

CENTER FOR ETHICS & PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS

University of Miami School of Law

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ETHICS & PUBLIC SERVICE: BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

By Aziza Naa-Kaa Botchway, Director, Joint Program on Law, Public Policy & Ethics



Aziza Naa-Kaa Botchway

**"Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth."
—Muhammad Ali, Time magazine (1978)**

I am excited to be back at the Center for Ethics & Public Service because I believe that educating students about citizen lawyering promotes sound ethical judgment and public service. I had wonderful experiences interning with the Center while in law school and am thrilled to be able to give something back. I direct the Joint Program on Law, Public Policy & Ethics that oversees the undergraduate interns at the Center's six clinics & programs and engages in interdisciplinary collaboration to help educate the University & greater Miami community about the importance of critical activism, world peace and social justice. This semester, I had an amazing time directing the program as well as teaching an undergraduate course, Law & Society: Race & America. I look forward to teaching Critical Race Feminism in the spring. I am keenly interested in identifying and eradicating barriers to social justice and am committed to public interest advocacy and interdisciplinary education. Any material, economic, social or political conditions that hinder the growth of human beings are to be challenged and overcome.

THE JOINT PROGRAM ON LAW, PUBLIC POLICY & ETHICS EXPERIENCES IMMENSE GROWTH

By Director Aziza Naa-Kaa Botchway



Senator Bob Graham after speaking in the UM National Security Lecture Series (front l to r) Interns Bryn Searns, Rachel Beck, Sara Neugroschel; (back l to r) Interns Bob Neary, Alissa Gazze, Kate Koza, Senator Graham; Arts & Science Fellows Susanna Hoffman and Jessica Dunn; LPPE Director Aziza Botchway; Intern Devon Bennett-Ward

I am delighted to return to the Center for Ethics & Public Service as the Director of the joint program on Law, Public Policy & Ethics (LPPE). We had an amazing fall semester as we sponsored a number of colloquia, seminars, and workshops educating over 1,200 members of the University and greater Miami community.

Third year Arts & Sciences Fellows **Jessica Dunn** and **Susanna Hoffman**, assisted by Interns **Alissa Gazze**, **Bob Neary** and Undergraduate Intern **Kate Koza** conducted trainings entitled: "Power & Pride: Ethics & Hazing" for students at the Department of Greek Affairs New Member

Symposium. We hosted litigator **David W. Bianchi** of Stewart Tilghman Fox & Bianchi, P.A. who spoke to student athletes about the dangers of hazing & the Chad Meredith Act that was passed in response to the fraternity hazing incident that led to the death of University of Miami Student Chad Meredith. In 2004, Mr. Bianchi obtained a \$14,000,000 jury verdict for the parents of Chad Meredith. LPPE also had the pleasure of partnering with the Department of International Studies to host a National Security Lecture Series featuring such notable figures as: **Bob Graham**, Former Florida Governor and U. S. Senator; **Christopher Layne**, Mary Julia and George R. Jordan Professor of International Affairs, Bush School of Government and Public Service Texas A & M University; and **Richard Clarke**, Former Director of Anti-Terrorism in the Clinton and Bush Administrations. The National Security lecturers addressed such questions as: How will a future freshly-designed "National Security Strategy" differ substantially from those of 2002 and 2006? Will a future administration turn

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CENTER AWARDS

INNOVATIVE SERVICE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AWARD, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW, 2007

WILLIAM PINCUS AWARD, ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2006-2007

FATHER DRINAN AWARD, ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2006-2007

C. CLYDE ATKINS AWARD, GREATER MIAMI ACLU, 2005

CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD, MIAMI DADE COUNTY CHILDREN'S TRUST, 2005

GARY BELLOW SCHOLAR AWARD, ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2004-2005

ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST ARETE AWARD, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION, 2001

SEVENTH ANNUAL PROFESSIONALISM AWARD, THE FLORIDA BAR, 2000

FACULTY PROFESSIONALISM AWARD, FLORIDA SUPREME COURT, 1999

GAMBRELL PROFESSIONALISM AWARD, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, 1998

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Palmer Trinity Fellow
Joe Discepolo
David Catsman Fellow
David Matz
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Melissa Melshenker
Hunton & Williams Fellows
Sean Steele
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to a more multilateralist policy based on the United Nations or will it remain essentially unilateralist?

In September, Fellows **Jessica Dunn** and **Susanna Hoffman**, and Interns **Bryn Searns**, **Devon Bennett-Ward** as well as Undergraduate Intern **Kate Koza** continued our popular “Know Your Rights” colloquia for students in the residence halls. Additionally, LPPE joined with Helping Others through Pro Bono Efforts (H.O.P.E.) to host a dynamic voting rights symposium moderated by Intern **Sara Plesser Neugroschel**, our Undergraduate Intern Coordinator. This symposium was planned with Undergraduate Intern **Rachel Beck** who worked behind the scenes to plan many events. The voting rights panel featured: **Bradford Brown**, Current First Vice President and Past President, Miami-Dade NAACP; **Joanne Harvest Koren**, Director, Academic Achievement Program, UM School of Law and Immediate Past Chair, Miami-Dade Community Relations Board; **Lester Sola**, Supervisor of Elections, Miami-Dade County; **Martha Mahoney**, Professor of Law, UM School of Law; and **Muslima Lewis**, Senior Attorney and Director of Racial Justice & Voting Rights Projects, ACLU of Florida. The voting rights panel was followed by a civil rights restoration training, which provided students with the skills necessary to help individuals with felony convictions apply for the restoration of their right to vote, hold public office, sit on juries, and obtain occupational licenses.



At the Voting Rights symposium (front l to r) Academic Achievement Program Director Joanne Harvest Koren, Professor Martha Mahoney, Voting Rights Project Director Muslima Lewis from the ACLU, Intern Sara Neugroschel, Aziza Botchway; (back l to r) NAACP First Vice President **Bradford Brown**, Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections **Lester Sola**



At the Race Rights & Real Justice panel (front l to r) Arts & Sciences Fellow Jessica Dunn, FIU Assistant Professor Carlton Mark Waterhouse, Max Rameau from the Center for Pan-African Development, Aziza Botchway (back) BLSA President Yolanda Paschal, UM Professor David Abraham, University of Arkansas Asst. Professor Adjoa Aiyetoro, University of Alabama Professor Alfred Brophy, NAACP First Vice President Bradford Brown

Interns **Devon Bennett-Ward**, **Bob Neary** and **Sara Neugroschel** worked with Undergraduate Intern **Nathaniel Flinchbaugh** to dissect the question of what to do “When Special Education Goes Too Easy On Students.” LPPE students presented at the School of Education’s Ethics Institute where they discussed the interplay between the concepts of push-outs, drop-outs and adequate education within the context of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Florida Constitution.

We were enthused to work with a number of community organizations to co-sponsor “A Conversation with U.S. Congressman John Conyers Jr.,” who is the Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, the second most

senior member in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the Dean and Founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus. Chairman Conyers spoke to a packed house about government abuse of power issues including without limitation: warrantless wiretapping, the use of torture and restrictions on the centuries-old right of habeas corpus.

LPPE had the honor of working with a diverse group of organizations to sponsor UM’s Inaugural Racial Justice Lecture Series panel discussion entitled: Race Rights & Real Justice: Examining the Case for Black Reparations in America. The Racial Justice Lectures Series provides a service to the entire University and greater Miami Community by focusing attention on racial justice issues that have not received adequate attention and by fostering community action. This provocative panel was moderated by LPPE graduating Arts & Sciences Fellow **Jessica Dunn** and Black Law Students Association President **Yolanda Paschal**. Interns **Devon Bennett-Ward** and **Bryn Searns** contributed vital assistance to the LPPE Racial Justice Practice Group in preparing an intriguing presentation on U.S. race relations beginning with the horrible institution of slavery through Jim Crow and segregation. The dynamic panel discussion featured renowned panelists: **Adjoa A. Aiyetoro**, Assistant Professor of Law, University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law and Founding Co-Chair, National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America; **Alfred L. Brophy**, Professor of Law, University of Alabama School of Law; **Bradford Brown**, Current First Vice President and Past President, Miami-Dade NAACP; **Carlton Mark Waterhouse**, Assistant Professor of Law, Florida International University College of Law and **Max Rameau**, Community Activist and Leader, Center for Pan-African Development.

We had an active and productive semester. We are most thankful to the School of Law and the College of Arts & Sciences for their continued support of our program.

PUBLIC SERVICE

GREENBERG TRAURIG-SPONSORED COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CLINIC CONTINUES SERVING RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFITS IN LIBERTY CITY, OVERTOWN, AND WEST COCONUT GROVE

By CEDAD Clinic Fellows

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SENIOR FELLOWS

ELLEN C. FREIDIN
JANET RENO

The dynamic Interns and Fellows in the Community Economic Development and Design Clinic (CEDAD) continued tackling the issues of gentrification and affordable housing in Miami this semester.

Ray H. Pearson Fellow **Jessica Frank**, Lewis B. Freeman & Partners Fellow **Kiara Griggs**, and Intern **Joy Harrison** continued their work in Coconut Grove Village West. The group continued their partnership with the Coconut Grove Collaborative, Inc. (CGCI) in an effort to create affordable housing and development in the West Grove. Specifically, the team—including Undergraduate Interns **Genevieve Carvil**, **Erin Watkins**, and **Dana Adams**—assisted in drafting zoning legislation, researched various legal issues from tax exemptions to quiet title suits, and participated in CGCI’s annual board retreat. Next semester the group will continue to collaborate with CGCI as well as with other organizations striving to improve the West Grove. Additionally, the students plan to reach out to the non-profits in Coconut Grove Village West and conduct on-site corporate governance trainings.

John B. Alfieri Fellow **Stephanie Davis** and Interns **Lizzy Gonzalez** and **Mark Raschess** conducted a needs assessment in Coconut Grove, determining that West Grove residents desired education in predatory lending practices and mortgage rights. They began drafting a brochure for distribution next semester at educational workshops in the West Grove. In addition, **Stephanie** and **Lizzy** continued the Center’s partnership with the Center for Urban and Community Design at the School of Architecture, providing counsel in addition to hosting a luncheon for interested School of Law and School of Architecture students. Next semester, the partnership continues with a planned symposium on sustainable building practices.

Beyond Coconut Grove, CEDAD Fellows and Interns help the underserved in Liberty City and Overtown under the supervision of Adjunct Professor **Charles Elsesser** and Adjunct Professor **Purvi Shah** from Florida Legal Services. **Greenberg Traurig Fellow Megan Connor**, **Sullivan & Cromwell Fellow Christopher Lomax**, Intern **Alicia Junco**, Intern **Chris Jallo**, and Intern **Janine Schwerter** all worked with former Scott-Carver Public Housing residents to have them reinstated in the public housing system following termination of their Section 8 housing vouchers. This process involved writing letters to the Miami-Dade Housing Agency, meeting with housing administrators, obtaining references for clients, and preparing for appeals hearings. The students are in the midst of assisting in the representation of a Liberty City tenants’ council that brought suit against its landlord for unlivable housing conditions. Likewise, the group began a project to help clients seal and expunge their criminal records for purposes of re-entering public housing—a project that will continue in the spring.

In addition, **John Hart Ely Fellow Quinn Smith**, Intern **Sharif Hannan** and Intern **Reid Schaeffer** continued CEDAD’s work in conjunction with Power U Center for Social Change and its opposition to Crosswinds, a residential project slated for development in South Overtown. Working with **Professor Elsesser**, the students prepared for City Commission hearings, responded to evidence submitted by project supporters, and crafted legal strategy as the Crosswinds development process moves forward. The students’ work combined CEDAD’s mission to spur economic development in low-income areas with the long-standing goal of Overtown activists and residents: creating beautiful, affordable housing that meets the needs of the Overtown community.



CEDAD Fellows and Interns discuss a strategic plan for next semester

ETHICS TRAINING

THE CORPORATE AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM EXPANDS ITS REACH

By Director Jan Jacobowitz

What a tremendous semester for the Corporate and Professional Responsibility Program (CAPR). Although providing ethics trainings to Miami's bench and bar remains the primary focus, CAPR fellows and interns did a fabulous job of expanding the program's reach. CAPR hosted three luncheon programs that were both well attended and received. Intern **Karen Shafir** joined Miami Law Women's President **Jennifer Hochstadt** to moderate a Women and the Law Panel with esteemed panelists, **Patricia Thompson**, Shareholder, Carlton Fields; **Judge Jacqueline Hogan Scola**; **Ivette Arevalo**, In-house counsel and VP. of Operations for I.C.E. Development Group; and **Detra P. Shaw-Wilder**, Shareholder, Kozyak, Tropin, & Throckmorton. This accomplished and diverse group of women enlightened the students about the "real world" of legal practice with entertaining stories and meaningful guidance. **Karen Shafir** commented that, "There are few instances in law school where we as students are able to receive candid remarks from those in the field who are truly successful. The women in the law luncheon was one of those rare opportunities. Many of my peers commented on how informational, and moreover inspirational, the panelists were. A terrific event."

Intern **Kevin Harris** moderated a Minority Leadership in the Law panel that CAPR co-hosted with the Black Law Students Association. A tremendous soul food feast and shared visions from the panelists on how to develop a successful career path rendered the event a highlight of the semester. Panelists included **Jarret L. Davis**, Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig; **Marlon A. Hill**, Partner, Delancy Hill; **Jason M. Murry**, Shareholder, Carlton Fields; and **Kisha'sha B. Sharp**, K.B. Sharp, P.A.

The United States Attorney for the Southern District, **Alex Acosta**, honored CAPR by spending his lunch hour with us. **Bankruptcy Bar Association Fellow Maisie Wong** and Intern **Bill Seitz** moderated the discussion. **Mr. Acosta** not only provided an update on the priorities of his office, but also painted a picture of life as an Assistant United States Attorney and expressed his views on the value of public service.

CAPR's ethics trainings occurred in each of its targeted sectors: nonprofit; private practice; and the government. Interns **Karen Shafir** and **Janelle Herrera** visited Legal Services and provided ethical guidance on issues such as confidentiality, client conflicts, and reporting obligations when child abuse is suspected. **Greenberg Traurig Fellow Serena Josephs** and Intern **David Snyder** presented Same Client, Multiple Representations—Ensuing Ethical Dilemmas at Greenberg Traurig. **Maisie Wong** and Intern **Aaron Blynn** tackled tough ethical evidentiary issues in their presentation at the States Attorney Office. **Aaron** reflected that, "The Corporate and Professional

Responsibility Program has provided me both an excellent learning experience as well as an opportunity to contribute to the building of a more ethical legal community."



Women and the Law Panel featuring CEPS Advisory Board members Detra P. Shaw-Wilder, Shareholder, Kozyak, Tropin, & Throckmorton; Judge Jacqueline Hogan Scola; Patricia Thompson, Shareholder, Carlton Fields; and Ivette Arevalo, In-house counsel and V.P. of Operations for I.C.E. Development Group

Zuckerman Spaeder Fellow Jonathan Mann and Interns **Becky Gutierrez**, **Kevin Harris**, **Steve Sarrell**, **Bill Seitz**, **Rahim West**, **Ingrid Garcia Ruiz** and **Laura Dominquez** are actively working on trainings scheduled for next semester at the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, the Bankruptcy Bar Association, and Miami-Dade Legal Aid. Also in process are trainings for the United States Attorneys Office, Greenberg Traurig, the Federal law clerks and a corporate governance project with Carlton Fields.



"Same Client, Multiple Representations—Ensuing Ethical Dilemmas" presentation at Greenberg Traurig (front l to r) Intern David Snyder and Greenberg Traurig Fellow Serena Josephs; (back l to r) Al Quintel of Greenberg Traurig; Anthony Alfieri, Justice Arthur England of Greenberg Traurig, Jan Jacobowitz; Jeff Gilbert of Greenberg Traurig

Other CAPR projects include Interns **Ingrid Garcia Ruiz** and **Laura Dominquez's** Art and Law Ethics Handout, which was a CAPR contribution to the first Art and the Law Legal Clinic held this semester. Interns **Becky Gutierrez** and **Steve Sarrell** are working with **Randall Berg**, Director of the Volunteer Lawyer's Project, on a Pro Bono Handbook for Federal District Court. And please stay tuned for when Fellow **Maisie Wong** and Interns **Steve Sarrell**, **Becky Gutierrez** and **Kevin Harris** debut CAPR's first brochure, which is entirely student conceived and created.

ETHICS & PUBLIC SERVICE

STREET LAWYERS TEACHING CITIZENSHIP AND ADVOCACY

By Director Karen Throckmorton

“THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY STATE IS THE EDUCATION OF ITS YOUTH.” —DIOGENES LAERTIUS

Educating youth about law, citizenship and critical thinking is our mission in Miami STREET LAW. At six sites, our nineteen Street Lawyers teach state and federal law, case law, and legal analysis in creative, interactive formats. The Street Lawyers are evolving into fearless public speakers, and sophisticated legal analysts.

At Miami Senior High and Coral Reef High, we supplement the Street Law classes pursuant to a diversity grant from STREET LAW, Inc. by teaching about law school admission and about the variety of legal careers. At these schools, the majority of the students are African American, Hispanic or American Indian—groups which the American Bar Association has recognized as underrepresented in our profession.

At Miami Senior High (MSH), **Hunton & Williams Fellow Melissa Melshenker** and Interns **Kristin Stastny** and **Nick Lewis** are inspiring students to consider a career in law by illustrating its application to their lives. The students at MSH are 90% Hispanic and 9% Black, many of them first generation immigrants. Thus a theme this fall has been immigration law, specifically the pending Dream Act under which some undocumented immigrants could earn citizenship through two years of military service or two years of higher education. **Melissa Melshenker** observes, “Due to the fact that a number of the students at Miami Senior High are illegally in this country, or as they like to refer to it, ‘without papers,’ the students are passionate to learn about how the Dream Act could help their lives.” They prepared letters and a petition to their local congressmen, and are currently working on a documentary about the Dream Act.

At Coral Reef High School, **Catsman Fellow Joe Discepola** and Interns **Shawna Monroe** and **Joey Lampert** have been promoting a legal career as well as teaching the Bill of Rights, search and seizure, racial conflicts re the Jena 6, landlord/tenant issues, and the electoral process. Joe Discepola reports that the Coral Reef students “have a genuine interest in and passion for the law.”



David Catsman Fellow Joseph Discepola teaching in Coral Reef High School’s legal magnet program

At the Palmer Trinity School, **Palmer Trinity Fellow Jason Bloom**; **Kozyak, Tropin & Throckmorton Fellow David Matz**; Interns **David Tropin** and **William Yu**; and Undergraduate Intern **Rob Weaver** have been conducting complex teachings in a Sophomore European History class and with the Debate team. In the European History class, students role played delegates to an Assembly where they negotiated the forming of a new nation or Union. The students debated English as an official language as well as issues involving Contracts, Torts, and Criminal law. **Rob Weaver’s** intense work with the debate team involved research and debate of the legal and moral issues involved in the death penalty. Intern **David Tropin** praises the great students at Palmer Trinity and states that the classes can yield “a pretty high level discussion—almost law school-like.” Our partnership with Palmer Trinity is in its 9th productive year.



Interns Nick Lewis and Kristin Stastny surrounding legal magnet students at Miami Senior High

Our fourth and fifth sites are alternative schools: The Bay Point School and The Dade Marine Institute. At the Bay Point School for boys, **Peter R. Palermo Fellow Vance Aloupis** and Interns **Veena Gursahani**, **Matt Tannenbaum**, **Carrie Hanson**, and **Tom Coleman** teach young men ages 14 to 18. **Vance Aloupis** notes that, “Over the past ten weeks, the young men at Bay Point have participated in lesson plans pertaining to the 4th amendment, Negotiations, Hazing, Sentencing Guidelines, Religious Freedom, Torts and several others. Our students continue to impress on a weekly basis with their ability to grasp the complicated topics and their desire to learn. Our interns and undergraduates have made amazing relationships and connections with our group of students.”

Our newest site is the Dade Marine Institute, an alternative educational facility for troubled students. **Palmer Trinity Fellow Jason Bloom** started this outreach and notes that, “While the institution is known for providing maritime learning such as SCUBA diving and white water rafting, Street Law has brought exciting legal issues to their classrooms. The teens have studied constitutional construction, legal issues in the digital world, and the history of the war on drugs.”



Interns Matthew Tannenbaum, Veena Gursahani, Jay Wallace and Carrie Hanson with students at the Bay Point School

Our last frontier is a freshman seminar, “Law, Public Policy & Ethics” in which Interns **James Wallace** and **Annery Pulgar** assist in teaching ethical and legal issues of Constitutional dimension. Intern **James Wallace** reflected, “I was impressed with the capability of these incoming freshman and was able to structure lesson plans to facilitate in depth discussion of relevant topics such as racial profiling and its application to national security.”

Teaching law to teenagers is a challenging, intense, and rewarding outreach from the Center to our community.

ETHICS & PUBLIC SERVICE

COMMUNITY HEALTH RIGHTS EDUCATION CLINIC TAKES THEIR SHOW ON THE ROAD

By Florida Bar Foundation Fellow Olga Porven

The Community Health Rights Education Clinic's fearless leader, **Professor JoNel Newman**, along with **Florida Bar Foundation Fellow Olga Porven** (3L) and CEPS graduate **McLean Jordan** (2007 J.D. Graduate) take Harlingen, Texas by storm. Armed with training manuals, an interactive presentation, an ethics hypothetical incorporating the Dukes of Hazard and an appetite for legitimate Mexican food, **Professor Newman**, **Olga** and **McLean** conducted a four-hour Immigration based ethics training for The South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) attorneys and staff on August 3, 2007.

ProBAR is a joint venture by the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the American Immigration Lawyers Association to provide assistance to many detained immigrants including juveniles. **Professor JoNel Newman**, member of the ABA Commission on Immigration, jumped at the chance to

personally train young Pro Bono attorneys on their ethical obligations to their clients.

"The staff here really appreciated the training and the incredible manual. The information you provided was realistic and extremely relevant to our everyday work" said ProBAR's director **Meredith Linsky**.

McLean Jordan continues the good work of the trio in San Antonio, Texas. Her current employer, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, has partnered with ProBAR for their Pro Bono project. As a result of the partnership, **McLean** has been able to work on asylum and VAWA claims with ProBAR.

The Community Health Rights Education Clinic hopes to continue their "portable lawyering" model, where former students can apply lawyering skills and materials used in the clinic to any part of the nation.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Former Street Lawyer Soozie Klock '07 is now clerking for United States District Judge James Lawrence King. As the former Palmer Trinity Fellow, Soozie taught law and critical thinking at Palmer Trinity School for two years. In addition to weekly teachings in class, she debated in school wide convocations, coached students in trial skills and judged mock trials. Reflecting back on her time with the Center, Soozie writes:

The Center for Ethics & Public Service gave me the opportunity to extend my legal knowledge to the next generation of students graduating from my alma mater, the Palmer Trinity School. Working with seniors from Palmer and teaching them about legal issues they are sure to encounter in college and during the rest of their lives made me feel like I was directly affecting someone's life with my legal career, and the continuing contact I have with my students enables me to be a resource for them in the bumpy road that lies ahead.



Former Center for Ethics & Public Service Street Lawyer, Soozie Klock '07 with Senior United States District Judge James Lawrence King

ETHICS & PUBLIC SERVICE

CHILDREN & YOUTH LAW CLINIC: CONTINUING TO ADVOCATE FOR THE FOSTER CARE CHILDREN OF FLORIDA

By CYLC Fellows Erin Kippe, Megyn Greider and Ari Newman

Through the Children & Youth Law Clinic, twenty six students are advocating for children in the Florida foster care system with the help of two psychiatric forensic fellows. In keeping with the holistic client advocacy model pioneered by the CYLC, students assisted clients in a wide range of issues, including foster care, immigration, SSI, special education, juvenile delinquency, disability, independent living, Medicaid, and health care.

A focus is to ensure that youth who have aged out of Florida's foster care receive the necessary funding to begin their lives as independent young adults. Interns **Gina Colas**, **Tina Gutjahr** and **Florida Bar Foundation Fellow Erin Kippe** obtained aftercare funding for their clients, while Interns **Erika Kinzer**, **Mindy Reinstein**, and **Rebecca Maxwell** advocated for clients who are aging out of the system under the Road to Independence Act (RTI). Young adults who age out of Florida's foster care system struggle to access educational opportunities and may "fall through the cracks." In order to receive and retain RTI funding for food and shelter, a young adult must be enrolled in school full-time. Intern **Alissa Boshnack** worked to ensure appropriate placement in post-secondary education classes at Miami-Dade College and continued RTI funding for a client. Intern **Junilla Kershner** helped retain RTI funds for a client who turned 18 while incarcerated, a precedent-setting result that allows the client to receive the benefits while enrolled in a school program in prison and to have savings available upon his release from prison. Intern **Alex Schimel** challenged the reduction of a client's RTI stipend, arguing that the state based the reduction on an erroneous calculation of her cost of attendance at Florida State University. Intern **Mike Pieciak** prepared a petition for mandamus filed in juvenile court to increase a client's RTI stipend from \$892 to \$1014 pursuant to the 2007 increase in the federal minimum wage.

Florida Bar Foundation Fellow Ari Newman worked with several interns on complex RTI appeals. With **Kris Nelson**, he defended a client on an RTI reduction in uncovering key evidence just two days before the hearing which we anticipate will result in a favorable decision for our client. **Ari** and **Mike Pieciak** prepared an RTI termination defense for a client who suffers from end-stage renal kidney disease. The CYLC will argue that the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Florida administrative code and statutes require that DCF continue paying his RTI stipend. **Ari** and **Junilla Kershner** discovered flaws in the Department of Children and Families' grounds for termination of another client's RTI benefits.

Interns **Corinne Seibert** and **Marquista Shipman** worked with CYLC Director **Bernie Perlmutter** in an administrative hearing against the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities seeking Medicaid Waiver benefits on behalf of a developmentally disabled client. **Corinne** and **Marquista** performed extensive research on the statutory grounds for qualifying for the Home and Community Based Waiver and assisted **Bernie** in a day-long administrative hearing. They have submitted a Proposed Recommended Order.

Intern **Erika Kinzer** began the guardianship process for a client with mental health and developmental disorders and is

advocating for a free appropriate public education for him under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Intern **Luisa Camara** represented a client in a Baker Act hearing that resulted in her voluntary admission to South Florida State Hospital. Intern **Aziz Nekoukar** represented a client with chronic medical problems in preserving his SSI disability benefits. And Intern **Zenobia Tasby** represents a foster care client in a Medicaid fair hearing challenging her removal from a therapeutic foster home.

When her client was on the verge of becoming homeless after her apartment burned down, Intern **Joke Dekeersschietter** collaborated with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to move her to her former foster home. Additionally, **Joke** helped her get a public defender appointed after she was arrested for giving a false name to a police officer. **Joke's** swift action helped her to get the charge dismissed.

The CYLC represented several clients faced with immigration issues. Intern **Veena Abraham** researched and drafted expert affidavits signed by **Bernie Perlmutter** in support of requests for specific consent to juvenile court jurisdiction for two clients in federal custody. In one of the cases, the affidavit was used to support a federal complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief filed by the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC), which resulted in a grant of consent from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and allowed FIAC to obtain a juvenile court adjudication of dependency for the child before his 18th birthday. **Veena** also represented a client in a successful immigration hearing that resulted in a grant of a special immigrant juvenile visa and adjustment of status. Intern **Alissa Boshnack** is representing another client in a petition for naturalization.

Part of the CYLC's holistic approach is ensuring that the clients receive funding. Intern **Alissa Boshnack** is in the process of amending the birth certificates of a client's children and filing a paternity suit so they can receive child support payments from their fathers. The CYLC also works hard to ensure that children are not placed in a violent environment. Intern **Gina Colas** successfully motioned the court for supervised visitation with a client's non-custodial parent who has a history of violence.

In addition to work with individual clients, interns and fellows collaborate on different law reform projects. **Fellow Megyn Greider** wrote the CYLC publication, "Health Rights of Minors in Florida," a handbook for social workers and medical care providers, with contributions from Interns **Gina Colas** and **Alissa Boshnack**. **Florida Bar Foundation Fellow Erin Kippe** participated in juvenile court **Judge Jeri Cohen's** Foster Care Pregnancy and Prevention Program in order to overcome the barriers that prevent these teenagers from seeking services, and offering them the education, protection, and other resources for their health, safety, and futures. **Erin** and Intern **Jordana Dobski-Cohen** teamed with Planned Parenthood to train law students to serve as peer educators, mentors, and counselors. These training sessions incorporated sex education, gender empowerment, prevention and planning, and sexual abuse information.

**University of Miami
School of Law
Center for Ethics
& Public Service**

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Founded in 1996, the School of Law's Center for Ethics and Public Service is an interdisciplinary clinic devoted to the values of ethical judgment, professional responsibility, and public service in law and society. The Center provides training in professional ethics to the Law School and the University as well as to the Florida business, civic, education, and legal communities. The Center also provides legal representation and economic development training to low-income communities. The Center observes three guiding principles: interdisciplinary collaboration, public-private partnership, and student mentoring and leadership training. Our goal is to educate law students to serve their communities as citizen lawyers.

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At the Lawyers in Leadership Award Ceremony: (l to r) Peter R. Palermo, Fellow Vance Aloupis, recipient Senior United States Magistrate Peter R. Palermo, Hunton & Williams Fellow Melissa Melshenker and Karen Throckmorton



Dean Dennis Lynch accepting the Friend of the Center Award from Anthony Alfieri



United States Attorney Alex Acosta speaking to Bankruptcy Bar Association Fellow Maisie Wong and Intern Bill Seitz



After a panel discussion on Minority Leaders in the Legal profession: Intern Kevin Harris, Jan Jacobowitz, BLSA President Yolanda Paschal, Jaret Davis from Greenberg Traurig, President of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association Kisha'sha Sharp, Jason Murry of Carlton Fields, Marlon A. Hill of Delancy Hill



(l to r) Intern Rachel Beck, U. S. Congressman John Conyers, Jr. who spoke about governmental abuse of power, Aziza Naa-Kaa Botchway, Intern Alissa Gazze



STREET LAW Intern Joey Lampert and David Catsman Fellow Joe Discepola surrounding students at Coral Reef High School



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