



Clinical Law
Newsletter

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Clinic Connections

Real Clients, Real Cases, Real News

Law Clinic hosts 1st Clinical Scholarship Symposium and Alumni Reception



On Thursday, September 22, 2011, the University of Baltimore School of Law Clinical Program and the University of Baltimore Law Review hosted the first ever Clinical Scholarship Symposium and Alumni Reception. Distinguished clinical professors

from across the country discussed their perspectives on various issues in clinical education.

Speakers included: Susan Brooks (Drexel Law School), Binny Miller

(Washington College of Law, American University), and Margaret Johnson (University of Baltimore School of Law), Catherine Klein and Lisa Martin (Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America).

Following the Panel, former Clinic alumni celebrated many accomplishments of the Clinical program including the presentation of former Family Law Clinic student Elizabeth Kenderdine as the first Venable House of Ruth Fellow and the naming of Professor Robert Rubinson as the Dean Gilbert A. Holmes Endowed Professor of Clinical Theory and Practice. Professor Jane Murphy was the initial recipient of the professorship in 2006.

Venable Access to Justice for Domestic Violence Victims Fellowship Awarded to UB Family Law Clinic Graduate

In October 2010, the University of Baltimore Family Law Clinic became one of only two clinics in the country selected for a pilot program designed to increase access to justice for victims of domestic violence. Sponsored by the Office of Vice President Joseph Biden, the program brings law school clinics, domestic violence service providers and law firms together to generate creative

ways to provide representation in civil domestic violence matters. In April 2011, the House of Ruth Maryland, Venable LLP and the University of Baltimore Family Law Clinic announced that Elizabeth Kenderdine, a 2010 graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law, would be the first Venable Access to Justice for Domestic Violence Victims Fellow. With funding from Venable

LLP, Ms. Kenderdine will work at the House of Ruth Maryland Legal Clinic representing victims of domestic violence for the next year.



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John M. Williams, Jr., '12



Civil Advocacy Clinic

This past semester, Clinic students were busy representing low-income clients in a wide range of civil matters. Students worked on litigation involving landlord-tenant, consumer, and public benefits law. In addition, students worked on systemic, social justice projects, such as legal advice manuals and legislative projects. A few words from our students are below:

John M. Williams, Jr., '12

This semester, John successfully used fair housing law to negotiate a resolution to a breach of lease case brought against his client, who suffers from a mental disability. He also represented a client in an evidentiary hearing before the Department of Labor and Licensing Board of Appeals in a dispute over her unemployment benefits, after a relative stole her identity. He discusses his experience below:

"I wanted to be a litigator when I started law school. Coming into the Civil Advocacy Clinic, I expected an opportunity to brush up on the writing and oral advocacy skills I already possessed and to test them out in a practical setting. Through the Clinic, I was able to advocate for my clients through negotiation with other attorneys, and even in a contested evidentiary hearing—my expectations were met. They were also exceeded. Balancing Clinic with my classes, part-time clerkship employment, Production Editor position on the Law Review, representative position for a Bar review course, and life outside of law school was hectic to say the least. However, my time man-

agement skills are now at a level I never thought they could be.

I feel that I have also developed a level of professionalism that can only be developed with actual attorney practice. Clinic fostered relationships with my supervisors, teammates, and fellow student attorneys that are different than what an internship or clerkship experience could provide. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, I learned how to ensure my client's goals were guiding every decision I made, whether it was during correspondence with my client or opposing counsel, drafting of pleadings, or the actual hearing. You cannot grasp the amount of responsibility you are entrusted with in the Clinic and the effect that it will have on your development as a future attorney until you are actually in a position where your success determines your client's future, and no one is holding your hand. I still want to be a litigator, but it was not until I completed my semester in the Civil Advocacy Clinic that I knew for sure that I could do it well."

Zac Schlein, '12

Zac negotiated a successful settlement on behalf of a client whose landlord wrongfully withheld her security deposit. He also drafted an appellate brief in an unemployment insurance case pending before the Circuit Court; and he made a winning argument before the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation Board of Appeals, securing unemployment insurance benefits for his client.

He describes the benefits of his clinic experience:

"It is difficult to overstate the benefits of my experience in the Civil Advocacy Clinic. Practicing law as a student attorney provided the context necessary to understand much of what I have learned in the classroom (particularly civil and administrative procedure), and no less importantly, the ways in which various laws actually affect individuals in the community. The Clinic was a proving ground where I had the opportunity to practice lawyering skills and experiment with legal strategies, with a safety net of experienced faculty supervisors. While every first-year law student is lectured about the importance of "thinking like a lawyer," managing a case from start to finish truly helped me learn to think creatively, and to challenge my assumptions about the facts and the governing law. While I had plenty of opportunities to sharpen my research and writing skills, trial advocacy has always had a great charisma for me, and Clinic provided me the unique opportunity to advocate on behalf of real clients, as a law student, inside a courtroom and before an administrative agency.

Beyond the academic and professional benefits of my Clinic experience, it was extremely rewarding to help clients who wouldn't otherwise have access to justice. I don't think I will ever forget the relationships I developed with my clients, and I hope to carry forward the perspective I have gained to my professional career. From Clinic, I have gained not only significant personal and professional experience, but a sense of confidence in myself. I am sincere when I say that my choice to participate in a Clinic was the best decision I have made during my time at UB."

Civil Advocacy Clinic—continued

Jason Goren, '12

Jason assisted a low-income single mother in overturning a housing agency's decision to terminate her housing assistance, and he represented a disabled infant in successfully challenging a government agency's decision to terminate desperately needed in-home medical care services. He writes about his experience in the Clinic:

"The one thing law school doesn't prepare you for is interaction with real people, with real problems. The civil advocacy clinic gave me the opportunity to work with several clients, each with a distinct personality. I believe that there is no substitute for each these

experiences, because at the end of the day, becoming a successful attorney also means working well with your clients. You will have the opportunity to work with you clients from the initial client interview, until the end of the case, assisting them every step of the way. Ultimately, the clinic experience will challenge you to think outside the box, and the real world implications that accompany clients with real problems.

Additionally, after three years of school most students have learned how read cases and write briefs, but they haven't had the chance to defend a single mother from losing her home, or a child from losing medical care. Though the

clinic is a chance to gain valuable experience, it is also a chance to help up the less fortunate. I can tell you from experience, there is no feeling better then receiving justice for your clients, which sometimes can be a place to sleep, or money to feed their children. I promise that after participating in clinic, you will feel like you made a positive difference in another person's life. "

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— Jason Goren, '12

Family Law Clinic

The Family Law Clinic recently issued a report on the handling of domestic violence protective order cases in Baltimore City. The report was based on observations of the domestic violence dockets heard at the District Court for Baltimore City between September 19 and October 14, 2011. The students found numerous systemic problems with the handling of these cases, includ-

ing difficulties in achieving service of process, concerns about the courts' ability to safeguard petitioners for protective orders, questions about the handling of evidence in domestic violence cases, and issues about how judges treated both petitioners and respondents in the protective order process. The report makes a number of recommendations to improve the protec-

tive order system, from creating an online database to track service of protective orders to reviewing how the rules of evidence are applied in protective order cases. The Court Watch was conducted by Family Law Clinic students Carla Clarke, Rhett Knight, Megan Podzius, Kelley Spigel, and La Chandra Young.

Immigrant Rights Clinic

The Immigrant Rights Clinic has had an exciting academic year. Students represented asylum seekers fleeing violence in Kenya and El Salvador, and have just started representing immigrants from Vietnam, the Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Hondu-

ras. In addition to representing our clients in Immigration Court and other administrative proceedings, we have just started an innovative collaboration with the Office of the Public Defender in the cutting-edge field of criminal law matters that intersect with immi-

gration law. Another client, from Honduras, was recently granted a U-Visa based on her status as a crime victim and her work assisting law enforcement efforts.

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“Community Development Clinic student attorneys met with clients at the law clinic offices at 40 West Chase Street, in offices, and in living rooms and coffee shops throughout the Baltimore region, helping clients to navigate state and local regulatory requirements, untangle the tax code, and write governing documents that captured their vision for empowering people and communities.”
— Prof. Jaime Lee

Community Development Clinic

The Community Development Clinic enjoyed a fast-paced and rewarding fall semester, helping 22 Baltimore-area small businesses and charitable organizations to establish and expand their operations.

Student attorneys helped clients answer a wide range of questions, such as: “We just won an award for our book on social justice in the 1960’s! How do we fairly and legally divide the proceeds among all of the authors/activists?” “Our bylaws are 40 years old. Can you help us bring them into the modern age and reflect our community’s current goals?” “We’re excited that artists are donating their works to help our nonprofit. What kind of contract do we need to make it legal?”

Community Development Clinic student attorneys met with clients at the law clinic offices at 40 West Chase Street, in offices, and in living rooms and coffee shops throughout the Baltimore region, helping clients to navigate state and local regulatory requirements, untangle the tax code, and write governing documents

that captured their vision for empowering people and communities.

The Community Development Clinic is especially pleased to be serving clients associated with Law School alumni and other local partners who are dedicated to community development causes. For example, an alumna currently serves on the board of a Maryland non-profit that connects foreign-born individuals with local resources and opportunities. The organization frequently refers clients to the University of Baltimore’s Immigrant Rights Clinic, and this fall the Community Development Clinic began advising the organization itself on contract and tax issues.

Our clinic is also proud to continue its work with the Community Law Center, Maryland’s only legal services organization dedicated solely to strengthening neighborhoods and the nonprofit sector. Community Law Center’s Executive Director, Kristine Dunkerton, is both an alumna and a former acting director of the Community Development

Clinic. Spring students will also collaborate with the University of Maryland School of Law Clinics in a community education project spearheaded by local non-profit to reach low-income homeowners at risk of foreclosure, and assist a statewide network of nonprofits on public policy issues related to early childhood education.



Spring 2012 CDC student Shannon Wrenn receives her Rule 16 Certificate from Judge Bell at the Swearing In Ceremony.



Spring 2012 Clinic students gather for the Swearing In Ceremony

Mediation Clinic for Families

The Fall 2011 semester was most fruitful for the “Pro Bono Family Mediation Project” (PBFMP), run by the Mediation Clinic for Families (formerly the Family Mediation Clinic) in conjunction with the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland and the Family Division of the Baltimore City Circuit Court (the

Court). A total of fourteen cases were referred to the PBFMP by the Court and all twenty-eight litigants referred agreed to participate in mediation.

Of the eleven parenting plan agreements reached in mediation, nine are final agreements and two are temporary. MD Rule 16 student

attorneys and pro bono attorneys provided fourteen *pro se* litigants with counsel during mediations conducted by volunteer mediators and assisted with submitting consent orders to the Court.

Clinic Faculty News

- **Leigh Goodmark** was elected President of the Clinical Legal Education Association for 2012.
- **Michele Gilman** and **Leigh Goodmark** presented at the Feminist Legal Theory Collaborative Research Network conference on January 4, 2012.
- **Lydia Nussbaum** co-authored an essay on innovative methods for teaching professional responsibility to law students. The essay, "New Methods for Teaching Professional Responsibility in a Post-Carnegie World," was co-authored with Brenda Bratton Blom (Professor, University of Maryland School of Law) and Bonnie Allen (Director of Access to Partnerships, Mississippi Center for Justice) and is forthcoming in a collection entitled "On Law and Leadership: Integrating Leadership Studies into the Law School Curriculum."
- **Leigh Goodmark** published a new book entitled [A Troubled Marriage: Domestic](#)

[Violence and the Legal System](#). The book is a provocative exploration of how the legal system's response to domestic violence developed, why that response is flawed, and what we should do to change it.

- **Dan Hatcher** has written a new law review article titled "Purpose vs. Power: *Parens Patriae*, Federalism and Agency Self-Interest" that will be published in the *New Mexico Law Review* in the Spring of 2012.

New Clinic Faculty

- Kathryn Loncarich, Clinical Fellow, Civil Advocacy Clinic
- Sabrina Balgamwalla, Clinical Fellow, Immigrant Rights Clinic
- Jennifer Kim, Clinical Fellow, Family Law Clinic
- Alice Clapman, Visiting Professor, Immigrant Rights Clinic



Clinical Law Faculty

- [Leigh Goodmark](#), Director
- [Sabrina Balgamwalla](#), Immigrant Rights
- [Alice Clapman](#), Immigrant Rights
- [Chelsea Ferrette](#), Community Development
- [Michele Gilman](#), Civil Advocacy
- [Stephen Harris](#), Innocence Project
- [Daniel Hatcher](#), Civil Advocacy
- [Margaret Johnson](#), Family Law
- [Jennifer Kim](#), Family Law
- [Jaime Lee](#), Community Development
- [Cheri Levin](#), Writing Doctor
- [Kathryn Loncarich](#), Civil Advocacy
- [Jane Murphy](#), Mediation for Families
- [Lydia Nussbaum](#), Mediation for Families
- [Robert Rubinson](#), Mediation for Families
- [Daniel Shemer](#), Criminal Practice
- [Donald Stone](#), Disability Law

Clinic Teaching Opportunities

The University of Baltimore School of Law invites applications for Fellowships in the Community Development Clinic to start on or about May 1, 2012. The public interest fellowship program offers practicing attorneys exposure to law school clinical teaching.

For more information on the positions, including qualifications and salary, please visit <http://law.ubalt.edu/template.cfm?page=541>. Deadline for applications is February, 2012.



The Law Clinic began a Facebook presence last fall. Please “Like” our page and keep up to date with all Clinic-related events and breaking news! Click below or find us at “University of Baltimore Clinical Law Program.”



Clinic Connections.

Real Clients,
Real Cases,
Real News



Chief Judge Robert M. Bell issues the oath to the Spring 2012 Clinical Law Program student attorneys.

Upcoming Events

- Summer/Fall 2012 Open House Information Sessions on Monday, March 12, 2012 at 12:00pm and 5:30pm in the Moot Court Room.
- The 5th Annual Feminist Legal Theory Conference will be held on March 1-2, 2012.
- Applications for Summer/Fall 2012 semester will be available March 1, 2012.
- Deadline for Summer/Fall 2012 Law Clinic Applications is March 15, 2012.
- Results of lottery for Summer/Fall 2012 will be posted on March 22, 2012.
- AALS Clinical Education Conference, Los Angeles, CA — April 30—May 3, 2012.
- Law Commencement: May 7, 2012.

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