

CENTER FOR ETHICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT, 2017-2018

MISSION

Founded in 1996, the Center for Ethics and Public Service is a law school-housed experiential education, skills training, and community engagement program devoted to the values of ethical judgment, professional responsibility, and public service in law and society. The Center's mission is to educate law students to serve their communities as citizen lawyers.¹

HISTORY

For 23 years, the Center has served as an incubator and an accelerator for numerous public service projects at the law school. The projects include clinics (Children and Youth Law Clinic, Community Lawyering Clinic, Health Law Clinic, and Social Enterprise Clinic), programs (Dartmouth College Ethics Institute Internship Program, Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program, Street Law Program, and Joint College of Arts & Sciences Program on Law, Public Policy, and Ethics), summer colloquia (UM Environmental Justice, Policy, & Science Consortium), and documentary films (Oral History & Documentary Film Project).²

FACULTY AND STAFF

The Center's faculty and staff include Professor Anthony Alfieri, Environmental Justice Clinic Associate Director Natalie Barefoot, Mysun Foundation Fellow Daniela Tagtachian, Senior Fellow Edith Georgi, Faculty Assistant Ebonie Carter, and Senior Program Manager Lauren Madigan.

PROGRAMS

The Center operates three programs: the *Environmental Justice Clinic*, *Historic Black Church Program*, and *Legal Profession Roundtable Program*. The Programs collaborate with schools across the University of Miami as well as the

¹ In April 2016, the University of Miami Faculty Senate unanimously approved the five-year continuance of the Center.

² The *Oral History & Documentary Film Project* compiles oral history archives and produces film documentaries to preserve the cultural and social history of low- and moderate-income communities of color in South Florida. Since 2010, the project has produced five films documenting the history of Coconut Grove Village West, public school segregation in Miami-Dade County, and environmental injustice in the City of Miami.

Florida bar and bench, civil rights and environmental organizations, faith-based groups, nonprofit corporations, and civic and neighborhood associations.

Environmental Justice Clinic

The *Environmental Justice Clinic* provides rights education, interdisciplinary research, policy resources, and advocacy and transactional assistance to underserved low-and-moderate-income communities in the contexts of the built and natural environment across the fields of civil rights, environmental protection, poverty law, and public health.³ Clinic highlights include advancing state and federal class action lawsuits in, respectively, *Styles v. City of Miami* (“Old Smokey”) and *Miller v. City of Fort Myers* to clean up and/or monitor the health effects of toxic dumpsites in low-income communities of color in Miami and Fort Meyers. The Clinic also is conducting investigations of municipal practices that displace inner-city tenants and homeowners, perpetuate segregation, potentially violate fair housing laws, and impair the health and well-being of low-income communities in Miami.

Historic Black Church Program

The *Historic Black Church Program* is a community outreach and rights education project operated in partnership with more than 60 inner-city, faith-based groups, nonprofit corporations, and civic and neighborhood associations in South Florida.⁴ Program highlights include community-based advocacy and organizing in support of the *West Grove Trolley Garage Campaign*, which halted the discriminatory placement of a City of Coral Gables municipal bus depot in the historically segregated neighborhood of Coconut Grove Village West, and in the *East Gables Trolley Access Campaign*, which won municipal trolley service for residents of the historically segregated MacFarlane Homestead Subdivision and the Golden Gates District of East Coral Gables.

Legal Profession Roundtable Program

The *Legal Profession Roundtable Program* includes both CLE-oriented Legal Malpractice and Professional Liability Roundtables and student-centered Leadership

³ At UM, the Clinic collaborates with the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy, Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, School of Communication, School of Education & Human Development, and the School of Medicine’s Graduate Program in Public Health.

⁴ Program partners include the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance of Black Churches, Collective Empowerment Group (a tri-county consortium of 40 churches), Goulds Coalition of Ministers and Laypeople, Grove United Environmental Health Coalition, Housing For All, Coconut Grove Homeowners and Tenants Association (West Grove), Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association (East Gables), St. Paul Community Development Corporation, and South Miami Concerned Clergy and Citizens Coalition.

Roundtables in cooperation with Florida bar associations, federal and state courts, law firms, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Program highlights include two Legal Malpractice and Professional Liability Roundtables, the 2017 Lawyers in Leadership Award luncheon honoring Miami Law graduate Monica Vignes-Pitan, the new Executive Director of Legal Services of Greater Miami, the 2017 Hoeveler Award luncheon honoring Friends of the Everglades, represented by Vice President of Conservation Alan Farago, and several Leadership Roundtable lunches with leading members of the South Florida bar.

INTERNAL AWARDS

The Center confers three annual leadership awards: the *William M. Hoeveler Award*, *Lawyers in Leadership Award*, and *Friends of the Center Award*. The *William M. Hoeveler Award* honors extraordinary members of the bar and bench as well as organizations distinguished by their long-standing dedication to ethics and public service. The *Lawyers in Leadership Award* honors outstanding members of the bar and bench as well as organizations distinguished by their dedication to ethics and civic leadership. The *Friends of the Center Award* honors civic-minded members of the South Florida community distinguished by their contribution to the mission of the Center for Ethics & Public Service. See Appendix A.

EXTERNAL AWARDS

The Center has won numerous local, state, and national awards, including two American Bar Association awards, three Association of American Law School awards, and both Florida Bar and Florida Supreme Court awards. See Appendix B.

PHYSICAL SPACE

The Center occupies four offices (G277, G257, G258, & G259) and a student workroom (G262) on the second floor of the law school library.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Since 1996, the Center has trained over 1,265 fellows and interns, and served more than 46,700 members of the Florida community, including university undergraduate and graduate students, government agencies, high schools and middle schools, homeowners and tenants, lawyers and judges, nonprofit organizations and neighborhood associations, and civic leaders. In addition, the Center's faculty has been widely cited in law journals and in the media.

APPENDIX A: AWARDS CONFERRED

WILLIAM M. HOEVELER AWARD, 2002-2017

Friends of the Everglades, 2017
The Honorable Marcia G. Cooke, 2016
George Knox, 2015
The Honorable Barbara J. Pariente, 2014
The Honorable Jay Cristol, 2013
The Honorable Justice R. Fred Lewis, 2012
Katherine Fernandez Rundle, 2011
The Honorable Joseph W. Hatchett, 2010
The Honorable Donald L. Graham, 2009
The Honorable Mario P. Goderich, 2008
The Honorable Peter T. Fay, 2007
Janet Reno, 2006
The Honorable Rosemary Barkett, 2005
Walter H. Beckham, Jr., 2004
The Honorable Daniel S. Pearson, 2003
The Honorable William M. Hoeveler, 2002

LAWYERS IN LEADERSHIP AWARD, 2000-2017

Monica Vignes-Pitan, 2017
Charles E. Elsesser, Jr., 2016
The Honorable Darrin P. Gayles, 2015
Elizabeth Schwartz, 2014
Patricia Redmond, 2013
Carlos J. Martinez, 2012
Joseph Centorino, 2011
Marcia K. Cypen, 2010
Kathleen Williams, 2009
Cheryl Little, 2008
The Honorable Peter R. Palermo, 2007
Edna Shalala, 2007
M. Minnette Massey, 2006
Jeannette F. Hausler, 2005
The Honorable Patricia A. Seitz, 2005
H. T. Smith, 2003
Carlos M. de la Cruz, 2002
The Honorable Joan A. Lenard, 2002
Richard C. Milstein, 2002

Ellen Catsman Freidin, 2001
Joseph P. Klock, 2001
The Honorable Henry Latimer, 2001
President Emeritus Edward T. Foote II, 2000

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER AWARD, 2001-2017

Cynthia McKenzie & Jan Jacobowitz, 2016
Ralf Brookes, 2014
Philip Freidin, 2014
Lowell J. Kuvin, 2014
Joel S. Perwin, 2014
Cristina Favretto, 2013
Laverne Pinkney, 2013
Beatrice Colastin Skokan, 2013
Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, 2012
Donald A. Cramp, Jr., 2012
Karen Throckmorton, 2011
JoNel Newman, 2010
Bernard P. Perlmutter, 2010
Kele Stewart Williams, 2010
John M. Barkett, 2009
Neal R. Sonnett, 2008
Dennis O. Lynch, 2007
Jessi Tamayo, 2007
Sandford L. Bohrer, 2006
Charles E. Elsesser, Jr., 2006
Arturo Brito, M.D., 2005
Lawrence Friedman, M.D., 2005
JoNell Efantis-Potter, R.N., Ph.D., 2005
Hy Shapiro, 2005
Gwen Wurm, M.D., 2005
Louis J. Chiavacci, 2004
Dr. Susan Mullane, 2004
Samina Quraeshi, 2004
Ed Asper, 2003
Juan C. Enjamio, 2003
Adrian J. Parry, 2003
Laura C. Walker, 2003
Steven E. Chaykin, 2002
Holly R. Skolnick, 2002
Elinor Catsman, 2001

APPENDIX B: AWARDS RECEIVED

CENTER AWARDS

2014 Miami People, Miami New Times
2014 Community Recognition Award, G.W. Carver High School Alumni Association
2012 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award, American Bar Association
2012 Public Interest Innovative Service Award, UM School of Law
2011 Appreciation Award, Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, Inc.
2009 Innovative Service in the Public Interest Award, UM School of Law
2007 Innovative Service in the Public Interest Award, UM School of Law
2007 William Pincus Award, AALS Section on Clinical Education
2007 Father Robert Drinan Award, AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service
2004-2005 Gary Bellow Scholar, AALS Section on Clinical Education
2002 UM Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society
2001 *Arete* Award, Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
2000 Seventh Annual Professionalism Award, The Florida Bar
1999 Faculty Professionalism Award, Florida Supreme Court
1998 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award, American Bar Association

STUDENT AWARDS

2018 Miami Coalition of Christians and Jews, Silver Medallion Award
Alison Kasney, Interdisciplinary Intern (School of Education)
2018 Exemplary Service to the Poor Award, UM School of Law
Kiana Courtney, 3L Fellow
Daniel Hales, 3L Fellow
Jennifer Ledig, 3L Fellow
2017 Exemplary Service to the Poor Award, UM School of Law
Ellen Degnan, 2L Intern
Brittany Thomas, 2L Intern
2016 Exemplary Service to the Poor Award, UM School of Law
Stephanie Rosendorf, 3L Fellow
2015 Exemplary Service to the Poor Award, UM School of Law
Brittany Ford, 3L Fellow