer: Stephen Rispoli (Baylor University) jillfrie@camden.rutgers.edu

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

Immediate Past Chair: Carolyn Goodwin (Boston University) cgoodwin@bu.edu

At Large: Lisa Mead (UCLA) MEAD@law.ucla.edu

Christina Jackson (NALP) cjackson@nalp.org

Membership: Alisa Rosales (Indiana University Maurer School of Law) alrosale@indiana.edu



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.

Best Practices in Pro Bono Series:

The collaboration workgroup is working on a series of small, topic-specific best practices guides. The following topics will be the inaugural set of guides. We plan to launch the completed guides in 2018. Topics are:

- i. Cultivating Volunteers (Attracting volunteers and keeping them interested and returning)
- ii. Cultural Competency
- iii. Training Volunteers
- iv. Supervising Volunteers
- v. Tracking volunteer hours

We look forward to sharing this excellent resource with you soon.

Action Items from our Community:

EJW: EJW is advocating for Public Service Loan Forgiveness. You can learn more here and take action [here](#).

ABA: Please take a minute to update the Law School Pro Bono Directory [here](#).

Conference recaps:

NALP Public Service Mini Conference:

The NALP Public Service Mini Conference brought together public interest career advisors and law school pro bono advisors for a full-day of programming and networking. The highlight of the day was the opening plenary talk by Seema Sadanandan, Managing Director for Campaigns with the Alliance for Safety and Justice. Ms. Sadanandan provided terrific and inspiring insight into her work with this criminal justice reform start-up organization as well as tools on effective movement lawyering. Conference break-out sessions included panelist discussions on government hiring; assisting international law students; summer funding for public interest positions; and a professional development session. NALP also announced the 23rd Annual Pro Bono Publico Award recognizing the significant contributions that law students make to underserved populations. This year's award went to Lydia X.Z. Brown, Northeastern University School of Law for her record of advocating for individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ people and people of color.

Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair:

In addition to the hundreds of nonprofit organizations and government agencies interviewing law students at the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair, attendees had the opportunity to hear U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg discuss her storied public interest law career with the Honorable Ann Claire Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Personally, RBG brought me to tears! Participants also attended workshops on topics including voting rights, environmental law, immigration, and environmental law. A sold-out day of service took law students to volunteer with the Pro Se Clinic for Unrepresented Adult Asylum Seekers in the D.C. Metropolitan Area. All in all, a three day event with approximately 1,500 law students committed to careers serving the public interest provided important inspiration!

Call for input:

This group's primary goal is to bring together the pro bono community in a way that allows us to work better, smarter, faster. If you know of an event or information that should be shared, please pass it along to Carolyn Goodwin at cgoodwin@bu.edu or our new Collaboration Leader: Sam Halpert, Director of Public Interest Initiatives with NALP at shalpert@nalp.org

2018

January 3-6, 2018	AALS Annual Meeting San Diego, CA
January 10-12, 2018	LSC Tech Innovations Conference New Orleans, LA
March 9-11, 2018	Externship 9 Conference Athens, GA
April 24-27, 2018	NALP 2018 Annual Education Conference Hollywood, FL
April 29-May 2, 2018	AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education Chicago, IL
May 10-12, 2018	ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference San Diego, CA

2019

January 2-6, 2019	AALS Annual Meeting New Orleans, LA
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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>

PSJD-Public Service Job Directory
<http://www.psjd.org>

2018-19 Executive Committee Slate

The following Slate has been nominated for Executive Committee positions. Additional nominations are welcome, contact Stephen Rispoli. (Stephen_Rispoli@baylor.edu)

Chair: Jennifer Tschirch
Chair-Elect: Stephen Rispoli
Treasurer: Bridget Fuselier
Secretary/Awards Committee: Jill Friedman
Immediate Past Co-Chairs: Tara Casey & Tom Schoenherr
Communications Co-Chairs: Pam Robinson & Stephen Rispoli
At Large: Sande Buhai, Sam Halpert, Janet Heppard, Nura Maznavi

The Election will be conducted at the Section Business meeting following the Annual Meeting Program on January 3, 2018



RESULTS

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

PopUp Survey Question #6

Do you conduct pro bono or volunteer orientation?

YES-76.19 % NO-28.57 %

If yes, is your orientation

In writing (in a manual)	6.25 %
Online Video	0
Online Synchronous Presentation	0
General overview In person to a group	43.75 %
Specific to a project or program	50 %

If you do conduct orientation does it include any of the following topics?

Racial injustice	0
Cultural competence/sensitivity	18.18 %
Poverty Simulations	0
Active listening skills	0
Primer on common issues	45.45 %
All of the above	36.36 %

Schools responding to the survey

Fordham Law School, Public Interest Resource Center
Boston University School of Law
IU Maurer School of Law, Access to Justice Program
Roger Williams University School of Law
Rutgers Law SchoolSouthwestern Law School
Stanford Law School
Tulane Law School
UC Irvine School of Law University of Oklahoma
University of Alabama
University of Michigan Law School
University of Richmond School of Law
University of South Carolina School of Law
University of Tennessee College of Law
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin Law School
Wayne State University Law School



Have a Question?

Would you like to know how your
colleagues are handling things?

Suggestions for Pop Up Survey Questions are welcome.

Send your ideas to Pamela Robinson Robinspd@law.sc.edu

or Stephen Rispoli Stephen_Rispoli@baylor.edu

Do you have new staff members, anyone retiring,
changing jobs, adding responsibilities? Let us know
and we will publish your *comings and goings* here!



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

Watch the Listserv for details