

# HOPE.

Helping Others Through Pro Bono Efforts

Public Interest Resource Center  
University of Miami School of Law

Helping Others Through Pro Bono Efforts \* University of Miami School of Law \* Issue I, August 2006

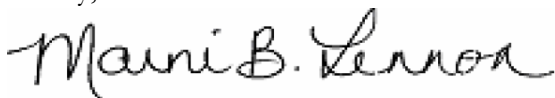
## Director's Note

Dear Students and Friends of HOPE:

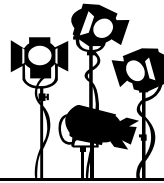
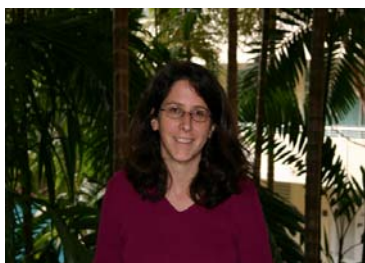
Welcome to the University of Miami School of Law! For those of you who are returning, we are looking forward to seeing you again and hearing all about the good work you did this summer. For those of you who are joining us for the first time -- **WELCOME!** You are about to embark on an exciting journey and exploration of the provision of access to justice for all. HOPE is the Public Interest Resource Center for the School of Law. As such, we are available to offer information, support, guidance and programming to link you with the community and constituents in need. Opportunities are flexible and plentiful!

Whether you have one hour to spare, or are interested in exploring a career in public interest, we have service projects, programs and opportunities for you. Remember to log your hours and complete the HOPE Challenge by performing a minimum of 25 hours of service each year. We look forward to seeing you at the first meeting on August 30th at 12:30 in Room 209!

Sincerely,



Marni Lennon  
Asst. Dean of Students  
Director, HOPE Public Interest Resource Center



## Fellow Spotlight:

### Megyn Greider

Megyn, a rising 2L, has been working at the **National center for Lesbian Rights** in Tampa, Florida this summer. The NCLR is a non-profit law firm working to end discrimination for lesbians, gay men, and bisexual and transgender individuals. The NCLR uses direct legal services, impact litigation, public policy advocacy and public education to achieve legal protections for LGBT families. Megyn has been working on legal research, as well as doing client intake interviews and representing the NCLR at various functions.



Earlier this summer, she represented the NCLR at Citigroup's Meeting in Tampa. Megyn spoke about the effort to repeal Florida's adoption ban for gay and lesbian families. She recognized Citigroup's high ranking in supporting diversity and offering domestic partnership benefits and she stressed the importance of being able to be yourself in the workplace without discrimination.

## Quick Calendar

<b>August 12th</b>	HOPE Day of Service
<b>August 30th</b>	HOPE Meeting, 12:30, RM 209 Lawyers for Literacy Application Deadline HOPE Fellowship Deadline
<b>September 6th</b>	Public Interest Luncheon Series
<b>September 13th</b>	HOPE Meeting, 12:30, RM 209
<b>September 19th</b>	Equal Justice Works Fellowship Applications Due
<b>September 20th</b>	Center for Ethics & Public Service Fall Reception, 4:30 PM, Law Library, 4th Floor Faculty Meeting Room (G480)
<b>September 22nd</b>	'Canes Carnival 4-6 PM, Bricks
<b>September 23rd</b>	Habitat for Humanity
<b>September 30th</b>	Habitat for Humanity
<b>October 5th</b>	HOPE Auction, Student Lounge, 6 PM

Interested in volunteering or need more info?

Stop by the HOPE Office at Room A-212, call 305-284-2599  
Or visit the website at [www.law.miami.edu/hope](http://www.law.miami.edu/hope)

# HOPE PROGRAMMING

HOPE offers a variety of community service and legal advocacy projects throughout the year. Whether your interest lies with tutoring and mentoring children or assisting in tax preparation in low-income areas, you will undoubtedly find your niche within HOPE. Projects range from a one-time commitment to weekly visits throughout the year, making the program very flexible to meet any student's schedule.

For students interested in volunteering their time with particular populations in the South Florida community, there are several one-time and repeat community outreach programs available. **'Canes Carnival** transforms the courtyard into a festive carnival for the afternoon. Once in September and again in February, children from area shelters and after-school programs are invited for an afternoon of fun as student organizations set up carnival-style booths offering games and treats. The afternoon is complete with visits from local team mascots. **HOPE Day** is another once-a-semester event reaching several areas of our community. As part of a day of service, volunteers choose one of several sites serving diverse populations. This year sites include **Habitat for Humanity** (which is also an ongoing monthly project), **Good Hope Equestrian Center**, **Camillus House**, **Barnacle Historic State Park**, **Humane Society of Greater Miami**, **Ronald McDonald House** and **Miami Children's Hospital**. Other community outreach projects include: **Books and Buddies**, **Tutoring and Mentoring Project**, **'Canes Angels**, **School Success** and more. For project descriptions, please check out the HOPE website at [www.law.miami.edu/hope](http://www.law.miami.edu/hope).

HOPE Fellowships are available and enable law students to take volunteer positions at public interest agencies.

In addition to HOPE Fellowships, there are several other legal advocacy projects one can get involved with through HOPE. **VITA** (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) is an award-winning program that partners with the I.R.S. who trains volunteers to assist in the tax preparation for low-income and elderly taxpayers in Miami. You don't have to specialize in tax to volunteer with this program—we are constantly looking for volunteers to serve as greeters and translators. A new addition to the legal advocacy sector of HOPE is the **Pro Bono Legal Research Project**, which was just created in Spring '06 and will surely grow with new volunteer efforts this year. This program pairs law students with attorneys in various practice areas, fostering a great network experience and providing students with hands-on work with much of the legal research and writing needed for the case.

If you now know that you want to be a volunteer, but are still unsure of what project would be best for you, stop by the HOPE office, or visit us online. No matter what amount of time you have available to commit, there is always something going on with HOPE that is sure to enhance the law school experience.

## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is a crucial part of the HOPE Program. Each year, HOPE volunteers take part in various fundraising activities to raise money for fellowship opportunities and community outreach projects. The main fundraising event for the program is the HOPE Auction. This October, HOPE will host the eighth annual auction to help increase the number of fellowships and advocacy programs, in our community.

Volunteers collect a wide variety of donations from area and national businesses that are auctioned off during an evening of fun! Past items have included trips to Jamaica and the Bahamas, sports memorabilia, gift certificates to local restaurants and spas, and of course those all important BarBri and PMBR courses!

**Exam Care Packages:** Student volunteers help prepare care packages ordered by parents, family and friends for law students during exam time.

**Entertainment Books:** Dine, Shop, Travel and Save up to 50% with coupons from the Entertainment 07 Book, while helping HOPE. Books are available for purchase for \$35.

**HOPE Night Out:** Held once a semester, HOPE Night out is a great way to raise money for HOPE and have a great time with your friends with a night out on the town!

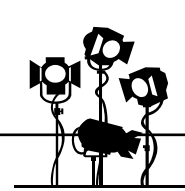


YOU'RE INVITED

## *eighth annual* **HOPE AUCTION**

**Thursday, October 5**  
@ 6pm  
**Alma Jennings Foundation**  
**Student Lounge**  
**University of Miami**  
**School of Law**





For the better part of his career, Sanjay has been working on human rights issues in Eastern Europe, with a specific focus on labor migration. This summer, he has been working as an intern for UNICEF in Moscow, Russia, where he has been developing an advocacy package on child-trafficking. This advocacy package will aid law enforcement in prosecuting traffickers under Russia's new criminal



code. Last summer, Sanjay worked as a labor consultant at the International Labour Organization's office in Moscow. There he advised the Russian government on implementing reforms aimed at integrating foreign migrant workers into the mainstream labor force.

Prior to law school, Sanjay was awarded a post-masters fellowship at the Columbia Law School Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) in Budapest, Hungary. His work at PILI focused on integrating Roma (Gypsy) children into the public school systems of Slovakia, Croatia, and Serbia. In the spring semester of 2006, he returned to PILI to continue upon the work of his fellowship.

Upon his return to the US, Sanjay plans to continue his career in human rights. This fall he will be working locally on the domestic issues facing local residents dealing with immigration. It is his goal to be a Human Rights lawyer upon graduation from UM this spring.

## HOPE Fellows: Making A Difference!



## Center for Ethics and Public Service

The Center for Ethics and Public Service was created in 1996 as an interdisciplinary clinical program. Today, the Center operates three in-house clinics and two educational programs in the fields of ethics education, professional training, and community service. For more information on the clinical opportunities available through the center, please contact Cynthia McKenzie, Coordinator at 305-284-3424 or [cymckenz@law.miami.edu](mailto:cymckenz@law.miami.edu).

**Center for Ethics & Public Service  
2006 Fall Reception  
Wednesday, September 20, 2006  
4:30 p.m. - refreshments  
5:00 p.m. - ceremony  
Law Library, 4th Floor Faculty  
Meeting Room (G480)**

*The expressed opinions, informational content and links displayed on HOPE's website and the publications DO NOT necessarily reflect a position or policy of H.O.P.E., the University of Miami School of Law or its affiliates. No official endorsement by H.O.P.E. of the content shared on the web pages/printed publications should be inferred.*

# HOPE Challenge!

## *Do You Accept?*

HOPE (Helping Others through Pro Bono Efforts) extends a challenge to the University of Miami School of Law students: Perform 25 hours of community service/advocacy each year of law school.

As the Public Interest Resource Center at the School of Law, HOPE offers a variety of community service and legal advocacy projects throughout the year. HOPE links students to resources in the law school and the community for meaningful and rewarding experiences. HOPE provides flexible opportunities to get involved with service and outreach, whether you have one hour a week, or are just looking to make a difference on a special day.

The UM School of Law does not have a mandatory pro bono program, which makes the extraordinary commitment to community service demonstrated by our students truly voluntary and impressive. It is apparent that the lack of a requirement has not stopped students from participating in the service opportunities here. During the 2005-2006 school year, HOPE had over 240 active volunteers providing over 3,200 hours of community service and legal advocacy work around the South Florida community. Of the 240, the first year law students made a notable contribution, showing that there is life after class!

A record of hours for each volunteer is kept in the HOPE office. It is not important that the service performed by through a HOPE program — quite to the contrary! Any and all service should be logged with HOPE. We want to celebrate the ethic of service which resounds throughout our campus community and beyond! Students, whether working through civic organizations, religious organizations, community agencies, or non-profits, should log all uncompensated hours with HOPE.

Students are honored each year at the HOPE Recognition. In addition, those students who have performed over 25 hours of law-related work will be given transcript recognition.

To kick off a year of volunteerism, HOPE sponsored the HOPE Day of Service during Orientation 2006. It was the first of many opportunities to show your interest in volunteering. Act now and let the H.O.P.E. team know of your interest by emailing for more information at [um-hope@law.miami.edu](mailto:um-hope@law.miami.edu). The calendar of projects is already being set for the Fall '06 and Spring '07 semesters, so be sure to check out the H.O.P.E. website at [www.law.miami.edu/hope](http://www.law.miami.edu/hope).

***Your career at the University of Miami School of Law starts now. How do you intend to leave your mark?***



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever does.”*

*~ Margaret Mead*