

CENTER FOR ETHICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT, 2020–2021

MISSION

Founded in 1996, the Center for Ethics and Public Service is a law school-housed ethics education, experiential 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 25 years, the Center has served as an incubator and an accelerator for numerous public service initiatives. They include on-campus and off-campus ***clinics*** (Children and Youth Law Clinic, Community Economic Development & Design Clinic, Community Lawyering Clinic, Environmental Justice Clinic, Health Law Clinic, and Social Enterprise Clinic), ***programs*** (Brown University Institute at Brown for Environment and Society partnership, Dartmouth College Ethics Institute Internship Program, Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program, Street Law Program, and Joint College of Arts and Sciences Program on Law, Public Policy, and Ethics), ***summer colloquia*** (UM Environmental Justice, Policy, & Science), and ***oral histories and documentary films*** (Oral History & Documentary Film Project).²

FACULTY AND STAFF

The Center’s faculty and staff include founding Director Professor Anthony Alfieri; Senior Fellows Porpoise Evans, Edith Georgi, Jane Moscovitz, John O’Sullivan, and Dwayne Robinson; Fredman Family Foundation Practitioner-in-Residence Dr. Timothy Loftus; Faculty Assistant Ebonie Carter; and Senior Program Manager Lauren Madigan.³

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.

³ The Center occupies two offices (G277 & G362) and a student workroom (G262) in the UM School of Law Library.

PROGRAMS

The Center operates three programs: the *Community Equity Lab*, the *Historic Black Church Program*, and the *Legal Profession Program*. Program faculty, staff, and students collaborate with schools across the University of Miami⁴ as well as the Florida bar and bench; anti-poverty, civil rights, environmental, and public health organizations; and faith-based groups, nonprofit corporations, and civic and neighborhood associations.

Community Equity Lab

Established in 2018 to address the urgent housing and health needs of socioeconomically impoverished and politically disenfranchised inner-city communities of color, the *Community Equity Lab* integrates anti-poverty and civil rights advocacy and grassroots organizing strategies with university-wide, interdisciplinary resources to advance social justice initiatives at the neighborhood intersection of race and inequality in the areas of education, health, housing, municipal equity, and the natural and built environment. Collaboratively launched with frontline institutions (civic associations, faith-based groups and church congregations, tenant and homeowner organizations) in co-investigative partnerships centered on neighborhood-wide, common entry point issues (displacement, environmental justice, fair and affordable housing, health disparities, and segregation), Lab initiatives seek to: (1) challenge the exclusion of disenfranchised groups from *political, economic, and social systems* to ensure equal access, equality of opportunity, and the fair distribution of public goods and services; (2) increase civic participation and democratic inclusion at local, state, and national levels to make government more representative and responsive; (3) strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of existing community-based organizations and promote innovative institution-building projects sustainable across private, public, and nonprofits sectors; (4) foster leadership development and professional training programs to counter entrenched cultural narratives of powerlessness; and (5) rebuild neighborhood civic infrastructures and link civic engagement constituencies to broader anti-poverty and civil rights advocacy and organizing networks locally, regionally, and nationally.

⁴ University partners include: Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy, College of Arts and Sciences Department of Geography and Regional Studies, Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, School of Communication, School of Education & Human Development, School of Medicine's Department of Public Health Sciences, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the UM Libraries.

Lab Projects

The Community Equity Lab houses two projects: the *Health Disparities Project* and the *Housing and Community Economic Development Project*.

Health Disparities Project

Launched in 2020 in collaboration with the School of Medicine’s MD/MPH Program, the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, and a coalition of community partners, the *Health Disparities Project* addresses community-centered health law and policy research, advocacy, and reform in South Florida.⁵

Housing and Community Economic Development Project

Created in 1999 as a joint venture with the School of Architecture’s Center for Urban and Community Design to develop interdisciplinary teaching, research, and neighborhood technical assistance models promoting municipal equity in the built environment, the *Housing and Community Economic Development Project* has grown into a broader collaboration with a coalition of community partners, including civic associations, Black churches, and tenant and homeowner organizations, seeking to (i) halt the eviction, displacement, and resegregation of vulnerable tenants and homeowners; (ii) negotiate community benefits agreements; (iii) reform segregative land use and zoning policies; and (iv) build and rehabilitate fair, affordable, and integrated housing.

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.⁶ 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

⁵ During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Health Disparities Project received both a grant from the University of Miami Laboratory for Integrative Knowledge (U-LINK) and an Association of American Medical Colleges Next Award for its foundational research titled “COVID-19: Evaluating Fault Lines in the Health of Our Communities and Developing Community-Centered Solutions.”

⁶ Program partners include the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance of Black Churches, Coconut Grove Village West Housing and Community Development Task Force, Collective Empowerment Group (a tri-county consortium of 40 churches), Grove Rights and Community Equity, Inc., Coconut Grove Village West Homeowners and Tenants Association, Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association (East Gables), St. Paul Community Development Corporation, and South Miami Concerned Clergy and Citizens Coalition.

neighborhood of Coconut Grove Village West; 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; and the *Coconut Grove Village West Housing and Community Development Task Force Campaign*, a fair-and-affordable housing coalition of civic associations, Black church congregations, and tenant and homeowner organizations now operating under the auspices of Grove Rights and Community Equity, Inc. (GRACE).

Legal Profession Program

The *Legal Profession Program* includes both CLE-oriented practice seminars and student-centered leadership workshops in cooperation with Florida bar associations, federal and state courts, law firms, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Program highlights include Legal Malpractice and Law Firm Management Roundtables, Lawyers in Leadership Award and Hoeveler Award luncheons, and Legal Profession Colloquia with leading members of the South Florida bar and bench.

INTERNAL AWARDS

The Center confers three leadership awards: the *William M. Hoeveler Award*, the *Lawyers in Leadership Award*, and the *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 historical 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 and Public Service. See Appendix A.

EXTERNAL AWARDS

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Since 1996, Center faculty and staff have trained more than 1,332 graduate and undergraduate fellows and interns, and collaborated with more than 47,600 civic leaders in ethics and professionalism programs as well as anti-poverty, civil rights, environmental justice, and public health campaigns. Center faculty also have been widely cited in law journals and in the media.

APPENDIX A: AWARDS CONFERRED

WILLIAM M. HOEVELER AWARD, 2002-2020

The Honorable Adalberto Jordan, 2020
Julie K. Brown, 2019
Patricia Borns & Jenny Staletovich, 2018
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, 2000-2020

Tiffani G. Lee, 2020
The Honorable Jacqueline Becerra, 2019
Florida Justice Institute, 2018
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 & Edna Shalala, 2007
M. Minnette Massey, 2006

LAWYERS IN LEADERSHIP AWARD, 2000-2020

Jeannette F. Hausler & The Honorable Patricia A. Seitz, 2005
H. T. Smith, 2003
Carlos M. de la Cruz, The Honorable Joan A. Lenard, & Richard C. Milstein, 2002
Ellen Catsman Freidin, Joseph P. Klock, & The Honorable Henry Latimer, 2001
President Emeritus Edward T. Foote II, 2000

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER AWARD, 2001-2020

Natalie Barefoot & Daniela Tagtachian, 2019
Cynthia McKenzie & Jan Jacobowitz, 2016
Ralf Brookes, Philip Freidin, Lowell J. Kuvin, & Joel S. Perwin, 2014
Cristina Favretto, Laverne Pinkney, & Beatrice Colastin Skokan, 2013
Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance & Donald A. Cramp, Jr., 2012
Karen Throckmorton, 2011
JoNel Newman, Bernard P. Perlmutter, & Kele Stewart Williams, 2010
John M. Barkett, 2009
Neal R. Sonnett, 2008
Dennis O. Lynch & Jessi Tamayo, 2007
Sandford L. Bohrer & Charles E. Elsesser, Jr., 2006
Arturo Brito, M.D., Lawrence Friedman, M.D., & JoNell Efantis-Potter, R.N., Ph.D.,
Hy Shapiro, & Gwen Wurm, M.D., 2005
Louis J. Chiavacci, Dr. Susan Mullane, & Samina Quraeshi, 2004
Ed Asper, Juan C. Enjamio, Adrian J. Parry, & Laura C. Walker, 2003
Steven E. Chaykin & 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