

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

CLINICAL LAW PROGRAM

BUILD COMMUNITY BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Jaime Lee

ACTIVISM BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Jessica Emerson

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

Professor **JAIME LEE** and Clinic Fellow **KOMAL VAIDYA**

The **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLINIC** provides a variety of transactional legal services to activists, entrepreneurs and nonprofits who address inequality in Baltimore's historically underserved communities. Student-attorneys counsel on and draft innovative governance, finance and transactional documents that help community enterprises build capacity and provide impact in their surrounding communities. Students and faculty also lead community educational efforts and engage in legislative advocacy on water affordability and billing issues in Baltimore.

2017-18: Student-attorneys helped clients fight for access to good schools and housing in a gentrifying neighborhood, create a professional association for health workers and set up dual for-profit and nonprofit branches of a disaster relief program. They also aided clients who advocated for the development of community-owned land for parks and housing and supported professional development for Baltimore City school teachers.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION PROJECT

Professor **JESSICA EMERSON**

In the **HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION PROJECT**, students participate in broad systemic activism designed to reduce the collateral consequences of criminal justice involvement for survivors of human trafficking and those vulnerable to exploitation. In addition to helping individual clients expunge criminal records resulting from trafficking, students advocate for legislative policies at the intersection of human trafficking and criminal justice reform, employment, immigration, housing instability and youth advocacy. Students also advocate for legislative reform at the state and federal levels to support systemic criminal justice reform.

2017-18: Clinic student-attorneys helped represent human-trafficking survivors in vacating prostitution convictions using Maryland's "vacatur" law, as well as in expungement and shielding cases. They also testified before the Maryland General Assembly in support of a bill that would expand post-conviction relief for human-trafficking survivors, and drafted a petition for a presidential pardon for a client with federal convictions.

LITIGATE BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Daniel Hatcher

SAUL EWING CIVIL ADVOCACY CLINIC

Professors **MICHELE GILMAN** and **DANIEL HATCHER** and Clinical Fellow **NICOLE MCCONLOGUE**

Students enrolled in the **SAUL EWING CIVIL ADVOCACY CLINIC** engage in litigation in federal and state courts and administrative proceedings. Students also defend low-income clients against improper evictions, appealing denials of unemployment insurance, suing to recover illegally withheld security deposits, bringing consumer protection claims, recovering lost wages, advocating for special education services and working to improve laws affecting foster children.

2017-18: Clinic student-attorneys advocated for tenants living in substandard conditions, workers seeking unemployment insurance benefits or unpaid wages, and individuals seeking to expunge criminal records so they can obtain employment. They also aided elderly individuals appealing denials of needed in-home care so they can stay in their homes, and low-income individuals seeking to enforce judgments against unscrupulous auto mechanics. In addition, students advocated for consumer issues and access-to-justice legislation before the Maryland General Assembly.

TAX CREDITS BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Jack Snyder

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

Professor **JACK SNYDER** and Clinical Fellow **ELENA FOWLKES**

In the **LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC**, student-attorneys represent taxpayers in federal tax disputes. Cases involve administrative controversies before the IRS and litigation in federal courts. Students also appear at the U.S. Tax Court in Baltimore to assist unrepresented taxpayers. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the nation's largest poverty relief program. EITC refunds provide a critical financial safety net for low-income families. Unfortunately, the IRS regularly audits returns claiming the EITC, forcing taxpayers to resort to administrative disputes or litigation to prove their entitlement to the credit.

2017-18: The clinic negotiated the compromise of several tax liabilities of hundreds of thousands of dollars for clients who could not afford to pay or incurred their liabilities due to the fraud of third parties. Student-attorneys successfully argued for innocent spouse relief and secured full or partial concessions from the IRS in multiple U.S. Tax Court cases. The clinic also filed its first suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, seeking to recover the taxpayer's EITCs.

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS CLINIC

Professor **ELIZABETH KEYES** and Clinical Fellow **NICKOLE MILLER**

Students participating in the **IMMIGRANT RIGHTS CLINIC** represent low-income immigrants in Immigration Court, in Maryland District Court and before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services. This year, the clinic is expanding its reach into underserved parts of Baltimore's diverse immigrant communities by partnering with Centro Sol, a medical clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Student-attorneys meet weekly with Centro Sol patients, assess their possible immigration options and return for a follow-up counseling session two weeks later. The students also lead a presentation each semester for doctors and social workers at the hospital, to help them understand the array of immigration complexities their patients may be facing.

2017-18: Clinic student-attorneys represented people fleeing gang and domestic violence in Central America and won asylum for many of them. Students also helped clients obtain immigration relief that included asylum, employment authorization and lawful permanent residence.

INNOVATE
BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Elizabeth Keyes

MEDIATION CLINIC FOR FAMILIES

Professor **ROBERT RUBINSON** and Clinical Fellow **LILA MEADOWS**

In the **MEDIATION CLINIC FOR FAMILIES**, students represent clients in the mediation process, co-mediate family law disputes and engage in projects designed to improve the practice of family mediation. The mediation process enables litigants to work collaboratively to resolve disputes. Mediation can benefit families (and especially children) by reducing the acrimony that litigation can intensify. The Mediation Clinic for Families offers students an opportunity to become primary players in this collaborative process by representing clients in mediation and being mediators in actual child-access cases.

2017-18: Student-attorneys represented clients and served as mediators in a range of court-referred child custody disputes. Students also represented clients in the collaborative practice model, in which parties and attorneys work with financial and child development experts seeking to resolve a case without using litigation to determine issues of property distribution, child access and child support.

MEDIATE
BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Robert Robinson

LEARN MORE AND SUPPORT OUR CLINICS

If you'd like to learn more about the University of Baltimore's clinical program and support the important initiatives of our faculty, fellows and student-attorneys, please visit LAW.UBALT.EDU/CLINICS.

OBSERVE, ORGANIZE, ORCHESTRATE BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Colin Starger

PRETRIAL JUSTICE CLINIC

Professor **COLIN STARGER** and Clinical Fellow **ZINA MAKAR**

In the **PRETRIAL JUSTICE CLINIC**, student-attorneys help challenge one of the major sources of mass incarceration in Maryland: the unjust pretrial detention of low-income individuals accused of crimes in Baltimore. Observe, Organize, Orchestrate was the mantra of the student-attorneys in the Pretrial Justice Clinic as they conducted intensive filings for numerous indigent individuals who all faced illegal pretrial detention.

2017-18: The clinic's student-attorneys petitioned state legislators to enact bail reform. Students also represented several clients in court and secured their pretrial release. The students observed bail hearings, organized their observations to identify a common legal error, and then orchestrated a complex process that simultaneously put together petitions for clients wrongfully detained. By filing multiple *habeas corpus* petitions at one time, we hoped to demonstrate the urgency of an all-too-common problem. This is now a process utilized by the Office of the Public Defender to assist in the release of dozens of clients. The PTJC's students thus helped highlight the continuing urgent need for bail reform and pretrial justice.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT

Professor **JANE MURPHY** and Clinical Fellow **LILA MEADOWS**



Professor Jane Murphy

In the **JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT**, student-attorneys represent clients convicted of criminal offenses before the age of 18 and who are sentenced to life or to life without parole. Many of these clients have already served decades of their sentences, having grown up behind bars. Representation by the clinic's student-attorneys may be the first meaningful opportunity these individuals have to present a complete picture of who they are to a court or to an agency capable of permitting their return to society.

2017-18: In June 2018, Juvenile Justice Project students won medical parole for a client who has served more than 30 years of a life sentence for a murder that took place when he was 16. The client is the first juvenile lifer to receive the governor's approval for parole in more than 20 years, and one of only two inmates to be approved for medical parole since 2004. JJP student-attorneys spent countless hours in the prison infirmary, tracking down witnesses from the case, advocating through a written petition, and meeting with Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's legal counsel to secure the client's release.

Students also represented clients before the Maryland Parole Commission, presenting factual and legal justifications for their clients' release. They advocated before the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, arguing that a client's life sentence was illegal under recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions involving juvenile defendants, and assisted in an *amicus curiae* brief filed with the Maryland Court of Appeals.

INNOCENCE PROJECT CLINIC

Professor **MICHELE NETHERCOTT** and Staff Attorney **BRIANNA FORD**

Students in the **INNOCENCE PROJECT CLINIC** investigate the claims of convicted defendants who contend they were convicted of a crime they did not commit. They assist in representing people whose claims of factual innocence are determined to have merit. Under the supervision of the clinic director and other faculty, students review court records; investigative files and crime lab reports; conduct legal research; interview clients and witnesses; draft pleadings; devise investigative and litigation strategies, and argue motions.

2017-18: The clinic's student-attorneys worked on several cases involving challenges to forensic evidence that was used to secure a conviction but was subsequently shown to be unreliable. Students also worked on legislative initiatives in the Maryland General Assembly that sought to improve the exonerate compensation process and to change certain post-conviction statutes.

Two Maryland Court of Appeals decisions determined that individuals who accepted guilty, Alford or *nolo contendere* pleas were not eligible to petition for a writ of actual innocence or for DNA testing. Thanks to the clinic's advocacy, those individuals will be eligible to file either pleading when the law goes into effect in October 2018.

BRONFEIN FAMILY LAW CLINIC

Professor **MARGARET JOHNSON** and Clinical Fellow **SHANTA TRIVEDI**

BRONFEIN FAMILY LAW CLINIC students learn multidimensional lawyering through litigation, legislative advocacy and community-based projects. They represent clients seeking civil-protection orders in cases of domestic violence and are involved in family matters, including divorce, child custody, child adoption, child support and name changes.

2017-18: Clinic student-attorneys represented low-income clients in civil domestic violence cases and in complex divorce, child-custody, child-support and paternity cases. Working with the Reproductive Justice Inside coalition, they researched, wrote and provided oral and written testimony before the Maryland General Assembly in support of two bills, both of which became law, involving reproductive health care policies for incarcerated women.

The clinic's student-attorneys also engaged in law reform for LGBTQ parents. In a case of first impression, clinic student-attorneys successfully represented a female client to establish her non-biological parentage under the male-specific paternity statute arguing equal protection.

EXONERATE BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Michele Nethercott

LAW REFORM BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Margaret Johnson

ADVOCATE BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Hugh McClean

WORK IN THE COMMUNITY BALTIMORE LAW



Professor Don Stone

BOB PARSONS VETERANS ADVOCACY CLINIC

Professor **HUGH MCCLEAN** and Clinical Fellow **BLAIR THOMPSON**

The **BOB PARSONS VETERANS ADVOCACY CLINIC** student-attorneys advocate for veterans in a variety of forums, including in the Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

2017-18: Student-attorneys representing disabled veterans filed claims and appeals with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. They also represented veteran clients before military service departments in discharge-upgrade cases, conducted intake interviews in the Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Court and advocated for legislation supporting better access to care and resources for women veterans.

MENTAL HEALTH LAW CLINIC

Professor **DON STONE** and Adjunct Professor **LINDA PENN**

Students in the **MENTAL HEALTH LAW CLINIC** represent persons with mental illness facing involuntary civil commitment at Sheppard Pratt Psychiatric Hospital. The student-attorneys engage in client interviews and counseling, medical record review, investigation and case preparation.

2017-18: Student-attorneys worked with children diagnosed with disruptive mood-dysregulation disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as adults diagnosed with schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder or neurocognitive disorders. Student-attorneys also advocated for patients' release on the basis that the hospitals involved in their cases had not proven criteria for involuntary hospitalization.

CRIMINAL PRACTICE CLINIC

Adjunct Professor **DAN SHEMER**, Assistant State's Attorney **MURPHY HARTFORD** and Assistant Public Defender **MARY JO LIVINGSTON**

CRIMINAL PRACTICE CLINIC student-attorneys work in 18 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions, both prosecuting cases as Assistant State's Attorneys and defending clients as Assistant Public Defenders.

2017-18: Student-attorneys interviewed witnesses, investigated charges, negotiated pleas and argued motions in court for cases that involved drug possession, drunken driving, domestic violence and disorderly conduct, among other crimes.

CLINICAL DIRECTOR PROFESSOR MICHELE GILMAN



In a clinic, students are not law clerks. They are the lead counsel in their cases and are licensed to practice law under the supervision of our faculty. There is no other setting in which a law student can assume this level of responsibility. On any given day, a student-attorney may be interviewing clients, negotiating with opposing counsel, conducting legal research, writing briefs, executing transactional documents, investigating facts, arguing an appeal or handling a trial. They leave a clinic with solid legal skills, earned confidence and an impressive resume that will open doors upon graduation.

Professor Michele E. Gilman
Venable Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Education

CLINICAL FELLOWS

The clinical program has seven teaching fellows who co-teach clinic courses with experienced clinic directors. The clinical fellows also engage in curricular design and supervise their own students. Fellows also have support to engage in scholarship, and they present their scholarship frequently at local and national conferences.

The fellowship is designed to expose emerging public interest lawyers to clinical pedagogy and to prepare them for careers in law teaching. Former UB fellows are now teaching across the country, including at the law schools at the University of North Carolina, Georgetown University, the University of Nevada Las Vegas, George Washington University, Washburn University, UCLA, Case Western Reserve, Chapman, Hofstra, Wayne State, Cardozo and many more. Other fellows have returned to the bar as leaders within the social justice community.



Fellows are (L-R):
(FRONT ROW) Nicole McConlogue, Komal Vaidya and Blair Thompson (SECOND ROW) Shanta Trivedi (THIRD ROW) Nickole Miller, Lila Meadows and Zina Makar



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