

# AALS CLINICAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

*Welcome to the Fall 2020 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

Dear Colleagues,

Happy 2021! Along with so many of you, we welcome the change of year with enormous hope, while also recognizing the scale of challenges ahead.

Last year, the Clinical Section worked in ways as unprecedented as the times. In March, in the early weeks of the coronavirus pandemic, the Section developed a public statement about the impacts of COVID-19 on the vulnerable populations we work with, which we issued together with CLEA, and we also found ways to gather and disseminate resources to support clinicians bringing their clinics online. More significantly for us, while our beloved Annual Clinical Conference was postponed until 2021, we partnered this summer with CLEA to develop an online conference focused almost exclusively on racial justice. We owe a debt of gratitude to the leadership of Wendy Bach (Tennessee) of AALS and Kendall Kerew (Georgia State) of CLEA for making that happen, as well as to the countless clinicians and externship directors who led sessions, who gathered exceptional plenary speakers, and who supervised the technology behind the scenes. We left challenged and inspired, particularly by the multiple examinations of how we as experiential educators have so much more work to do, from how we hire, to how we teach antiracism within our clinics and externships.

As your new co-chairs for the Clinical Section, we hope to build on the work done in 2020, focusing our efforts on continuing and deepening the Section's racial justice work, and supporting clinicians and externship directors as we adapt to and impact the shape of the post-COVID world. The Section has some tremendously effective subcommittees with whom we will work to do this, including the newly created Policy Committee chaired by Deborah Archer. We will be reaching out to the various chairs in January to see how we can weave the racial justice work through all we do as a Section, and we will also be seeking to involve more of you in that work.

We are so glad to have a dynamic group on the Executive Committee to engage in this work: our co-chairs elect are Claire Raj (South Carolina) and Cindy Wilson (Northwestern); Anita Sinha (American) will be our Secretary; and Shawn Watts (Kansas) continues—with our deep gratitude—as treasurer. Norrinda Hayat (Rutgers), Susan Hazeldean (Brooklyn), Sue Schecter (Berkeley), and Kele Stewart (Miami) round out the Committee, and have

## In This Issue

Page 1: From the Clinical Section Chairs

Page 2: Program Updates

Page 20: Announcements

Page 21: Call for Papers

Page 21: Honors, Accolades, and Victories

Page 24: Upcoming Meetings and Conferences



Association of American Law Schools

been doing magnificent work in arranging our program at the Annual meeting, building the Policy Committee, lifting up the voices of Externships, and much more.

We embrace the hope that 2021 brings, and we particularly hope that can provide the effective and dynamic leadership that we need to keep meeting the challenges that await us. We are always inspired by you, our colleagues, and we are thrilled to find ways to support you this coming year!

Liz Keyes (Baltimore) and Fatma Marouf (Texas A&M)

## Program Updates

**American University Washington College of Law** AUWCL's new [Entrepreneurship Law Clinic](#) (ELC) has teamed up with our [Community and Economic Development Law Clinic](#) (CEDLC) and Georgetown Law's Social Enterprise and Nonprofit Law Clinic to form the [Transactional Law Clinic Collaborative](#). The Collaborative helps small businesses and nonprofits in the DC area to access pandemic-related relief funds and provides resources to these organizations on how to run their operations safely and legally.

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, students in the CEDLC are working with residents of Maryland's Woodmoor community to remove racially restrictive covenants from their homes "deed by deed." These efforts, among others across the country, were featured in [The Washington Post](#) in October.

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.

The ELC, AUWCL's eleventh and newest in-house clinic, headed by [Professor Priya Baskaran](#), has been selected to participate in the 2020-2021 Clinical Cohort for [Law for Black Lives](#). The clinical cohort is a 1-2 semester long program that works to partner

movement organizations with law school clinics to co-create resources, conduct legal/policy research for campaigns, and generally support the efforts of transformative grassroots organizations.

During a time where distance learning has become a necessity, our [Glushko Samuelson Intellectual Property Law Clinic](#) is working to expand and reimagine exemptions to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act to allow for the use of copyrighted materials on a wide variety of online learning platforms. On July 22, 2020, the IP Clinic filed a petition to renew exemptions for excerpts of motion pictures, including television programs and videos, used in massive open online courses ("MOOCs") and in college/university/K-12 classes for another three-year period. In an unprecedented turn of events, the Copyright Office announced on October 15 in its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that it would be renewing all existing exemptions, including the exemptions requested in the IP Clinic's petition.

AUWCL's [Immigrant Justice Clinic](#) (IJC) is continuing its outreach to Latinx members of the community during the Covid pandemic by partnering with DC area medical provider La Clinica Del Pueblo. In addition to providing legal advice and representation to patients of La Clinica facing immigration problems, IJC students are conducting online Know Your Rights presentations via La Clinica's Facebook Live feed.

The [Janet R. Spragens Federal Tax Clinic](#), one of the

nation's first and oldest tax clinics, directed by [Prof. Nancy Abramowitz](#), is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

**Boston University School of Law's** clinical facility issued a Statement on Race, Equity and Justice in response to the police murder of George Floyd and militarized law enforcement response to ensuing racial justice protests.

Our BU Law civil clinicians including the late Bob Burdick, Connie Browne, Mary Connaughton, and Naomi Mann, were recognized this year by the Massachusetts Bar Association with the Access to Justice Lifetime Achievement Award. Over the past 50 years, the BU Law Civil Litigation Clinic has won significant legal victories including establishing in the U.S. Supreme Court the right of committed mental patients to refuse antipsychotic medication, clarifying the law in Massachusetts that prohibits discrimination against tenants with subsidized rent, establishing the right of Massachusetts law school clinics to recover reasonable attorneys' fees, and clarifying the right to seek emotional stress damages in Massachusetts housing cases. The Immigrants' Rights and Human Trafficking Program was awarded a Take Back Tech Fellowship (2020-2021), aimed at energizing organizing and policy campaigns against intrusive technology surveillance programs that disproportionately impact Black and Brown people. The clinic also submitted an amicus brief in a federal case, arguing that the turnback policies at the US-Mexico border violate domestic and international law. The International Human Rights Clinic students are documenting the laws and policies that deal with citizenship and nationality in Middle Eastern and North African countries. Their comprehensive reports are designed to mobilize people and organizations around the issue of statelessness. Since the clinic received a 2019 grant from the Open Society Foundations, students have prepared reports on Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq; this year students will be engaging advocates in Egypt. The BU/MIT Startup Law Clinic and Technology Law Clinic are advising student researchers and startups that are launching innovative services and

products to help people cope with the pandemic. For example, the clinics have supported clients developing electronic respirators, mobile disinfecting technology, a platform to donate critical resources to hospitals, customizable face masks, and multiple platforms for remote socializing, education, and telehealth and telemedicine.

**Berkeley Law East Bay Community Law Center's** students in all eight clinics pivoted to providing direct legal services remotely this March but continued to play a crucial role in providing pandemic relief and advancing racial equity across the Bay Area. This summer, clinical students secured thousands of dollars in public benefits for clients who had never before had to navigate the application process, partnered with Berkeley community groups to remove police from traffic stops and rebuild community-centered transportation and safety enforcement, and provided free direct representation to immigrant clients seeking legal status.

The Housing Clinic at Berkeley Law's East Bay Community Law Center successfully pushed Alameda County to pass one of the nation's longest and strongest eviction moratoriums, preventing a tidal wave of evictions and protecting low-income families of color most impacted by COVID-19 from losing their homes during the pandemic.

After years of advocacy, East Bay Community Law Center's Clean Slate Clinic, along with other Berkeley Law partners, celebrated the passage of the Families Over Fees Act this fall. This California bill (AB 1869) eliminates criminal justice system fees that disproportionately impact people of color and discharged more than \$16 billion in existing debt.

**Drake University Law School's** Legal Clinic is excited to announce the addition of two new clinical programs: the Refugee Clinic and the Wrongful Convictions Clinic. The Refugee Clinic began in January 2020 and provides students with the opportunity to represent asylum seekers and refugees in federal immigration matters. In addition, Refugee Clinic students work in collaboration with students across Drake's clinic programs to provide

crimmigration advisals to clients of the Criminal Defense Program and counsel on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for non-citizen clients of the Children’s Rights Clinic.

The Wrongful Convictions Clinic (WCC) is slated to begin in January 2021. The WCC provides students with the opportunity to participate in the representation of persons who have been convicted of crimes and have potential claims of innocence. The Clinic is a collaborative effort between the Drake Legal Clinic, the Wrongful Convictions Division of the Iowa Public Defender and the Midwest Innocence Project. Housed at the Drake Legal Clinic, students work on Iowa Public Defender cases under the supervision of the Wrongful Convictions Division Director, who also teaches the accompanying seminar. Students assist in investigation, writing and visiting incarcerated clients, researching legal issues, writing legal pleadings, and, when possible, litigation of cases in state post-conviction and federal habeas proceedings.

Beyond the addition of clinical programs, the Drake Legal Clinic continues to respond to current events, which has given students the opportunity to work on cutting edge legal issues while providing representation to underserved communities in the Des Moines metro area. Students of the Criminal Defense Program have represented several clients arrested during the Black Lives Matter protests and students in the Transactional and Entrepreneurial Clinic expanded the scope of their representation on behalf of small businesses to provide advice and counsel regarding the federal and state economic programs enacted in response to the pandemic.

**Florida State University College of Law’s Public Interest Law Center** launched the **COVID-19 Veterans Legal Clinic** in Fall 2020. This new clinic is dedicated to providing legal representation to veterans impacted by COVID-19. The clinic provides qualifying veterans in the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida with full representation in the areas of housing, consumer, stimulus checks,

unemployment compensation benefits, and SNAP benefits. The clinic also conducts outreach with local area veterans, including through a series of recorded webinars educating veterans about their legal rights. Directed by Clinical Professor Darby Kerrigan Scott and Co-Instructed by Adjunct Professor Jamie Braun.



*Clinical Professor Darby Kerrigan Scott*



*Adjunct Professor Jamie Braun*

Additionally, the FSU Public Interest Law Center created the **Remembrance Committee to educate the community about the history of lynchings in North Florida**. The Committee has partnered with the Tallahassee Community Remembrance Project and Leon County School District in developing both a curriculum and teacher educational resources for Leon County High Schools to educate local students on the history of lynchings and the impact of these extra-judicial killings on the social, constitutional, and criminal justice contexts of today. Directed by Graduate Fellow Taylor Schock.



*Graduate Fellow Taylor Schock*

Finally, the FSU Public Interest Law Center created **The Elimination of International Child Labor Project**. The UN has declared 2021 the International Year to Eliminate Child labor. There are 152 million children engaged in Child Labor worldwide. 73 million children are engaged in the Worst Forms of Child Labor: human trafficking, hazardous labor and indentured servitude. The Project has filed a Petition with Homeland Security to enforce the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to ban Forced Child Labor cocoa from West Africa, has produced a video of the Sourness of Forced Child Labor Chocolate, and is organizing a yearlong lecture series on the Elimination of International Child Labor. Directed by Professor Paolo Annino.



*Professor Paolo Annino*

Fordham University School of Law’s [Federal Litigation](#) and [Criminal Defense](#) Clinics began working early on to secure the release of inmates in New York located prisons whose medical conditions make them vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus, as well as those whose sentences are almost complete and those who are being held while awaiting trial. Students in both clinics are very engaged. “They are trying to get people out of prison, where social distancing is not possible, and they feel like life and death are stake,” says [Michael W. Martin](#), Clinical Director and Associate Dean for Experiential Learning.

Recent successes in the Federal Litigation Clinic, supervised by Michael W. Martin and [Ian S. Weinstein](#), Professor of Law, included securing the release of a man convicted of financial fraud whose sentencing had been delayed due to the pandemic-

related slowdown in court proceedings. By the time his sentencing date occurred, he would have served more time waiting in prison than he was required to. The client is not a U.S. citizen and has few ties to the country. Through the creative thinking and hard work of the students, they landed this person in a compatriot’s home who had not known him before and is helping him to survive.

[Cheryl Bader](#) and [Martha Rayner](#), Associate Clinical Professors of Law, who co-supervise the Criminal Defense Clinic, also supervise Pro Bono Scholars who have taken the New York State Bar exam and are now spending their final semester in law school providing full time representation to clients accused of misdemeanors in New York City courts or serving long sentences in state prisons for felonies. In addition to other efforts, the students are working hard to secure the release of a woman who is really in the “crosshairs of COVID, based on her age and underlying conditions,” says Cheryl Bader. She has only a few months left to serve on her minimum sentence, but her earlier release has proved to be challenging. For her to continue to be incarcerated when it’s dangerous to be in prison, and she has underlying conditions that increase her risk of dying, is difficult to understand.

Georgetown Law’s Kris Henning stepped down after three years of service as Georgetown Law’s Associate Dean for Clinical and Experiential Programs in June 2020. During her tenure, Dean Henning worked to expand clinical offerings and provide Georgetown students with a diverse and robust selection of both clinical and experiential opportunities. She will remain on the clinical faculty as the Blume Professor of Law, Special Advisor to the Dean on Community and Justice, and the Director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative. We are thankful to Dean Henning for her service!



*Dean Kris Henning*

Erica Hashimoto began her term in July as the new Associate Dean for Clinical and Experiential Programs. Dean Hashimoto joined the law school as a tenured professor of law in 2016 and is the director of the Appellate Litigation Clinic. Prior to joining the Georgetown faculty, she was the Allen Post Professor of Law at the University of Georgia. While there, she started an appellate litigation clinic that accepted appointments from federal courts of appeals, and she was named a Josiah Meigs Professor, the university's highest teaching honor.

We are excited to announce the creation of the Elmer W. Galbi Clinical Advocacy Awards, first awarded to students in spring 2020. The Galbi Award was made possible by distinguished alumnus Mr. Elmer W. Galbi (L'61). The Award is a merit award given to selected students participating in our three criminal clinics (the Juvenile Justice Clinic, Criminal Justice Clinic, and Criminal Defense & Prisoner Advocacy Clinic) who demonstrate outstanding advocacy and represent the mission and ideals of the Clinic. Six students received the inaugural award from the 2020 graduating class.

### **Georgia State University College of Law's**

Lisa Bliss, Associate Dean of Experiential Education and Clinical Programs and Clinical Professor at Georgia State University College of Law was named to the Class of 2020-21 Equity Facilitation Fellows by CREATE Teacher Residency. The fellowship is designed to help fellows hone the skills required for facilitation of conversations about educational equity and justice, and to create a community of teacher-leaders who are committed to educational equity and excellence, with the goal of them designing, leading, and facilitating equity-centered learning experiences for students and others.

### **Golden Gate University School of Law's**

Professor Helen Kang, Director of the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic, was honored as the 2020 recipient of the Svitlana Kravchenko Environmental Rights Award from the students of Land Air Water of the University of Oregon School of Law. The award winner is chosen from those who carry on in Professor Kravchenko's spirit: "having exquisite qualities of both head and heart; mixing academic rigor with spirited activism; and speaking truth to power, while exhibiting kindness toward all." The award is given normally at the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference, one of the largest gatherings of environmentalists worldwide. This year, the conference was canceled because of the pandemic.



*Professor Helen Kang*

**Harvard Law School** clinics filed amicus briefs: the Berkman Klein Cyberlaw Clinic filed a [brief](#) on behalf of the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program in a case regarding search of devices at the border (*Alasaad v. McAleenan*); the International Human Rights Clinic [filed a brief](#) against Chiquita Brands International; the Animal Law & Policy Clinic filed a [brief](#) in the US Supreme Court in a FOIA case brought by the Sierra Club (*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service v. Sierra Club*), and the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic filed a [brief](#) in the Third Circuit on behalf of a transgender prisoner who was sexually assaulted in prison (*Christopher "Chrissy" Shorter v. United State, et al.*)

Students with the Harvard Prison Legal Assistance Project [secured release for two inmates with mental disabilities](#) after a 2017 SJC ruling that set groundbreaking precedent concerning the parole

board's responsibility to accommodate individuals with a mental disability.

The Transactional Law Clinics is [working with Students vs. Pandemic](#), a task force across 10 universities in North America, to apply for non-profit status.

The Project on Predatory Student Lending [filed a lawsuit](#) against Navient for private student debt cancellation on behalf of an ITT student in *Villaba v. Navient*.

The Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Program recently completed a 10-part podcast series titled [“Thanks for Listening”](#) on political polarization in the US and efforts that are being made across the country to bridge the divide.

The Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program scored a victory for asylum seekers in their [lawsuit against the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security](#) in a [nationwide injunction](#).

In November 2020, the Food Law & Policy Clinic released [The Urgent Call for a U.S. National Food Strategy](#) in collaboration with Vermont Law School's Center for Agricultural and Food Systems as part of *The Blueprint Project*. The new report is an update to a 2017 [report](#).

In October 2020, the Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation launched [Mainstreaming Produce Prescription \(Rx\) Programs](#), an initiative to fund, scale, and integrate Produce Rx programs into health care delivery and existing food system infrastructure.

**Maryland Carey Law's** three clinics the Fair Housing, Public Health Law, and Medical Legal-Partnership clinics—along with their Law and Social Work Services Program are collaborating on the Eviction Prevention Project. The project aims to address housing crises in Baltimore City and Prince George's County as well as the variety of factors that contribute to housing instability. This collaboration is particularly urgent, as these crises have worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. The clinics

provide direct representation, engage policy efforts, and partner with community mediation centers. The Law and Social Work Services Program provides services and supports to improve short and long-term outcomes for families impacted by COVID-19. This collaboration extends to the classroom, as faculty are co-teaching classes focused on inter-professional collaboration.

In addition to this exciting collaboration, offerings have been added to the Justice for Victims of Crime Clinic. Taught by Professor Lila Meadows, the clinic confronts deeply-rooted beliefs about who is entitled to claim victimhood by advocating that all crime victims are entitled to statutory and civil remedies. Clinic students explore the reasons underlying the disparate treatment of victims and work to eliminate those disparities through direct representation and systemic advocacy. The students represent clients seeking redress in a broad range of matters related to their victimization, including obtaining a T-VISA for a trafficking victim; expunging the criminal record of a gunshot wound victim; advocating for a juvenile lifer victimized in prison; and seeking criminal prosecution on behalf of an undocumented minor who was sexually assaulted by a family member. While the evidence and legal claims in these and the clinic's other matters are clear, the students are marching uphill in their advocacy efforts to have decision-makers see their clients as victims and agree that they deserve redress.

**Northern Illinois University College of Law** quickly adapted their clinical program to meet the needs of our community when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. The clinical program adapted its traditional direct representation clinics into a new “COVID-19 Legal Response Clinic.” The traditional Civil Justice Clinic (representing survivors of domestic violence and seniors needing estate planning), the Health Advocacy Clinic (a medical-legal partnership representing homeless shelter residents seeking federal disability and other public benefits) and the Criminal Defense Clinic (representing criminal defendants in misdemeanor and felony cases) became the COVID-19 Legal

Response Clinic, an advice and referral clinic. Clinical Professors Paul Cain, Wendy Vaughn and Colleen Boraca co-taught the new clinic. The seminar was taught on Zoom.

The COVID-19 Legal Response Clinic provides advice and referral to residents from all over Illinois in such diverse areas as unemployment compensation, family law and orders of protection, public benefits, eviction defense, and sealing and expunging a criminal record. The COVID-19 Clinic answered client questions by a combination of Zoom and telephone, as well as in writing on the ABA/PILI Free Legal Answers website. In addition, the new clinic partnered with the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence Virtual Legal Clinic to provide services to survivors of domestic violence.

Students were enthusiastic to help people during this critical time with 17 students enrolled in the Summer 2020 semester and 15 students enrolled in the Fall 2020 semester. Students were able to hone their skills in areas such as interviewing, issue spotting, legal research, counseling and problem solving. In addition, students practiced their “people skills” in helping clients deal with the emotional impact that the pandemic had on the clients’ lives. Many clients had never before faced the possibility of being homeless or having a substantial loss of income. Students had to “think outside the box” to develop both legal and non-legal solutions to clients’ problems. The COVID-19 Legal Response Clinic also provided the students with a badly needed sense of community and togetherness. Having a small group of students all fighting for a common purpose of helping people get through this pandemic provided a sense of purpose and camaraderie as students dealt with their own stresses from the pandemic. It will be offered again in the Spring 2021 semester.

**Penn State Dickinson Law** transformed their clinical programs during Summer 2020 to operate remotely when ever possible in order to maintain high-quality and consistent client representation during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the

Directors developed asynchronous modules for substantive portions of the typically day-long Clinic Orientation and reserved time in synchronous sessions for community-building exercises.

[Lucy Johnston-Walsh](#) shares that a collaboration with local court judicial officers to prepare Children’s Advocacy Clinic students for virtual court hearings was key to successful representation during the pandemic. The Clinic also identified the impact of COVID-19 on school stability for foster youth as an important issue and, along with graduate social work students, developed a presentation for a statewide child advocacy group on this topic.

[Megan Riesmeyer](#) shares one way in which the Community Law Clinic has adapted to alleviate feelings of isolation that many are experiencing during the pandemic: Students now work in teams, rather than individually, to represent clients. Prof. Riesmeyer reports that Clinic students will partner with a legal services agency and a community organization serving low-income populations to create presentations addressing various poverty law issues, including tenants’ rights, Social Security/disability, and public benefits.

[Medha D. Makhlof](#) reports that the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic has maintained and even deepened its interprofessional education commitments during the pandemic. A one-off remote role-play exercise with first-year medical students at Penn State College of Medicine has become the basis for a long-term collaboration: A Medical-Legal Track in the Health Systems and Equity Clerkship for medical students. The clerkship will enable students in the MLP Clinic to have more sustained and regular interprofessional interactions with medical students.

**Rutgers Law School’s** 17 in-house clinics have responded to these complicated times by doing what clinics do best: rolling up our sleeves and going to work. With a grant from the State of New Jersey, as well as Essex County, the Immigrant Rights Clinic,

led by Professor Anjum Gupta, has begun a project representing detained immigrants, alongside three other partner organizations. The ultimate goal of the project is to provide universal, pro bono representation to all immigrants detained in NJ. In addition to ensuring that children with disabilities have the technology needed to participate in remote schooling and receive the special education programs and services required by their individualized education plans, the Education and Health Law Clinic, led by Professors Esther Canty-Barnes and Jennifer Rosen Valverde, has been engaged in a vaccine awareness campaign to address the significant drop in NJ children's routine vaccination rates during the pandemic, in collaboration with the Greater Newark Healthcare Coalition and Rutgers-NJ Medical School. The clinic also organized and ran a food for families program for the first three months of the pandemic, to ensure that client families did not go hungry. The International Humans Rights Clinic, led by Professor Penny Venetis was involved in nine successful lawsuits during the 2020 election cycle to stop voter suppression and make sure that anyone who wanted to vote had access to a paper ballot. The IHRC is also launching a wraparound pre-arrest diversion program for human trafficking victims, along with six other schools within Rutgers University. And, the Criminal and Youth Justice Clinic, led by Professor Laura Cohen, participated in a case in which the New Jersey Supreme Court ordered juvenile courts around the state to expedite motions for early release of incarcerated youth from the state's COVID-infested juvenile prisons and take the pandemic into account in their decision-making; worked with partner organizations to secure passage of legislation accelerating time credits for and the consequent releases of incarcerated youth and adults; and has successfully advocated before courts and the Parole Board for the return of numerous young people to the community.

Finally, Professors Joanne Gottesman and Randi Mandelbaum received university funding for a multi-disciplinary research study entitled "Putting Stories to Work: Confronting the Pandemic through New

Jersey Narratives." The project is a collaborative study with faculty and students from departments across Rutgers' three campuses to examine the impact of the pandemic on marginalized communities.

**SMU Dedman School of Law** launched a [COVID-19 Legal Helpline](#), on June 1. This Helpline has served hundreds of North Texas residents with challenges ranging from eviction to immigration matters. In its inaugural semester, the [First Amendment Clinic](#) has filed amicus briefs with both the Fourth Circuit and the Supreme Court of Texas, and has also filed a lawsuit in federal court. The [Child Advocacy Clinic](#) received a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation to support its successful [Aged Out Program](#) that provides legal services to North Texas youth who have aged out of foster care. The gift will continue to support a clinic law fellow who provides legal services for aged out youth, conducts know your rights sessions for youth about to age out, and engages the community to learn more about and assist in meeting the legal needs of these youth. With COVID-19 disrupting the work of the [Family Immigration Detention Clinic](#), the program has transitioned into an Asylum Law Practicum, though which students will provide remote legal assistance to asylum-seeking families who have been denied entry into the United States pursuant to the "Remain in Mexico" policy. Lastly, *National Jurist preLaw* featured two of SMU's clinics in its "Top Schools" series, [spotlighting](#) the [Family Law Clinic](#)'s work on behalf of unaccompanied immigrant minors and highlighting the work of the [Family Immigration Detention Clinic](#) in naming SMU one of the "[Top Schools for Human Rights Law](#)."

**Saint Louis University School of Law's** [Human Rights at Home Litigation Clinic](#) (directed by [Prof. Lauren Bartlett](#)) is representing individuals impacted by last year's order granting relief to those sentenced to life without parole as juveniles in Missouri prisons. Professor Bartlett has partnered with clinic social worker Lauren Choate to provide representation and support in these new parole

hearings. This interdisciplinary partnership allows clinic students to not only represent these individuals, but also to have supervision in investigating and presenting their clients' mitigating histories, developing compelling home plans, and providing emotional support to clients and their families. This important work reflects the mission of the Clinic, which Professor Bartlett established in January 2020 to focus on securing fundamental human rights for the most vulnerable persons in the U.S.

Through [a new collaboration](#) with the workforce programs of a local nonprofit, [Mission: St. Louis](#), the [Civil Advocacy Clinic](#) (directed by [Prof. Brendan Roediger](#)) helped launch the Employment and Community Health as One (EACH1) model. EACH1 is a workforce and wellness model under one roof that seeks to offer integrated, collaborative health and human services through a contextual and client-driven framework through which community partners work together under a shared mission to holistically meet the needs of participants. The collaboration evolved from the work of [Prof. Susan McGraugh](#) (director of the [Criminal Defense Clinic](#)) who saw the potential mission alignment.

The collaboration enabled the Clinic to hire a full-time staff attorney, [Matt Vigil](#), to advance this work. The Clinic now has a satellite office at Mission: St. Louis, allowing students to work closely with clients and EACH1 team members to resolve the legal issues that act as barriers to employment. Recently, student Katie Eime [helped establish a specialized docket](#) in the Saint Louis City Municipal Court for Mission: St. Louis participants. This monthly docket will enable participants to resolve outstanding municipal legal issues with alternative dispositions that take into account the participants' progress with the Mission: St. Louis programing.

The Clinic also continues to expand its litigation project addressing incarceration and sexual violence in prisons and local jails.

**St. Mary's University School of Law** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Consumer Protection Clinic of St. Mary's School of Law expanded its work to assist both tenants and homeowners at risk of losing their housing. In partnership with the University of Texas Clinical Program and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA), a [Housing Hotline was launched](#), providing remote, individual consultations with our attorneys and referrals to other resources. To date, the Housing Hotline has assisted hundreds of callers. Two individuals served by the Hotline were featured in the New York Times article, ["The Rent Eats First, Even During a Pandemic."](#)

In partnership with community legal service providers, the St. Mary's Pro Bono Program has adapted multiple projects to operate remotely in response to the pandemic, including our ID Recovery program assisting individuals experiencing homelessness; a project with the San Antonio Legal Services Association (SALSA) to provide advance planning services to frontline health care workers; projects with TRLA to provide an assisted pro se divorce workshop and a psychiatric advance directive workshop; a project with Disability Rights Texas, SALSA, and TRLA to prepare guardianship alternative documents; and a project with Lone Star Legal Aid to draft advance planning documents primarily for veterans and senior citizens.

In recognition of this last project, Lone Star Legal Aid awarded St. Mary's School of Law its 2020 "Pro Bono Excellence Community Partner Award." Based on the overall work of St. Mary's Clinical and Pro Bono Programs, the Texas Access to Justice Commission selected St. Mary's as the recipient of the 2020 ["Law School Commitment to Service Award,"](#) presented at the fall 2020 New Lawyer's Induction Ceremony.

**St. Thomas University School of Law's** clinical department adopted a shared suite of office space and welcomed two new faculty members: Francoise Blanco (Tax Clinic) and Brett Barfield. Michael Vastine (Immigration Clinic) is

now Director of Clinical Programs.

The Immigration Clinic adopted an “all-detained” defensive litigation docket (as the non-detained immigration courts were shut down by COVID-19 for eight months), and students – graduating and continuing – extended their client representation through the Summer to account for pandemic-related delays. One of the Clinic’s long-litigated impact issues reached the U.S. Supreme Court in *Shular v. U.S.* (with faculty serving as *amicus* counsel, re: Florida drug crimes, and the Clinic attending oral argument in January). The majority of Clinic clients also required collaborative services of the STU Tax Clinic, which focuses on providing low-income taxpayers in the Miami-Dade and Broward County (FL) communities with representation before the United States Tax Court and Internal Revenue Service, and where participating students have operated in a fully online environment to provide remote assistance to clients. The Appellate Litigation Clinic, supervised by Howard Blumberg, has maintained its docket of juvenile appellate matters which students argue each semester before the Florida Third District Court of Appeals, while dealing with the prospect of the COVID-19 near-elimination of a criminal trial docket, which will imminently impact the available pipeline of appeals. STU’s United Nations Externship, supervised by Mark Wolff, assigned students to the U.N. Headquarters in New York and in Geneva, Switzerland, in the capacity of “accredited representatives” of inter-governmental (IGO) and non-governmental organizations (NGO). The Spring Geneva placement was halted by an Executive Order advising return of U.S. citizens working abroad; however, participants completed the academic and research requirements of the program, virtually. Associate Dean of Clinical Programs Cece Dykas continued her supervision of the Florida Supreme Court Externship. The students adapted to working remotely, but preserved their interaction and feedback from the Justice and clerks. This unprecedented year found the Court and the students immersed in some of the most critical issues – and impactful decisions - of our time,

involving executive power, election law, and public health.

All Clinic faculty are presently engaged in devising community-based programming on a variety of financial, business, immigration, and health topics, in conjunction with the nascent STU Center for Pandemic, Disaster, and Quarantine Research, with the multi-pronged ambitions of complementing clinical programming and ongoing service initiatives, identifying present community needs for direct services, and promoting informed resiliency for our community’s improved tolerance of the inevitable future catastrophic occurrences.



*Immigration Clinic 2020, from sunny “old normal”  
... then onward to Supreme, and “Virtual,” Court*

**Seattle University School of Law’s** International Human Rights Clinic’s legal advocacy has led to rare orders by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and United Nations Special Procedures to protect detained immigrants at the Northwest Detention Center in Washington.

Led by Clinic Director [Lisa Brodoff](#) and Professor from Practice [Robert C. Boruchowitz](#), Seattle U Law’s faculty were instrumental in successfully [advocating for a diploma privilege for law students](#) in Washington based on the hardships and racial inequities imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In response to both the pandemic and Racial Justice inequities, we created new learning outcomes in each clinical course. For example, in our Estate and Disability Planning Clinic, students are learning how such planning can perpetuate structural racism and inequity, strategies to address those inequities, why clients of color are underserved by the profession,

and how to effectively serve these client constituencies; and regarding Pandemic Lawyering, students are developing lawyering skills to safely and competently represent clients during a pandemic/emergency and to transfer those newly developed skills to the changed practice of law post-pandemic.

**Suffolk University Law School** clinical programs have been busy at work, adapting and growing to meet our students' and clients' evolving needs. Like many of you, we made the shift to remote teaching and clinical practice last spring, which will continue through the spring semester. Luckily, in recent years we had implemented robust and uniform security and technology protocols across our clinics to provide our diverse students with remote access to clinic work – many work to support themselves and conduct casework off-hours. With secure clinic email addresses, a virtual desktop, shared drives, and CLIO already in place, our transition to remote practice last spring was fairly smooth. This fall, we rolled out HIPAA-compliant Zoom, Teams, and other tools for our clinics. We are happy to share our lessons learned – good and not-so-good – as well as our written security protocols. Please email Clinical Program Director Sarah Boonin – [sboonin@suffolk.edu](mailto:sboonin@suffolk.edu).

We welcomed our newest colleague this fall, [Carlos Teuscher](#), who launched our [Transactional Clinic](#). The Clinic focuses on the solidarity economy, helping worker-owned cooperatives, community land trusts, and BIPOC-led organizations with a range of transactional needs. We are proud of the work of our Legal Innovation and Technology Lab (LIT Lab), which launched the [DocAssembly Line Project](#) this past summer, mobilizing students and volunteers to build user-friendly online court forms in MA in the face of sudden court closures. All content and code is open source, and the LIT Lab is working to replicate their efforts in other jurisdictions. Those interested should contact David Colarusso, [dcolarusso@suffolk.edu](mailto:dcolarusso@suffolk.edu). Lastly, our Housing Discrimination Testing Program released another [landmark study on race and voucher](#)

[discrimination in rental housing](#) this past summer and is continuing its groundbreaking work. Despite the pandemic, the program has maintained its rigorous undercover testing schedule, shifting to virtual and remote platforms.

**Texas A&M University School of Law (TAMU)** has 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. environmental factors that impact a child's health.

Texas A&M University Legal Clinics all worked 80% virtual with most classes operating in a hybrid manner. Enrollment is at capacity and students seemed to adjust well to learning how to operate virtually with little problems.

**Tulane University Law School's** clinical program launched three new initiatives: the [First Amendment Clinic](#), [Immigrant Rights Clinic](#), and [Women's Prison Project](#).

With support from a nearly \$1 million Stanton Foundation gift, Tulane launched a [First Amendment law clinic](#). Under the supervisor of Clinic Director Katie Schwartzmann, student attorneys represent clients in matters involving freedom of speech, free assembly and freedom of the press throughout Louisiana.

Clinic Director Mary Yanik and Co-Director Laila Hlass launched the Immigrant Rights Clinic in the summer of 2020 with a [generous donation from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation](#). The clinic seeks to address the rapidly growing crisis in access to justice for immigrants in the region, particularly detained immigrants, by building a pipeline of

immigrant defenders and public-service minded government attorneys, developing pro bono capacity in the private bar, and changing the culture of institutional players in the region through strategic litigation, advocacy and reporting. In light of COVID, the Immigrant Rights Clinic's mission to ensure the release of detained immigrants is even more urgent, such as the Clinic's recent win of release for a medically vulnerable immigrant.

With a [nearly \\$2 million gift](#), [The Women's Prison Project](#) (WPP) was funded as a first-of-its-kind collaboration between Tulane's [Domestic Violence](#) and [Criminal Justice](#) clinics, led by Clinic Directors Becki Kondkar and Katherine Mattes and Instructors Carlotta Lepingwell and Stas Moroz. WPP focuses on providing legal representation to domestic violence survivors charged or imprisoned after killing an abuser or for having committed crimes under an abuser's coercion or duress. In its inaugural year, the clinic was awarded the [American College of Trial Lawyers'](#) prestigious [Gumpert Award](#) and secured the release of two clients who had each served 25 years of life without parole sentences.

**University of Baltimore School of Law - Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts'** Post-J.D. Certificate in Family Law 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 for attorneys seeking to add family law expertise to their practice. This is the second year the program is being offered entirely online. Visit: [http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/post\\_jd\\_graduate\\_programs/familylawcert/](http://law.ubalt.edu/academics/post_jd_graduate_programs/familylawcert/).

The Truancy Court Program's Covid-19 Response: While Baltimore City Public Schools operate remotely, CFCC staff and CFCC Student Fellows are operating the Truancy Court Program (TCP) using a virtual platform at six schools. The TCP Team meets weekly at each school and reaches out to families to support students with homework and distance learning, provide resources through direct outreach,

and help families navigate any legal issues they may face during this pandemic.

The Saul Ewing Civil Advocacy Clinic provided research support, written memoranda, and oral presentations on consumer and housing law issues to the Maryland Attorney General's Access to Justice COVID-19 Taskforce. The Low-Income Tax Clinic successfully advocated for and drafted information on tax-related matters for a web site sponsored by Maryland Access to Justice Commission regarding legal issues in light of the pandemic.

Elizabeth Keyes and Veryl Pow taught a Law & Organizing reading series in which students explored social justice themes, including intersectional resistance and movement lawyering amidst the George Floyd uprising.

The Community Development Clinic received an Honorable Mention from CLEA for Excellence in a Public Interest Project for promoting accountability and due process at the Baltimore City water department. This honor was shared with Professor Renee Hatcher (UIC John Marshall) and Professor Komal Vaidya (Villanova), both of whom contributed to this work as UB Clinical Fellows.

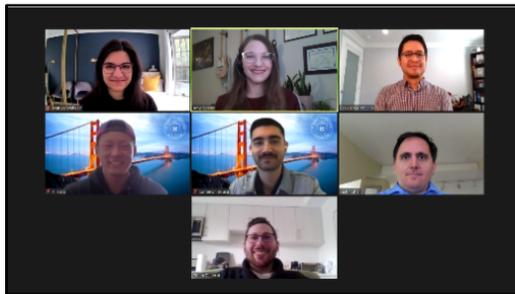
**UC Hastings College of Law's** clinical programs had a dynamic last year with two new clinics, an exciting international partnership and a center that aligns with our work. In January 2020, UC Hastings launched the new Low Income Taxpayer Clinic funded by a grant from the IRS' Taxpayer Advocate Service and directed by Professor Amy Spivey. The clinic offers full-scope legal representation to low-income taxpayers and community education. The clinic has provided an invaluable vehicle for helping community members address a host of IRS issues brought on by the pandemic. In addition to enhancing our clinical programs, the clinic complements the [UC Hastings Center on Tax Law](#).

Shortly after the pandemic lockdowns hit last spring, Professors Miye Goishi and Mai Linh Spencer

mobilized to establish the UC Hastings Workers’ Rights Clinic – COVID 19 Response to help workers affected by the pandemic stabilize their income. The clinic helped dozens of individuals who had issues with unemployment insurance or wage and hour claims and who had no other source of legal representation. Twenty students enrolled, many of whom were raising 2Ls who had lost their own planned summer legal employment due to the pandemic.

With U.S. Embassy in Haiti grant funding, UC Hastings and l’École Supérieure Catholique de Droit de Jérémie (ESCDROJ) worked to advance clinical legal education in Haiti. The 2019 events highlighted the extraordinary efforts of ESCDROJ in establishing what we believe is the only operating in-house law school clinic in Haiti.

Clinical Professors Shauna Marshall and Alina Ball founded the [Center for Racial and Economic Justice](#) (CREJ) this year. CREJ will help promote equity on campus and beyond through transforming doctrinal course instruction, convening scholarly dialogues and coordinating educational opportunities. This summer CREJ published Black Hastings Speaks, a podcast series in the Black oral narrative tradition in which Black community members share their perspectives. This series is fostering dialogue on complex issues facing all law school communities.



*Picture of UC Hastings the inaugural Low Income Taxpayer Clinic class*

**University of Houston Law Center’s** Fall 2020 semester saw the Military Justice Clinic (MJC) open its doors to students and clients alike. The Military Justice Clinic focuses on the representation of active

duty and reserve service members before military criminal tribunals and adverse administrative boards. The MJC also works with veterans to appeal adverse information in their service file and discharge upgrades. All members of our first cohort of students who applied for an active-duty commission received an offer from one or more military services.



*Jason Marquez, Director of the new MJC*

The Consumer Law Clinic at the University of Houston Law Center is participating in a local Eviction Defense Coalition. The coalition consists of a local legal aid agency in collaboration with the three Houston area law schools. The group has been meeting weekly to discuss ways to protect tenants from evictions and is soon to receive funding to provide legal representation to tenants for the onslaught of evictions likely to be filed in the near future.

Mediation Clinic Director, Tasha Willis, and her clinic students have collaborated this semester with the Director and Mediation Coordinator at the Harris County, Texas, Dispute Resolution Center (DRC), Justice of the Peace Judge Russ Ridgeway, and Judge John Coselli to develop an expanded ZOOM mediation program for the mediations in JP courts in light of the courts’ eviction dockets and other cases on hold due to COVID-19.

The Immigration and Civil Practice Clinics worked with the Law Center Pre-Law Pipeline program and each hosted an intern from the program during the summer. The Pre-Law Pipeline program is designed to increase the diversity of law school applicants by providing law school preparatory resources – LSAT

preparation, introductory law school classes, internships, and professional development sessions – for undergraduate students who are first generation, low income, or members of groups underrepresented in the legal profession. The interns, working virtually, were able to do legal research and writing, meet with and interview clients virtually, attend virtual mediations, and work on various cases and document drafting.

The Immigration clinic successfully represented a woman, a Honduran citizen, who was in removal proceedings in immigration court with her 2 daughters. Her husband, a Cuban national and a Legal Permanent Resident, was physically and emotionally abusive to her. The Clinic was able to file documents for her with USCIS under the Cuban Adjustment Act with VAWA provisions. She was granted her LPR status along with her 2 daughters as derivatives. The proceedings in Immigration Court were then terminated.

**University of New Mexico School of Law** have expanded the Leaffer Border Justice Initiative by bringing to the planning table people from across the legal and other service communities to address issues immigrants are facing at our southern border. Clinicians April Land and Carol Suzuki and other law professors; immigration practitioners; student and career services, counseling, and pipelining specialists; and students are collaborating to identify and address pressing legal issues and opportunities to serve. Students are engaged in numerous collaborative service learning projects, including development of model asylum pleadings for survivors of domestic violence. They collaborated with experienced alumni to offer remote, supervised externs to understaffed nonprofit organizations attempting to meet the legal needs of immigrants. They also assisted in filing an amicus brief to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) regarding the lack of due process provided to respondents subject to the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) (Remain in Mexico program) because of deficient notices of hearing. Their efforts also include research and advocacy regarding the property loss individuals at

the border face as they are detained and transferred among agencies, and an Immigration Summer CLE series.

Gabe Pacyniak and students in the Natural Resources and Environmental Law (NREL) Clinic submitted comments on proposed state rules to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector on behalf of the Center for Civic Policy (CCP), a New Mexico non-profit community-advocacy organization, and the Native American Voters Alliance. The state's energy and environment agencies each proposed rules this summer in response to an executive order on climate change issued by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. In the spring of 2020, clinic students represented CCP in an intensive, 12-week methane advisory panel process convened by the agencies to develop a technical report to inform the rulemaking. In the submitted comments, the clinic strongly urged the New Mexico Environment Department to eliminate exemptions for marginal oil and gas wells.

This semester clinic students also testified in front of the Albuquerque City Council in support of a subsequently-adopted zoning requirement requiring a cumulative pollution impact analysis prior to the approval of any new industrial development in the heavily polluted San Jose neighborhood. Students are also working with Tribal clients on a potential challenge to the EPA's Navigable Waters Protection rule, and are working on an amicus brief on behalf of conservation organizations in support of challenges to the EPA's rollback of greenhouse gas standards for cars and trucks

**University of Tennessee College of Law's** Legal Clinic faculty issued a public statement containing a series of commitments in response to the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police. This semester we launched three clinic-wide initiatives to integrate education and action around racial injustice issues throughout our curriculum:

(1) 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 also open to the public. This semester's

sessions focused on defunding the police, the public-side of family law, and racial inequities in Knoxville.

(2) 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.

(3) The Racial Justice Listening Project 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.

**University of St. Thomas School of Law** announced the addition of the Special Education clinic, to our clinical offerings at the University of St Thomas School of Law (MN). Supervised by Professor Elizabeth Schiltz, it will kick off in the Spring of 2021. The Special Education Clinic will serve 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 will 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). Each spring, a cohort of parents/students identified by MDLC will receive legal training and ongoing support to become strong self-advocates in navigating the special education system. Students will 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** clinics haven't slowed down in light of the pandemic. If anything, they're Zooming. Adaptation has been key, as students in the Law School's 20 clinics have been allowed to either take courses in person or remotely this school year through hybrid learning. Remote conferencing tools such as Zoom have been essential.

Lisa Lorish '08, an assistant federal public defender who would ordinarily teach the Criminal Defense Clinic, decided to shift to a different type of clinic this fall. Her new Federal Criminal Sentence Reduction Clinic is helping to handle the onslaught of compassionate release cases instigated by the COVID-19 crisis in prisons. Meanwhile, the Innocence Project at UVA Law, which hosts both a for-credit clinic and a student pro bono clinic, has taken on more DNA-related cases this year, which require fewer personal interviews, as well as responded to a new opportunity: parole hearings.

The Appellate Litigation Clinic has been engaging in its normal approach, although that clinic's students ordinarily fly out to appeals courts throughout the country to argue cases. The clinic's arguments since March have been by audioconference or Zoom. As in recent years, seven of the Law School's clinics are offered in association with the Legal Aid Justice Center. The clinics coordinator for LAJC, Amy Walters '09, said caseloads have varied based on the public's needs due to the pandemic and changes in the law.

For clinics in which there isn't much client interaction, such as the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, not much has changed. With students meeting in classes spaced 6 feet apart instead of around a table, though, they can no longer face each other and interact quite as easily, said Professor Dan Ortiz.

Read the full story: <https://www.law.virginia.edu/news/202010/clinics-adapt-serve-their-clients>



University of Southern California Gould School of Law's Small Business Clinic students [launched the Small Business Legal Research Task Force](#), a comprehensive resource to help small businesses across LA navigate new COVID-19 policies and guidelines.

The Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic provided important legal guidance to GetUsPPE.org, a nonprofit start-up that distributes donated personal protective equipment to hospitals nationwide. The students' efforts spanned trademark registration; drafting non-disclosure and data-sharing agreements; and reviewing partner contracts.

Other USC Gould clinics continued to achieve success and mark milestones while working virtually. Through a collaborative effort with Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the Immigration Clinic helped reunite a 15-year-old boy hospitalized with an advanced brain tumor with his parents in July. The clinic and its student successfully advocated for humanitarian parole on behalf of the patient's parents, who are from Mexico. Students in the Post-Conviction Justice Project (PCJP) [helped free three life-sentenced clients](#) from California state prisons in June, after each put in the hard work to rehabilitate and become positive forces in their communities. Students from the International Human Rights Clinic [helped a Syrian family escape persecution](#) and secure refugee resettlement in late 2019. This year, the clinic celebrates its [10<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#).

The California Court of Appeals ruled in June that the state Department of Motor Vehicles had been

improperly suspending licenses of drivers who fail to appear in court. [Prof. Clare Pastore was co-counsel on \*Hernandez v. DMV\*](#), and students in her Access to Justice Practicum contributed by collecting data, conducting research, and interviewing potential plaintiffs.

USC Gould also congratulated Prof. Lisa Klerman, director of the Mediation Clinic, for her recent induction as a Distinguished Fellow to the International Academy of Mediators.

**Wayne State University Law Center** is expanding its clinical program in winter 2021 to offer a Community Advocacy Clinic and an Immigration Appellate Advocacy Clinic. Developed in response to students' desire to have a greater impact on the community in light of the events of 2020, including the COVID crisis, these courses also provide expanded experiential education opportunities for students in Wayne Law's part-time program.

Students in the Community Advocacy Clinic collaborate with community groups, coalitions, and public interest legal organizations to prepare and pursue non-litigation strategies to address pressing legal needs in a given community and to complete an advocacy project. For winter 2021, the clinic is partnering with [Triage Cancer](#), a national, nonprofit organization that provides education through free events, materials, and resources on the practical and legal issues that may impact individuals diagnosed with cancer and their caregivers. The inaugural semester of the Clinic will be co-taught by Professor Kathryn Smolinski and Joanna Fawzy Morales, Esq., CEO of Triage Cancer.



*Joanna Fawzy Morales, Esq.,*

*CEO of Triage Center*



*Professor Kathryn Smolinski*

The Immigration Appellate Advocacy Clinic represents indigent or low-income clients before the Board of Immigration Appeals. Students prepare Immigration Court appeals referred by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc's BIA Pro Bono Project and others and write an appellate immigration brief. The inaugural semester of the Clinic will be co-taught by Professors Rachel Settlege and Jon Weinberg.



*Professor Jonathan Weinberg*



*Associate Professor Rachel Settlege, Director of Clinical Education*

Responding to the community needs and student desires to provide legal services during the pandemic, Wayne State University Law School

expanded its externship offerings with a Public Service Externship: Lawyering in Uncertain Times course offered during the summer of 2020 and co-taught by Professors Kathy Smolinski and Rebecca Robichaud.



*Assistant Professor (Clinical), Kathryn Smolinski*



*Assistant Professor (Clinical), Rebecca Robichaud, Director of Externships*

Building off the success of this temporary offering, Wayne Law added a Public Interest Externship: Social Justice Lawyering course to the externship program in Fall 2020. In this externship, students extern with a partner public interest organization that included the ACLU-MI, the Detroit Justice Center, Michigan Legal Services, and the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice. Students explore the ways in which lawyers committed to social justice are working within the Detroit community and delve into what it means to work with a marginalized community in a manner that seeks to effectuate larger social change. The fall externship course was taught by Professor Rachel Settlege and Kimberly Buddin, Policy Counsel at ACLU-MI.



*Kimberly Buddin, Policy Counsel, ACLU MI*



*Associate Professor, Rachel Settlege, Director of Clinical Education*

**Washington University School of Law's** Immigration Law Clinic launched a Client Support Project (CSP) using social work students to provide wrap-around services to clients. The CSP supports clients facing challenges due to COVID-19 and allows law students to focus on providing legal services. Client requests for non-legal support include assistance with housing, language access, food, and health resources.



*Immigration Clinic students meeting with a client*

The St. Louis Circuit Attorney's conviction integrity unit discovered shocking evidence of police and prosecutorial misconduct in the 1995 murder conviction of Lamar Johnson. But when moving to remedy the conviction, the state attorney general

intervened to successfully block evidence of Johnson's innocence. The Appellate Clinic is representing the Circuit Attorney before the Missouri Supreme Court, arguing that prosecutors have an obligation to correct a wrongful conviction and should be permitted to present evidence of misconduct.



*Lamar Jackson, whose wrongful conviction the Appellate Clinic is litigating*

Students in the **Civil Rights & Mediation Clinic** have developed an Access to Justice Center in the courthouse to aid parties during the pandemic. The center has a help desk computer, in addition to an information table with court documents and persons in the adjacent clerk's office for help. The Center idea emerged to enhance the clinic's provision of Zoom mediations in pro se housing courts, which students have provided since the spring.

Building on its "Environmental Racism in St Louis" report ([www.environmentalracismstl.com](http://www.environmentalracismstl.com)),

**Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic** students are joining with clients to present the Environmental Racism Solution Series -- weekly community meetings on the disparate effects of air pollution, asthma, food deserts, lead exposure, vacancy, illegal dumping, and home energy burdens on Black St. Louisans.

The **Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC)** has established a listserv to enable academic tax clinics to communicate about issues that are exclusive to academic LITCs. If you are interested in being added to this listserv, please contact Sarah Narkiewicz at [sanarkiewicz@wustl.edu](mailto:sanarkiewicz@wustl.edu).

# Announcements

The AALS Clinical Section Communications Committee is seeking a newsletter co-editor as our previous co-editor Janet Heppard has left academia for a family court judgeship. This is a wonderful position for someone who is looking for a concrete service commitment where you get to know the happenings at the different clinical programs around the country. You'd currently get to work with our other newsletter co-editor, Keeshea Turner Roberts of Howard University School of Law. Besides attending our Communications meetings, here's a bit more about the position and the time commitment:

The Clinical Section newsletter co-editors work together to solicit submissions and then create the newsletter which goes out twice a year – once in the fall (before the AALS Annual Meeting) and once in the spring (before the AALS Clinical Conference). Typically, one person solicits, organizes, and edits the initial content and the other drafts and formats the newsletter (with roles switching each semester).

**Time Commitment:** Usually 6-10 hours of time towards the end of the semester, with the solicitation requests going out early November and early April and a submission deadline towards the end of that month. Organizing and completing initial editing takes place a minimum of 4-8 hours depending on the volume of submissions.

If you are interested, please email Gail Silverstein at [silverst@uchastings.edu](mailto:silverst@uchastings.edu).

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The Clinical Law Review seeks applications for five vacancies on the Board of Editors. The Board urges you to think about whether you would be interested, and to think about others whom you would encourage to apply. Members of the Board of Editors serve for a term of 6 years. The term of the new Board members will **commence in January 2022**. The primary role of the Board members is to edit articles for the Review. Because this is a peer-edited journal, the editing process is collaborative. Board members also serve as small group facilitators in the annual Clinical Law Review Workshop. There is at least one meeting per year of the Board, usually held at the annual Workshop.

Applicants should submit (1) a C.V. and (2) a statement explaining their interest in the position and highlighting relevant aspects of their experience. The Board seeks applications from people committed to the work of the Review and will prioritize applicants from underrepresented groups and applicants with diverse experiences in and approaches to clinical legal education. Applications must be received **no later than January 31, 2021**. Please e-mail them to [CLRBoardApps2021@gmail.com](mailto:CLRBoardApps2021@gmail.com).

The committee to select new Board members is always co-chaired by two current Board members whose term is expiring. Jennifer Koh and Jeff Selbin will be serving this year as the co-chairs of the Selection Committee. The other members of the committee will be designated by the three organizations that sponsor the Clinical Law Review -- AALS, CLEA, and NYU -- each of which will designate two committee members. We encourage you to contact the co-chairs or other Board members with any questions or for information about service on the Board. We and other Board members have found the experience to be very rewarding.

The other members of the Board are: Muneer Ahmad, Sameer Ashar, Susan Bennett, Warren Binford, Marty Guggenheim, Margaret Johnson, Jen Lee, and Alex Scherr. The other current members whose terms are ending are: Muneer, Susan, and Warren. The Editors-in-Chief are Phyllis Goldfarb, Randy Hertz, and Michael Pinard.

# Call for Papers

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

## **Family Law Writing Competition**

AFCC and the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, in cooperation with the editorial staff of *Family Court Review*, are sponsoring the twelfth annual law student Family Law Writing Competition. Visit <https://law.hofstra.edu/currentstudents/studentactivities/journals/familycourtreview/hflwritingcompetition/index.html>

# Honors, Accolades and Victories

## **University of Washington, Meditation Clinic**

The Purple Crayon Foundation gifted \$50,000 to the University of Washington Mediation Clinic, directed by Professors Christine Cimini and Alan Kirtley, for an Interdisciplinary Homeless Intervention Project. The Homeless Intervention Project aims to develop a conflict resolution program designed to address the acute and increasing need to stabilize housing and prevent homelessness for those at risk in Seattle. The homeless crisis in Seattle is not new, but the adverse impacts of COVID-19 and the impending lift of the eviction moratorium will lead to an inevitable explosion of COVID-driven residential leasing disputes that courts and traditional community mediation models cannot readily handle on an urgent basis. Designed to meet the unique confluence of challenges, the Project includes: a commitment to rapid response de-escalation, the delivery of integrated social services support and connection to affordable/supportive housing; the use of technology-driven platforms for online dispute resolution; and an interdisciplinary, multicultural team. The project brings together University of Washington faculty from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (Community and Behavioral Health Policy), the Evans School of Public Policy, School of Public Health (Community Oriented Public Health Practice), the School of Social Work. Community collaborators include the deputy director of the West Coast Poverty Center and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Dispute Resolution Center of King County.



*Professor Christine Cimini*



*Professor Alan Kirtley*

### **University of Washington, Tribal Defense Clinic**

The Tribal Court Clinic received \$50,000 to enhance their services by engaging in interdisciplinary collaboration with the UW School of Social Work. Designed by Professor of Teaching Brenda Williams, this partnership, creates teams of law students and social work students to identify client needs, facilitate access to needed resources and to develop alternative resolutions within the Tulalip and Muckleshoot Tribal Court systems. The Tribal Court clinic teams focus on facilitating restorative justice outcomes in the place of punitive punishment measures with the goal of centering clients while providing holistic representation. Collaboration with other disciplines, such as social work, enhance the services that the clinic provides.



*Professor Brenda Williams*

### **University of Washington, Entrepreneurial Law Clinic**

University of Washington Entrepreneurial Law Clinic Launched “Helping BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and Women-Owned Small Businesses Survive and Thrive Post-COVID-19” Initiative UW Law Professor Jennifer Fan is collaborating with UW Foster School of Business Professor Elizabeth Umphress to help entrepreneurs and BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and women-owned small businesses and nonprofits mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The project, funded by the UW’s Population Health Initiative, features five virtual negotiation trainings led by Professor Umphress. The project, launched in collaboration with the Seattle Public Library, is in high demand, and continues to provide much needed Ulegal advice to the community.



*Professor Jennifer Fan*

### **University of Washington, Race and Justice Clinic**

University of Washington Race and Justice Clinic Fights for Systemic Bail Reform and Recover More Than \$31,000 in Forfeited and Exonerated Funds.

Race and Justice Clinic students are helping the Northwest Community Bail Fund (NCBF) recoup funds for low-income defendants’ pretrial releases. The United States money bail system was already weighted against low-income defendants before COVID-19 dropped a boulder on the scales.

Every day, 450,000 Americans are held in jails because they cannot afford the money for pretrial release. This is where the NCBF comes in: The Seattle-based nonprofit posts bail for defendants through a revolving fund that is replenished when defendants appear at hearing. But with hearings postponed due to COVID-19, that money wasn't coming back. Despite the quarantine, UW Law Race and Justice Clinic students wanted to do something to help. Led by UW Law Professor of Teaching Kim Ambrose, the Race and Justice Clinic works to disrupt systemic over-representation of youth of color in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems through work with real-world clients. The clinic partnered with NCBF to address the racial inequities that underpin the cash bail system.

Working off recent Washington Supreme Court precedents, clinic students crafted an argument contending that cash bail should be treated the same as bail bonds, and that if a defendant reappears in court within 60 days, that money should be returned. The argument is working. Since the spring, the clinic has successfully argued motions.



*Professor Kim Ambrose*

### **University of Tennessee Legal Clinic**

The University of Tennessee Legal Clinic received a challenge grant from the University to support the work of the Racial Justice Listening Project funding a research plan, graduate research assistant from . We also \$50,000 extension grant to continue ExpungeTN project which hosted a COVID-safe community court serving 165 people in two rural East Tennessee counties, funded a Reentry Fellow, and resulted in the filing more than 480 expungement petitions this fall. We plan to launch our ExpungeTN.org website, a statewide resource, in the Spring.

### **Texas A&M University School of Law**

The 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.

TAMU School of Law Professor [Fatma Marouf](#) received a Presidential Transformational Teaching Grant in the amount 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.

### **Rutgers Approves Unitary Tenure Track**

On December 4, 2020, the full Rutgers Law Faculty approved by a nearly unanimous vote adoption of a unitary tenure track for all faculty, including clinical faculty and faculty in some other categories (including live client and externship teaching clinicians; legal writing and research clinical faculty; and library faculty). All new such faculty hired after this Academic Year will be hired on the unitary tenure track with podium/doctrinal faculty and

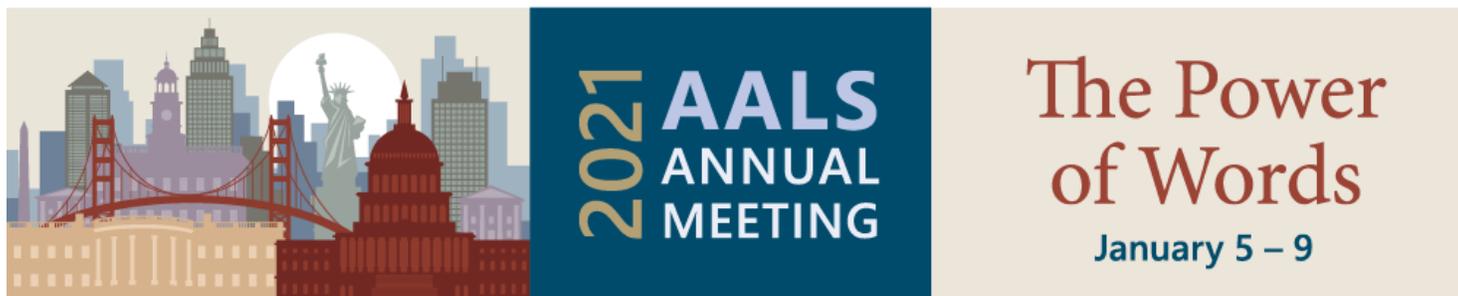
all such current faculty can choose to move over to the tenure track or apply for tenure in a new process, the details of which will be worked out by our Co-Deans Kim Mutcherson (Camden) and David Lopez (Newark) and the University's top administration in New Brunswick and subject to their approval. The faculty also overwhelmingly passed a separate special resolution encouraging all current full clinical professors of law and distinguished clinical professors of law to apply for tenure as soon as possible when such university details are completed, because of a collective faculty consensus that they had already accomplished the equivalent or near equivalent of tenure from the many contract reviews and the adoption in large part of a clinical scholarship requirement at least 15 years ago.

Special thanks, recognition and congratulations to incoming CLEA President and Professor Anju Gupta and Distinguished Clinical Professor Ruth Anne Robbins for co-chairing the committee which produced this proposal, and their leadership through 15 months of work, several drafts, and multiple organized listening sessions in helping make this happen. Faculty at Rutgers are also grateful to the pathbreaking law schools and programs that have been unitary for a while and leadership of such possibilities from clinical faculty there who have shown the way, along with the plentiful scholarship in support of such, also by members of this community."

## Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

We look forward to offering our attendees a full program of sessions in an entirely virtual format, as well as opportunities for engagement and interaction that the AALS community has come to expect from our events. The program will be updated continually as we add more sessions and speakers, including Hot Topic sessions put together after the election.

Sessions will take place each day between **11 am—7 pm Eastern/8 am—4 pm Pacific**.



The University of Baltimore School of Law's Center on Applied Feminism will host its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference: *Applied Feminism and Privacy* via Zoom on April 22 and 23, 2021. Topics will include menstruation and employment, education and data privacy, controlling personal data in the digital age, and resisting intrusion into physical privacy. The Keynote Speaker is Fatima Goss Graves, President and CEO of the National Women's Law Center. Faculty conveners are Profs. Michele Gilman (Baltimore) and Margaret E. Johnson (American (visiting)/Baltimore).

The Columbia Journal of Gender and Law's Symposium, *Are You There Law? It's Me, Menstruation*, will be held via Zoom on April 9 and 10, 2021. Topics will include cultural construction of menstruation, menstruation and employment, respect and dignity for marginalized communities, and menstrual capitalism. Judy Blume, author of *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret*, will be a presenter. Faculty conveners are Professors Bridget

Crawford (Pace), Emily Waldman (Pace) and Margaret E. Johnson (American (visiting)/Baltimore).

Southern Clinical Conference is **postponed.**