

CEPS EVENTS



Candace Stephenson, Jan Williams and Matipa Nyamangwanda, PREP Fellows



Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance members speaking at the Historic Black Church Program Oral History Project documentary film screening at Greater St. Paul A.M.E. Church.



Miami STREET LAW Program Director Karen P. Throckmorton, Rob Collins, Jeff Hegewald, Renee Greenberg, Rachel Mitchell, Marisol Vilasuso, Jill Schmidt, Annery Pulgar Alfonso, Rob Weaver, and Scott Merl – CEPS Spring 2011 Reception.



Jacquelyn Temple and Center Director Anthony Alfieri – CEPS Spring 2011 Reception



Left to right: PREP Fellow Gray Rifkin, Professional Responsibility & Ethics Program Director Jan L. Jacobowitz, Fellows Sarah Laputz, Wendi Ribauda, Gayland Hethcoat, Irma Khoja, Brandon Spivack, Darci Cohen, Matipa Nyamangwanda, Milana Kuznetsova, and Jan Williams – CEPS Spring 2011 Reception.



Marcia Cypen, JD '76 Executive Director of the Legal Services of Greater Miami Recipient of the 2010 LAWYERS IN LEADERSHIP AWARD Student moderators: Margaret Kelsey and Simona Popova, recipient Marcia Cypen, Center Director Anthony Alfieri and Miami STREET LAW Director Karen Throckmorton October 2010



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CEPS

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CENTER FOR ETHICS & PUBLIC SERVICE
University of Miami School of Law

DEVOTED TO THE VALUES OF
ETHICAL JUDGMENT,
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
AND PUBLIC SERVICE
IN LAW AND SOCIETY

HISTORIC BLACK CHURCH PROGRAM

By Historic Black Church Program Fellows

The Historic Black Church Program (HBCP) provides resources in education, law, and social services to under-served, predominantly low-income West Grove residents through a partnership with the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance (CGMA), a nonprofit association of historic black churches, as well as other nonprofit organizations and university-affiliated partners. The two student-run projects within HBCP are the Oral History Documentary Film Project and the Pro Bono Project.

After a successful first production highlighting the history of the West Grove, the Oral History Project team prepared the second installment of the HBCP documentary film series. This year's film focused on the history of the founding of ten West Grove churches. Working closely with Ransom High School students and the congregations of the Ministerial Alliance, the team researched and interviewed founding members of the various churches. The 2010-2011 documentary screenings at both the University of Miami campus and Greater St. Paul A.M.E. church in the West Grove were a huge success. As with the first installment of the Oral History Film Project, the Church History documentary has been disseminated among the West Grove churches and nonprofit organizations and is posted on the HBCP website.

HBCP's Pro Bono Project provides rights education seminars, capacity building workshops, and community-based research support to the churches of the CGMA and to local nonprofit organizations.

In an effort to strengthen ties with the West Grove community, students interacted with congregants at Sunday services and visited the many churches involved in the CGMA. Students attended the monthly CGMA meetings, participating in discussion and presenting research in response to community concerns. The team also participated in community and PTA meetings, attended City of Miami hearings related to

nuisance abatement, and met with representatives of nonprofit organizations in the West Grove to discuss the pending rezoning of the area.

The students organized several capacity-building workshops in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office and the Thelma Gibson Health Initiative. These "Consequences Seminars," held in both Coconut Grove and Liberty City, informed children, teens and their parents about the serious consequences of any involvement with the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

Throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, the students conducted research and presented seminars and working papers on the following topics: low-income homeowner property tax reduction strategies; community action against drug houses; community benefits agreements; and 501(c)(3) tax exemptions for charitable organizations. The community-based research working papers are published on the Center for Ethics and Public Service website.

The Pro Bono team also initiated the Communications Task Force, which is a collaboration of West Grove nonprofit and church leaders. The goal of the Communications Task Force is to convey vital information to the broader community about public services offered in the West Grove, such as family health centers, food banks, parenting programs and tutoring programs. The Communications Task Force held a Town Hall

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Jessie Harvin, Jr.

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MIAMI STREET LAW PROGRAM

Empowering Teens Through Legal Education

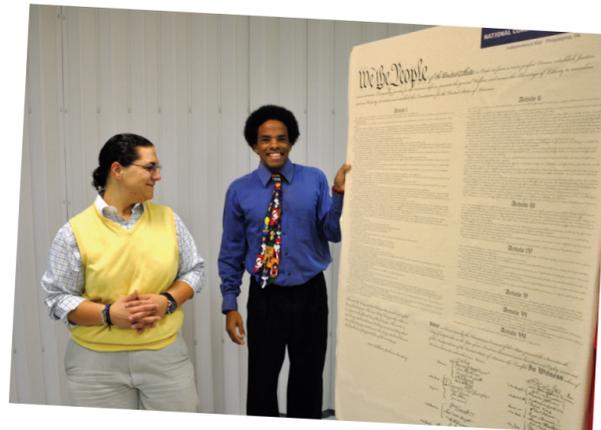
By Director Karen Throckmorton

As we enter our fifteenth year of legal education by law students in Miami Dade High Schools, we reflect on the over 13,000 middle and high school students who have engaged in this program. We are in awe of the 175 Street Lawyers who have researched pertinent legal issues, designed creative interactive formats for teaching, and taught law weekly on top of a full class load in law school since the inception of our outreach to teens in 1996. Street Lawyers currently teach law weekly in eight local high schools. In this year alone, twenty-four Street Lawyers worked over 7000 hours in the community and taught over 650 students. Cases and statutes in constitutional law, criminal law, torts, immigration, and landlord/tenant are taught which require Street Lawyers to learn the law more thoroughly and hone their skills in public speaking and legal analysis.

Here are just a few examples of the hundreds of legal teachings done this year. During the fall, Peter R. Palermo Fellow Jill Schmidt taught a series on the electoral college at Coral Gables High School. Kozyak, Tropin & Throckmorton Fellow Rob Collins created an innovative format on housing discrimination used in several schools. Hurton & Williams Fellow Rob Weaver organized and conducted a symposia at the law school on the legislative process for students from Miami Senior High, Hialeah High, and Miami Northwestern. In the spring semester, Marielys Rosado Barreras created a brochure on the Florida laws on driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The brochure was distributed at a MADD



William M. Hoeveler Fellow Annery Pulgar Alfonso attending lunch with Judge Hoeveler.



Street lawyers Gigi Soliman and Rob Collins teaching the core rights from the Bill of Rights on Constitution Day, September 17, 2010

event at which Marielys taught over 600 attendees. A highlight in February was the victory in the High School Mock trial competition for Miami Dade County. The winning team from Hialeah High School was coached by Street Lawyers William Hoeveler Fellow Annery Alfonso, Daniel Goggin and Marisol Vilasuso. The Mayor of Hialeah formally commended the high school students, the Street Lawyers and Miami STREET LAW for this formidable achievement. Palmer Trinity Fellow Rachael Mitchell led a team in a series of legal teachings on financial management, and constitutional issues.

In the correctional schools, David Catsman Fellow Renee Greenberg continued her intense teaching at a residential facility for pregnant or post-partum teens on issues in family law, landlord/tenant law and estate planning. Kozyak, Tropin & Throckmorton Fellow Jeff Hegewald focused his team on issues in constitutional law, contracts and criminal law. Jeff considers the mock trial at Bay Point an educational highlight which he will never forget.

Street Lawyers have empowered teens through legal education and mentored them to be better citizens. Civic education is a bedrock of democracy and a focus area of Miami STREET LAW.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY & ETHICS PROGRAM (PREP)

By Director Jan Jacobowitz

The Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program (PREP) continued to expand its reach into the South Florida legal community this year by adding new organizations to its CLE training roster. In its first CLE presentation of the academic year, PREP engaged members of the South Miami/Kendall Bar Association in a discussion about the social-networking site Facebook.

The Caribbean Bar Association and the Miami Lakes Bar Association were also new venues. Fellow Matipa Nyamangwanda, Intern Candice Stephenson and Intern Jan Williams developed a training



Left front: PREP Interns Charles Muniz and Candice Stephenson. Right front: Fellow Robert Zavistoski. PREP students presenting at Miami-Dade Legal Aid Society.

that included the ethical issues involved in website advertising, solicitation of clients in chat rooms, and confidentiality issues arising from cloud computing and social media Taylor & Associates, State Farm's in house law firm, welcomes PREP for the first time and interacted with PREP Fellows Ben Carter and Bianca Zuluaga and Intern Jill Martignetti to discuss a personal injury fact pattern designed to raise issues that the firm's attorneys face on a regular basis.

Finally, PREP presented at the City of Miami Beach Legal Department and also had the pleasure of connecting with Miami Law Alumni during PREP trainings for the Broward and Palm Beach Alumni Associations. Intern Daniel Casamayor did a masterful job of organizing a PREP technology team to create innovative hypotheticals for these presentations. Team members, Fellows Brandon Spivack and Ben Carter along with Interns, Kelly Rains, Jill Martignetti, Kyle Marshall, Gray Rifkin and Jan Williams, collaborated and presented cutting edge ethical issues arising in technology and the practice of law. Additionally, Fellow Irma Khoja, and Interns, Jan Williams, Kyle Marshall and Courtney Daniels established a PREP blog team---the plan is to share some of PREP's ethics knowledge next year on a student run blog.

Some of the other presentations involved organizations that

PREP regularly visit, which provides the comfort of historical experience along with the challenge of constructing a new, hot topic presentation each year. This year PREP returned to the non-profit legal service offices of Catholic Charities, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, Miami Dade Legal Aid, and Legal Services of Greater Miami as well as the State Attorney's Office and the Office



Kelly Rains and Simona Popova provide an ethics training for FIAC's attorneys.

of the Public Defender. Additionally, PREP did encore presentations for the Bankruptcy Bar Association and White & Case. Brandon Spivack, a program veteran, commented that, "the PREP trainings allow for the students and current lawyers to learn from each other-- the academic world meets the practical world. This is a truly a unique and beneficial experience for law students because it teaches us how to work the ideologies of law into practice."

Irma Khoja and Matipa Nyamangwanda presented an ethics training for the Annual Consumer Bankruptcy Symposium.

All of the PREP presentations were well received and the students received thanks punctuated with compliments from the attorneys in attendance. Robert Coppel, Director of Training and Professionalism at the Public Defender's Office, provides a complimentary insight into PREP students' goals and accomplishments throughout the community. "For the last three years, thought provoking ethical issues have been brought to the forefront at the Miami-Dade County Public Defender's by the Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program of the University of Miami Law School. With the guidance of Director Jan Jacobowitz, each presentation has been masterfully prepared and presented by law students in the program. Each presentation has been a give-and-take with the attorneys and the law students and hopefully, it has bridged the academic world to the practice of criminal defense."

Continued from front page

meeting in May as the first step in informing the West Grove residents on the many useful resources available through free clinics, church initiatives, the local police force, and the University of Miami. The Pro Bono team represented HBCP at the Town Hall meeting, introducing the various initiatives, explaining how to access the working papers and Oral History film segments, and detailing the seminar topics available.



The Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance (CGMA) presented Professor Anthony Alfieri and the Historic Black Church Fellows with a plaque for their outstanding commitment to the West Grove community. Shown l-r: Anthony Alfieri, CGMA President Pastor Jeffrey Hamilton, and CGMA Vice President Renita Samuels-Dixon.

During the Spring semester, as a result of growing community concern, the Pro Bono team shifted its research and outreach focus to education issues. The students prepared and presented a multi-faceted seminar on education rights, geared towards students and their parents. The presentation was well received by the families in attendance and spurred discussion that will carry the education research focus into the Summer and Fall 2011 semesters. The Pro Bono fellows and interns are continuing to gather data on the present state of public education both locally and nationwide. Current community-based research topics include students' rights, special education resources, and the school-to-prison pipeline.

CENTER AWARDS

- E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award
American Bar Association
1998
- Faculty Professionalism Award
Florida Supreme Court
1999
- Seventh Annual Professionalism Award
The Florida Bar
2000
- Arete Award
Miami-Dade County Commission on
Ethics & Public Trust
2001
- Omicron Delta Kappa Award
National Leadership Honor Society
2002
- Gary Bellow Scholar Award
Association of American Law Schools
2004-2005
- Innovative Service in the
Public Interest Award
Community Economic Development
and Design Program
University of Miami School of Law
2007
- William Pincus Award
Association of American Law Schools
2007
- Father Robert Drinan Award
Association of American Law Schools
2007
- Innovative Service in the
Public Interest Award
Historic Black Church Program
University of Miami School of Law
2009
- Innovative Service in the
Public Interest Award
Miami STREET LAW Program
University of Miami School of Law
2009

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Matipa Nyamangwanda
Bankruptcy Bar Association
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Robert Zavistoski
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• MIAMI STREET LAW PROGRAM

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Rob Collins
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Renee Greenberg
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