

CENTER FOR ETHICS & PUBLIC SERVICE NEWS

University of Miami School of Law

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A NOTE FROM VISITING SENIOR FELLOW JANET RENO



Janet Reno

As a lawyer, I have worked to improve the criminal justice system to assure that those who enter it are treated justly. The Center for Ethics & Public Service shares this vision with me in training young lawyers to serve our community. As you will read in the articles below, each project is an outreach to my beloved Miami community. The Community Health Rights Education Clinic ("CHRE") reaches out to those living in poverty who need food stamps or medical assistance, to parents dying of AIDS who need permanency planning for their children, and to immigrants restarting their lives. The Community Economic Development and Design

clinic ("CEDAD") reaches out to the West Coconut Grove population seeking to help in the redevelopment of that community with small business planning, land trusts, and teaching on landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities. The Bar and Bench project serves our legal community through ethics trainings to non-profit organizations, Bar associations and law firms. The Education group's Street Law project reaches out to our youth by teaching in public and private middle schools and high schools. The breadth and quality of the ten running projects of the Center is inspiring.

In my time with the Center, I have been able to speak at legal seminars and classes, in high schools, to the UM undergraduates, and at Conferences. I have researched and lobbied for exoneration of the innocent through the application of DNA testing to their cases. There has been a great variety in the ways I am asked to serve and work with students. It has been a privilege.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Faculty Approves Community Clinics

In Spring of 2004, the Faculty voted to approve both CHRE and CEDAD as in-house live-client clinics to be housed in the Center for Ethics & Public Service. This recognition is a joyful validation of the Center's hard work since 1996. A result of this recognition of clinical status is the hiring of **Yasmin Jacob** as a full-time Clinical Fellow whose primary responsibility is overseeing the CHRE project.

Professor Anthony Alfieri Honored for CHRE Clinic

The Association of American Law Schools Clinical Section Committee on Lawyering in the Public Interest has chosen Ethics Center Director **Anthony Alfieri** to be a 2005 Bellow Scholar, which honors the path-breaking clinical work of Harvard Law School's Gary Bellow. The prestigious award bestows national recognition upon the work and dedication of Professor Alfieri and the Community Health Rights Education Clinic in developing an innovative, community-based, interdisciplinary medical-legal collaboration among the faculty and students of the Schools of Law, Medicine, and Nursing here at the University of Miami. Professor Alfieri will be appointed as the Bellow Scholar at the AALS annual meeting in San Francisco in January, 2005.

CHRE Reaches Out to a Community in Need

By Clinical Fellow Yasmin Jacob

CHRE Fellows and Interns continued their collaborative venture with the University of Miami Schools of Medicine and Nursing by delivering "health rights check-ups" to over 25 low income patients of Jackson Memorial Hospital's obstet-

CENTER AWARDS

- BELLOW SCHOLAR AWARD, ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, 2005
- CIRCLE OF OMICRON DELTA KAPPA, NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HONOR SOCIETY, 2002
- MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST *ARETE* AWARD, 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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PUBLIC SERVICE

rics/gynecology, adolescent medicine, family medicine, and pediatric clinics. CHRE students provided “self-help” legal information and direct representation to Miami-Dade County’s underserved population by guiding clients through the complex maze of accessing public benefits, drafting permanency planning documents for patients suffering from HIV and AIDS, and advocating on behalf of immigrants in danger of being deported. CHRE’s dedicated Fellows and Interns touched the lives of many marginalized members of our community: **Citizens Board Fellow Kiran Soni** succeeded in obtaining lawful permanent residence for two Cuban siblings. Because of Kiran’s hard work, the two teenagers are now working and attending school, and can look forward to a bright future in the United States. CHRE **Interns Wendi Adelson and Andres Rubinoff**, and **Steel Hector & Davis Fellow Jennifer Ellis** successfully argued two evidentiary hearings before the Miami Immigration Court on behalf of their client, an Iraqi national seeking political asylum. Additionally, **Akerman Senterfitt Fellow Cory Calmes** helped an HIV+ mother execute guardianship documents for her children, while **Citizens Board Fellow Andrea Nathan** and **Intern Nikhil Heble** are in the process of assisting a Jackson Memorial Hospital patient obtain disability benefits. CHRE also represents families who have fled persecution from Colombia and Burma.

This semester CHRE integrated a new component into its community service efforts by implementing its Community Outreach Project: Led by **Akerman Senterfitt Fellow Cory Calmes and Citizens Board Fellow Joanna Toy**, CHRE developed and presented eight “know your rights” workshops which were designed to inform the community on the availability of various forms of public benefits, educate undocumented persons on their immigration rights, and raise community awareness of CHRE’s services. **Peter Palermo Fellow Alexandra Parra, Citizens Board Fellow Andrea Nathan**, and **Intern Nikhil Heble** also joined forces with the Center’s Community Economic Development and Design Clinic (CEDAD), in presenting tenants’ rights workshops to patients, medical staff, and social workers of Jackson Memorial Hospital. Interns **Ajay Rai and Talia Houminer** expanded CHRE’s outreach effort by holding workshops for teachers, parents, and nursing students of John F. Kennedy Middle School in Miami Beach. In all, CHRE reached out to over 100 people in need of legal rights information. Finally, CHRE was fortunate to have the help of four **Undergraduate Interns Megha Garg, Callie Siman, Adele Bagley, and Carmen Davila** who volunteered their time and talent to support CHRE’s endeavors.

CEDAD EXPANDS INTO MUNICIPAL EQUITY AND NONPROFIT CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

By Professor Anthony Alfieri and Fellow Angela Nolfi

Thanks to the continuing support of **Greenberg Traurig** and the **John B. Alfieri Fund**, the Center’s Community Economic Development and Design (CEDAD) Clinic enlarged its joint venture partnership with the School of Architecture’s Center for Urban and Community Design this fall to add new projects on municipal equity advocacy and nonprofit corporate responsibility. The new initiatives augment the clinic’s ongoing tenant and homeowner rights education workshops in low-income neighborhoods throughout Miami-Dade County.



Interns Ronald Tomassi and Eric Ray meeting with West Coconut Grove residents Edna Dukes and Rufus Royal.

Led by **Alfieri Fellow Angela Nolfi, Interns Eric Ray and Ronald Tomassi**, and undergraduate **Intern Michelle Beyer**, the Tenants-Homeowners Rights Project conducted tenants’ rights education and predatory lending homeowner workshops for the “Village West” Homeowners and Tenants Association, a community organization consisting of tenants and homeowners in the West Grove, and for Neighborhood Housing Services in Little Haiti. Moreover, Fellows and Interns collaborated with the Center’s Community Health Rights Education Clinic in conducting tenants’ rights work-

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shops for HIV-positive young adult patients at the School of Medicine’s Mailman Center for Child Development. Additionally, Fellows and Interns formed partnerships with Legal Services of Greater Miami and the Miami Workers Center to conduct legal research and analysis of business and residential displacement in Liberty City. Noting these growing partnerships, **Fellow Angela Nolfi** remarked: “We have been very fortunate to have formed alliances with such dedicated members of the community, and we look forward to future efforts with our strategic partners.”

The Nonprofit Corporate Responsibility Project, led by **Kenny Nachwalter Fellow Robert Flicker, Interns Adriana Riviere, Michael Foelster, and Caroline Klancke**, and undergraduate **Intern Denise Cazobon**, is developing training workshops to educate community-based nonprofits on their corporate duties and responsibilities under federal and state law. In the fall, the interns conducted legal research, compiled educational materials, and surveyed the needs of the South Florida nonprofit community, particularly faith-based and social services organizations. Further, they convened meetings with leading nonprofit academics and professionals at the University and in the corporate community, including accountants and lawyers. In the spring, building on nonprofit needs-based assessments, Fellows and Interns will provide nonprofit board and management training, emphasizing director and officer duties, conflict of interest procedures, confidentiality agreements, and compliance policies. Commenting on the importance of the clinic’s new nonprofit initiative, **Caroline Klancke** observed: “Our work enables local nonprofits to better serve the compelling needs of the low-income community in Miami-Dade County.”

The Municipal Equity Project, led by **Greenberg Traurig Fellow Zachary Hicks, Interns Lauren Littleton, Kelley Spencer, Emily Guerin, and Mark Rooney**, and undergraduate **Intern Amy Landau**, investigated race discrimination in public housing within Miami-Dade County focusing on recent federal court litigation. The litigation required the County to enact policies and provide incentives to encourage desegregation in public housing. Fellows and Interns have been reviewing the effectiveness of compliance and enforcement efforts, and exploring alternative remedies based on economic incentives. In the spring, they will collaborate with community-based organizations on a comprehensive plan to combat continuing public housing discrimination. Citing this collaboration, **Kelley Spencer** commented: “Our expanding community-based collaborations will provide us with an opportunity for the direct representation of the victims of displacement and public housing segregation.” Planning for these collaborations will begin at a spring symposium to discuss key themes in the municipal equity movement.

ETHICS TRAINING

By and for the Bar and Bench

By: Post-Graduate Fellow Jessi Tamayo

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ETHICS SYMPOSIUM:

The **Criminal Justice Ethics Symposium** will take place April 8, 2005 in the Storer Auditorium at the University. The Center is working in close conjunction with **Steven Chaykin** of Zuckerman Spaeder as well as with **Dean Carol Cope** of the Law School’s Continuing Legal Education Office to organize the full-day event. The Keynote Speaker will be **former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno**. The event will include additional panels dealing with white collar crime, prosecutorial and defender ethics, and judicial ethics. The research and educational materials for the Symposium will be prepared by **Zuckerman Spaeder Fellow Ashley Sybesma, Intern Kellie Kagan, and**

Undergraduate Intern Aditi Kothekar. The materials for the Judicial Ethics Panel will be prepared by **Hoeveler Fellow Manuel Alex Gomez, Intern Shanelle Boyd, and Undergraduate Intern Pooja Asnani**.

BANKRUPTCY BAR ASSOCIATION:

In conjunction with the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida and **Paul Keenan** of Greenberg Traurig, the Bar and Bench Group is preparing a Continuing Legal Education Training for members of the federal Southern District Bankruptcy Bar. The Training will take place in early February and will address confidentiality and privilege issues that arise when two law firms are representing the same client in different matters.

ETHICS TRAINING

By and for the Bar and Bench

The students who will be preparing the training are **Bankruptcy Bar Fellow Ihsan Speede-Franklin, Intern Randi MacDonald, and Undergraduate Intern Dante Trevisani.**

LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI:

On November 16, 2004 the Bar and Bench Group presented an Ethics Continuing Legal Education Training to Legal Services of Greater Miami. The training focused on information sharing between professionals and the subsequent confidentiality and attorney-client privilege issues that arise. **Margaret Zehren**, LSGMI Director of Training, praised the Interns for “doing a great job both in their presentation and answering questions,” adding that “[t]he materials will also be of great use to us.” Credit to **Bar and Bench Interns Cheryl Tedeschi and Cynthia Raleigh** for a complex training.

FEDERAL COURT CLERKS TRAINING:

On October 22, 2004 the Bar and Bench Group presented a Continuing Legal Education training to first year federal court clerks at the Dyer Courthouse in downtown Miami. The training was held in **United States Magistrate Judge White’s Courtroom**. In conjunction with Judge James I. Cohn’s **Law Clerk Phillip Rothschild**, Bar and Bench Fellows and Interns put together a dynamic training entitled “Being an Active, Qualified and Collegial Clerk: A Double Edged Sword?” The training addressed some of the obstacles a federal court clerk may face while maintaining the “appearance of impropriety.” The training was prepared by **Hoeveler Fellow Manuel Alex Gomez, Intern Shanelle Boyd, and Undergraduate Intern Pooja Asnani.**

GREENBERG TRAURIG:

On December 16, 2004 the Bar and Bench Group presented a Continuing Legal Education Training to the attorneys at Greenberg Traurig which was simultaneously teleconferenced to all of Greenberg’s offices across the country. The training analyzed two ABA Formal Opinions that specifically address lawyer reporting requirements regarding knowledge of another lawyer’s mental impairment, including drug or alcohol abuse. The training was prepared by **Greenberg Traurig Fellow Joshua Bosin, Intern David Smith, and Undergraduate Intern Shannon Ashford.**



An overview of Thane Rosenbaum’s, “The Myth of Moral Justice” (l-r) Post-Graduate Fellow **Jessi Tamayo**, **Thane Rosenbaum J.D.1986**, Dean **Jeannette Hausler**.

ETHICS EDUCATION

For Middle School, High School and College Students

STREET LAW PROJECT THRIVES THANKS TO HUNTON & WILLIAMS AND PALMER TRINITY SCHOOL

By Deputy Director Karen Throckmorton

A recurring challenge in ethics education is that of leading a discussion without appearing righteous. A goal is to illicit critical thinking and self-analysis to help the student think through his or her position on complex issues and search for inconsistencies between core values, lifestyle, and attitudes. Fascinating work. The team of educators in our Street Law project this fall is bright, prepared, and committed to raising the level of ethical discourse in the classroom. **Hunton & Williams** and **Palmer Trinity School** are now in their fifth year of sponsorship of these programs which challenge teens to develop into moral and ethical critical thinkers.

The ethics collaboration with Palmer Trinity School has included classroom teachings, political debates and convocations. Our two “Presidential Debates” were prepared by **Interns Josh Shore, Shagufa Hossain, and Undergraduate Intern Alicia Kelman**. They dealt with foreign and domestic issues focusing on international relations, domestic security, education and healthcare. **Palmer Trinity Fellow Nathaniel Tobin** remarked: “Debate and discussion have been educational. The students are engaging and inquisitive. The Center’s ethics collaboration with Palmer Trinity has proven to be a joy and has provided

ETHICS EDUCATION

For Middle School, High School and College Students

a great forum for teaching.”

At Miami Senior High, **Hunton & Williams Fellow Lauren Bercuson** and **Interns Nicole Wiseberg, Risa Berrin, and Allison Gillus** have taught weekly ethics case studies based on Supreme Court cases. The focus has been on Constitutional rights and analysis. **Lauren Bercuson** reflected, “Teaching at Miami Senior High this semester was the most rewarding experience I have had at Law School. Listening to the students formulate their opinions and think like ‘lawyers’ is extremely rewarding for us as ‘teachers’ because it demonstrates that they are really learning and benefiting from our program.”

On campus, we forged a new frontier this fall in offering a College Freshman Seminar entitled, “Law, Public Policy & Ethics.” An outreach from the Law School to the undergrads, this class was vibrant, informative, and challenging. We had five Mock Trials, teachings from “Professors” **Tad Foote** and **Janet Reno**, and several in class competitions. Class “T.A.” and **Catsman Fellow Camila Tobon** judged some of the Mock Trials and noted that “the students were very engaged in the subject matter and we had excellent class discussions.”

Across three different frontiers Center Fellows and Interns have led ethics discussions – challenging students in Middle School, High School and the College of Arts & Sciences to re-evaluate their thoughts and lives. In the process, both Center faculty and students who focus on serving the community are also challenged. As stated by **Intern Josh Shore**, “The Center for Ethics & Public Service has forced me to look up from my textbooks in order to develop practical social and professional skills that I have exercised to blaze a trail of community interest that I hope to follow throughout my career.”



Interns Allison Gillus and Risa Berrin teaching an ethics case study sponsored by Hunton & Williams at Miami Senior High School.



At a Mock Oral Argument on freedom of the press, “Judge” and UM President Emeritus Tad Foote surrounded by (l-r) Undergrads Sarab Catanzaro, Jodie Barkin, Reed Williams and Rocky Xu.

ARTS & SCIENCES COLLOQUIA

By Post-Graduate Fellow Jessi Tamayo

Fall 2004 was busy and productive for the students in the Arts & Sciences Colloquia as they continued to educate and inform on issues of law, public policy, and ethics, and assumed responsibility for coordinating the Undergraduate Intern Program. The A&S Colloquia Project sponsored and presented ten ethics and leadership events with various undergraduate departments, programs, and student organizations including Phi Alpha Delta (pre-law society); Undergraduate Leadership Programs; Students Together Ending Poverty (S.T.E.P.); Minority Women in Medicine; and the University of Miami Athletic Department. Symposia, panels, and case study presentations involved diverse legal and ethical topics such as same-sex marriage, minors and capital punishment, poverty law, euthanasia and assisted suicide, academic fraud and athletics. **Intern**

Mary Clark researched, coordinated, and moderated the Colloquia’s largest fall event, the October 18th symposium entitled, “Blind Justice: Juveniles & the Death Penalty.” Over 115 people attended to hear a distinguished panel composed of **Director of the Juvenile Death Penalty Initiative Steve Harper, Children & Youth Law Clinic Director Bernard Perlmutter, former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, and UM School of Law Professor Bruce Winick.** In total, over 330 students, professors, lawyers, judges and community members attended and participated in these programs. Student leaders for these events included **Arts & Sciences Fellow Mary Wiethorn and Interns Aziza Botchway, Melissa Cardoza, and Mary Clark, and Undergraduate Intern Annette Ponnock.**

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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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John B. Alfieri Fellow Angela Nolfi presenting the Friend of the Center Award to Luce Professor Samina Quraesbi from the School of Architecture for her inspirational work in the Community Economic Development and Design Project ("CEDAD") for West Coconut Grove



Interns Josh Shore and Risa Berrin with Hodding Carter III, President of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation at a Leadership Breakfast.



CEPS Graduate Ivette Arango speaking at the Fall Reception sponsored by Elinor Catsman and the Jefferson Lee Ford III Foundation



At an Ethical Issues in Medical Malpractice Roundtable: Zuckerman Spaeder Fellow Ashley Sybesma; Steve Stark, of Fowler White Burnett; Lynn Audie of Stephens Lynn Klein LaCava Hoffman & Puya; Post-Graduate Fellow Jessi Tamayo; and Andy Needle of Needle, Gallagher & Ellenberg.



Senior United States Federal Magistrate Peter R. Palermo with the first Peter Palermo Fellow, Alexandra Parra.



Director of the Juvenile Death Penalty Initiative Stephen Harper; Children & Youth Law Clinic Director Bernard Perlmutter; UM Law School Professor Bruce Winick, former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, and Interns Mary Clark and Melissa Cardoza



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