On October 24, 2015, as part of alumni weekend, we celebrated 30 years of clinical programs at CUNY Law School and recognized the founders of our clinical program: Janet Calvo, Vanessa Merton, Paul O’Neil, Sue Bryant, Beryl Blaustone, and Rick Rossein.

As a member of the CUNY Law inaugural class of 1986 and a legal intern in the Health in the Workplace Clinic, I am filled with mixed emotions as I reflect back. The sheer passage of time is enough of a humbling experience, as are memories of successes and failures, opportunities gained and squandered, and the endless struggle for a better world in the face of overwhelming human suffering.

CUNY Law has been a pioneer in providing opportunities for students to learn by doing under carefully designed, student centered pedagogy, always with a critical perspective on law and the profession.

We have kept our focus on students and clients and movements—generations of students have learned how to plan, do, and reflect, and develop the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be excellent public interest lawyers.

We have understood the importance of cross-cultural communication, the impact of race, gender, culture, ethnicity, and health, and the horrible toll of racism, poverty, gun violence, and war.

We have helped shape our profession—the thousands of students who have graduated from our clinical program have distinguished themselves in the legal profession and beyond. And the work continues with our current clinic faculty and as we plan to welcome our part-time students into evening clinics beginning in Fall 2017.

At the end of May, I am stepping down as Clinic Dean after four years. I want to thank the clinic faculty and students for their excellent work. It has been my privilege as Clinic Dean to work with the clinic support staff: Bernice Cohn, V Hill, Dorothy Matthew, Alexa Pollock, and Ayesha Yasmin. I am grateful for their unparalleled dedication and unwavering support.

I am delighted that my colleague Donna Lee will take over as Clinic Dean. Donna is a national leader in clinical education and will take us to new heights as she continues to develop and improve our clinical program.

Special thanks to Alexa Pollock and David Kene for their work on this newsletter.
CUNY Law Ranked # 3 in Clinical Training for Second Year in a Row

“It is gratifying to be recognized as one of the top clinical programs. Our #3 ranking is a tribute to the effort and commitment of the entire law school community. We deeply value the incredible and meaningful work of our clinic students, faculty and staff.”

-Prof. Joe Rosenberg (’86), Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Programs.

Full Time Day Clinics

**Academic Year 2016 - 2017**

**Fall 2016**
- Community & Economic Development Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Equality and Justice Practice Clinic
- Family Law Practice Clinic
- Human Rights & Gender Justice Clinic
- Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights Clinic
- Mediation Clinic

**Spring 2017**
- Economic Justice Project
- Human Rights & Gender Justice Clinic
- Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights Clinic
- Pro Bono Scholars Program
  (Elder Law and Health Law Placements)

*Elder Law Clinic and Health Law Practice Clinic are on hiatus Fall 2016 - Spring 2017*
PART-TIME EVENING CLINICS AT CUNY LAW 
To Begin Fall 2017

CUNY Law School’s evening clinics build on the success and excellence of our full-time clinical program, which is ranked #3 nationally for the second year in a row by U.S. News & World Report (http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/clinical-training-rankings).

Our “in house” Community & Economic Development Clinic and Human Rights & Gender Justice Clinic, housed at Main Street Legal Services, and our Family Law “practice clinic”, will be offered as hybrids, open to all students in our program, but part-time evening students will get priority registration. All other offerings are limited to evening students.

Our Evening Clinical Programs Will:

• Give students a clinical experience that prepares them to be excellent public interest lawyers.

• Provide students with practical learning opportunities that are tailored to an evening student’s schedule.

• Offer evening students the same range of choices that day students have to the maximum extent possible.

• Allocate sufficient credits (minimum of 10) so evening students have an immersive law practice experience.

• Increase opportunities for all students by including “hybrid” offerings open to both day and evening students.

Fall 2017 Evening Clinics
• Criminal Defense Clinic
• Family Law Practice Clinic (hybrid)

Fall 2018 Evening Clinics
• Community & Economic Development Clinic (hybrid)
• Criminal Defense Clinic
• Elder Law Clinic
• Human Rights & Gender Justice Clinic (hybrid)
On March 16, CUNY Law students participating in the Pro Bono Scholars Program, along with Pro Bono Scholars from other law schools, attended a reception that featured remarks by Court of Appeals Judge (and former CUNY Law Professor) Jenny Rivera.

The students in the Pro Bono Scholars Program—Nate Broughty, Vincce Chan, Amira Hassan, Andrew Klaben-Finegold, and Angel Melendez—took the bar exam on February 23-24 and began their clinical work on February 29.

They will be working as full time interns in a “hybrid” housing clinic with Queens Legal Services. Most of their work will be on Queens Legal Services cases and projects involving housing. The clinic is “hybrid” because they will be supervised by Clinic Dean Joe Rosenberg and attorneys from Queens Legal Services.
On January 8th, the CUNY Law community celebrated Prof. Sue Bryant, who was awarded the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT), Great Teachers Award, along with her colleague and collaborator, Prof. Jean Koh Peters. They were presented with the award at SALT’s Annual Awards Dinner in recognition of their contributions to cross cultural teaching and training.

In Spring 2016, Professor Arastu is also co-teaching an Immigration Law Course with Professor Janet Calvo. Professor Arastu is developing an experiential learning component into the second-year curriculum by partnering with CUNY Citizenship Now, an organization that provides free legal services to those on the path to citizenship. Through this project, students studying doctrinal immigration law are able to apply what they learn and serve communities by attending bi-monthly citizenship drives where they assist individuals interested in naturalization. We thank CUNY alum Tamara Bloom, Legal Coordinator at Citizenship NOW, for her support in getting this project off to a great start!

Lisa Davis is the Clinical Professor of Law for the Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic. Students in the clinic represent clients in the US and abroad on women, youth, and LGBT human rights violations. Currently among its projects, the Clinic represents Syrian and Iraqi women’s rights organizations who are working to help those escaping ISIS. Recently the student legal team traveled to Istanbul to meet with clients and conduct interviews. Professor Davis recently published an article with the Southwestern Journal of International Law entitled, Iraqi Women Confronting ISIL: Protecting Women’s Rights in the Context of Conflict, which includes an overview of the Clinic’s current work. She is also publishing a book chapter in an academic book on torture with Oxford University Press entitled, The Gendered Dimensions of Torture: Rape and other Forms of Gender-Based Violence as Torture under International Law.
Congratulations to Professors Carmen Huertas-Noble and Ramzi Kassem on earning tenure and to Professor Nicole Smith-Futrell on her appointment as an Associate Professor.

Carmen Huertas-Noble is the founding director of the Community and Economic Development Clinic. Professor Huertas-Noble and her students have played a leading role in providing transactional legal support to worker owned cooperatives in New York City and beyond. The Community and Economic Development Clinic has provided legal support to a number of leading NY organizations that create and/or support worker-owned cooperatives, including ROC-NY, Green Worker Cooperatives and the New York City Network of Worker Cooperatives. Most recently, the Clinic has also worked with Pittsburgh Clean and Green Laundry to create an innovative, unionized worker-owned cooperative based on principles pioneered by Mondragon University in the Basque Country. The Clinic has also formed a partnership with Mondragon’s North American Delegation and 1Worker1Vote to further develop a legal framework and curriculum for a new hybrid union coop model created by Mondragon International USA, the United Steelworkers and the Ohio Employee Ownership Center.

Ramzi Kassem directs the Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights Clinic. With his students, Professor Kassem represents prisoners of various nationalities presently or formerly held at American facilities at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, at so-called “Black Sites,” and at other detention sites worldwide. In connection with these cases, Professor Kassem and his students have appeared as party counsel and submitted merits briefs before U.S. federal district and appellate courts, before the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as before the military commissions at Guantánamo. Professor Kassem also supervises the Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility (CLEAR) project, which primarily aims to address the legal needs of Muslim, Arab, South Asian, and other communities in the New York City area that are particularly affected by national security and counterterrorism policies and practices.

CUNY Law Professors have passion and expertise for public interest law that extends beyond the classroom setting. Clinic faculty have distinguished themselves in litigation, scholarship, experiential learning, advocacy, law reform and teaching.

Nicole Smith-Futrell joined the faculty in 2009 as a Clinical Law Professor and Supervising Attorney in the Criminal Defense Clinic. Professor Smith-Futrell and her students work on criminal court cases, state and federal clemency petitions, and other defense related proceedings and projects. In her new position as Associate Professor, Professor Smith-Futrell’s teaching, clinical practice, and scholarship will continue to focus on the relationship between social justice lawyering and criminal law and policy reform.
The Community & Economic Development Clinic (CEDC) prepares student-attorneys to provide excellent legal representation to community-based, organizational clients on a wide range of matters.

Currently, the Clinic’s work is divided into four project areas: the Worker Cooperative Law Project, the Non-Profit Legal Support Project, the Worker Rights Project and the Tenant Law and Organizing Project. Student-attorneys primarily focus on one of the project areas listed above, but also have opportunities to work across project areas and clinical programs when there is student interest and/or docket overlap.

Student-attorneys in the Worker Cooperative Law and Non-Profit Legal Support Projects represent these organizations, assisting them in designing governance structures, applying for tax exempt status, and complying with non-profit, employment, and tax laws. Recently CEDC students and alumni helped form the NYC Worker Cooperative Coalitions, of which the clinic remains an active and essential member. CEDC students and alum helped secure $3.3 million ($1.2 million in 2014 and $2.1 million in 2015) from the NYC Council to fund worker owned cooperative expansion and create a system to support this growth.

In the Tenant Law and Organizing Project, student attorneys represent low-income and marginalized communities against housing evictions and work to bring affirmative litigation on behalf of tenant associations that are fighting to preserve decent, safe and affordable housing. Last semester as part of a housing project with Queens Legal Services, students represented tenants in a variety of cases including NYCHA succession rights, rent overcharge cases, violations of the warranty of habitability, and preservation of rent stabilized apartments.

In collaboration with the Economic Justice Project (EJP), the clinic offers the Workers Rights Project in which student attorneys represent clients by bringing affirmative litigation in federal court on behalf of groups that are fighting to prevent and end wage theft and other forms of exploitation against vulnerable and marginalized workers. This marks the fifth year that the labor docket is in CEDC and the second year that it is offered as a cross-clinical program with EJP. For further updates, see the EJP section on page 9.
In Fall 2015, the Criminal Defense Clinic (DEF) continued its work on Criminal Court and prisoners’ rights litigation.

Students-attorneys represented 15 people charged with misdemeanor crimes in the Queens County Criminal Court. Charges included Assault, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Possession of Marijuana, and Resisting Arrest.

As part of clinic practice, student-attorneys counsel their clients with myriad matters related to criminal cases (e.g., Family Court; Immigration and Customs Enforcement Detainers; Parole Revocation; employment and licensing issues). Students also work toward getting their clients released from solitary confinement at Rikers Island and at prisons across New York State.

Since Spring 2015, the Defenders have ventured into several new areas. At the request of Administrative Law Judge Ray Kramer, the Director of the Administrative Judicial Institute at the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH), students defended clients against civil forfeiture proceedings brought by the New York City Police Department. They also entered the nascent clemency movement, representing incarcerated persons serving life sentences, in their bids for clemency at the federal and state levels from President Obama and Governor Cuomo.

The clinical program also includes external placements where student attorneys assist solo practitioners and lawyers in criminal defense and other civil rights and social justice organizations. Past host organizations include Emery, Celli, Brinckerhoff & Abady; Brooklyn Defender Service, Bronx Defenders (Criminal Defense Practice and Civil Action Practice (Immigration)); the Center for Court Innovation; the Legal Aid Society (Criminal Appeals Bureau, Criminal Defense Practice, and Special Litigation Unit); and Youth Represent.
The Economic Justice Project

advocacy spans three distinct, yet related fields: college access for individuals who receive public assistance; school suspension; and low wage workers’ rights.

EJP continues to advance its core mission of expanding access to higher education as a pathway out of poverty for low-income New Yorkers. In March 2014, following years of advocacy by EJP and other community and advocacy organizations, the New York State Legislature enacted a law (initially drafted by EJP) that, for the first time, allowed welfare recipients to meet a substantial part of their “workfare” obligations through studies in four-year colleges.

A significant part of EJP’s recent work this year has focused on ensuring full and effective implementation of the new law. In addition to its systemic policy work, EJP continues its legal representation of individual students and their families, almost all of whom face daunting challenges on the economic margins.

This spring, EJP expanded its commitment to improving education access by creating the Suspension Advocacy Project. Supervised by Professor Babe Howell, clinic students serve as advocates for those facing superintendent’s suspensions at the K-12 level in the borough of Queens. In the first two weeks of the semester, EJP students and a handful of Defender students attended a two-day intensive introductory training. By the third week of the semester the Student Advocacy Project had opened its phone and e-mail intake lines, accepted its first two cases, and conducted its first hearing.

Spring 2016 marks the second year of a cross-program collaboration that joins CUNY 3Ls in the Advanced Community and Economic Development Worker’s Rights Project with 2Ls in EJP who elect Workers Rights as their project workgroup. Two ongoing federal wage cases, both in the Eastern District of New York, occupy the majority of the project’s time at present.

The first case, involving workers at a car wash in Brooklyn, was referred by Make the Road NY. In the second case, the Project undertook representation of 20 Nepali gas station workers who had been organized by Adhikaar, a social justice organization based in Woodside and rooted in the Nepali community. The workers were subjected to an array of exploitative and unlawful practices.

Clinic students spent long hours over many months meeting with large groups of these workers, gathering information and developing legal claims. The clinic, together with the Legal Aid Society and law firm Kaye Scholer, is now pursuing a plenary action against the owners and managers, alleging multiple egregious violations of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and the New York Labor Law. The clinic welcomes Ricky Blum, a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society Employment Law Unit, who is working with Prof. Steve Loffredo on clinic supervision in this case.
The Elder Law Clinic (ELC) will be on hiatus for the 2016-2017 academic year. Student attorneys in the ELC have focused on a variety of topics related to elder law. They've practiced in all aspects Article 81 Adult Guardianship cases, including serving as court appointed attorneys for individuals alleged to need a guardian, Court Evaluators, representing clients in “restoration” cases who want to discharge a guardian, and also representing clients who need to become guardians of a family member or friend. Students attorneys have also provided “poverty estate planning” representation to home bound clients, drafted wills, advance directives, and supplemental needs trusts and advised clients about Medicaid eligibility and preventing the need for a guardian. ELC interns have developed paper and digital materials on Article 81 Guardianship and Alternatives for those who are unrepresented.

Clinic Dean Joe Rosenberg, Paralegal Guadalupe Vidal and Yi Stewart ('15)

**Elder Law Clinic Victory:**

**Matter of C.L.**

The Elder Law Clinic (“ELC”) won an important appeal in the Matter of C.L. C.L. called the clinic in the Fall of 2014, claiming that after she became ill and fell in her NYCHA apartment, she was hospitalized for 9 months and, instead of getting discharged back to her apartment, the hospital brought a guardianship petition.

The court appointed a guardian, who relinquished C.L.’s apartment and placed her in a nursing home against her will. C.L. lost control over her life, lost her affordable apartment, and lost her independence. The clinic investigated C.L.’s claims and advocated for her by filing a motion to discharge her guardian and appealing the original order approving the guardian to the Appellate Division.

Clinic students Yi Stewart and Amanda O’Keefe, with the assistance of paralegal Guadalupe Vidal (a graduate of LaGuardia Community College and student at CCNY), under the supervision of Professors Kris Glen and Joe Rosenberg, conducted the investigation, worked closely with C.L., and prepared the motion papers.

Amanda and Yi graduated before the hearings on the motion, and the writing of the appellate brief, which took place in the summer of 2015. After three days of hearings, the court denied our motion to discharge the guardian, although the court did appoint a case manager to help C. L. find an apartment in the community.

Professor Glen took the lead on the brief to the Appellate Division and argued the motion on January 15, 2016. On February 17, 2016, the Appellate Division issued a decision that reversed the order appointing the guardian and dismissed the guardianship petition. This was a victory against long odds, but still C. L. languishes in the nursing home, working with a NYS transition program to find a suitable apartment in the community. As part of the housing work of the Pro Bono Scholars Program, we will be advocating with NYCHA and other housing programs to return C.L. to the community.
In the Equality and Justice Practice Clinic students work on a range of civil and human rights issues with some of the best practitioners and firms in NYC and nationally, for nationally focused legal organizations, and for state and federal agencies.

Last semester, Equality student attorneys Guillermina Passa Quevedo, Sara Abiboutros, and Anthony Rezzonico were placed at a preeminent civil rights firm working on high profile cases involving police and governmental misconduct, including a class action suit against the NYS Correction Department for systemic violence against their clients. The previous year, student attorneys Sue Reyes and Matt Grill ('15) worked on the landmark Floyd v. City of New York case, which resulted in a finding against the NYPD for racial profiling in the application of “stop and frisk” policing policy, primarily in communities of color.

Equality student-attorneys have the opportunity to work at private civil rights firms on a wide range of employment discrimination litigation including sexual and racial harassment, disability, national origin, race, and gender discrimination. Students have worked for an alum of the Equality Practice Clinic, Colleen Meenan, who is well known for her trial work in employment discrimination cases and has a sub-specialty representing LGBTQ workers in both the public and private sector.

Student attorney Raabia Quasam did similar work, but from the perspective of a federal agency responsible for enforcement of federal employment discrimination laws, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Students also worked at the NYS Attorney General Labor Bureau investigating claims of wage theft on behalf of low-wage workers. Several CUNY Law alumni were supervisors of these students, including Bob Rose, who is the Regional Counsel of the NY District Office, and Monique Roberts, who serves as the EEOC’s Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and whose work includes hearing and deciding claims of employment discrimination by federal employees.

Field placements are also available at nationally focused, law reform organizations. AJ Wipfler worked for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund’s Transgender Law Project on the application of the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) civil rights provision. At LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Jeff Strutyenski worked on an amicus brief concerning a Voting Rights case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The previous year, Nathalia Verela ('15) drafted a brief concerning the admission to the bar of Cesar Vargas ('11), a “Dreamer” and CUNY alum. (See Alumni Updates, p. 20)

“I teach at CUNY Law School because of the extraordinary students and faculty who pursue excellence in their lawyering, working toward equality and fairness in the law and our society.”

- Prof. Rick Rossein, Equality and Justice Practice Clinic
Student-attorneys in the Family Law Practice Clinic

choose field placements that build practice skills and community connections in the areas of child welfare and advocacy and assistance to survivors of domestic violence, paying particular attention to the unique concerns of immigrants, LGBTQ communities, and formerly incarcerated parents and their children.

Last semester, Brooke Salvatore, Ruth Chung, and Serena Newell worked for the Juvenile Rights Practice at Legal Aid, representing children in abuse and neglect proceedings, while fellow students Alexandria Nedd, Plinileidy Abreu, and Matthew Routh served as defenders for parents in the child welfare system at Brooklyn Family Defense Practice.

A number of students had placements in domestic violence organizations. In her placement at Manhattan Legal Services, in the Family Law and Domestic Violence Unit, Jessica Matatey engaged in significant client work, in particular with immigrant clients, where she served as an advocate on custody, visitation, and child support issues and performed extensive motion practice over the course of the semester. At NYLAG’s Domestic Violence Unit, Maria Young drafted Family Offense Petitions, motions, and affidavits associated with immigration filings and focused on trial skills and trial preparation. She prevailed at trial by obtaining a five-year “stay away” order for her client.

The clinic also had two judicial placements with family court judges, where Angela Shamay and Chelsea Rodriguez performed legal research, and assisted a court attorney and judge with case conferences and with drafting complex judicial opinions in domestic violence cases.

Radha Desai designed a special project, choosing a placement at Sanctuary for Family’s Trafficking Unit, where she focused on exploring the intersection between domestic violence and human trafficking. She did research on criminal “vacatur law” for sex trafficking victims who are seeking post-conviction relief, and drafted training materials for Vacatur Law CLE Trainings of pro-bono attorneys. She edited affidavits for trafficked non-immigrant applicants, and obtained criminal court and immigration documents on behalf of clients from state court clerks and the Department of Homeland Security.

Another student, Kristen Zapalac, worked on a special project with the New York City Human Rights Commission, helping to establish protocols for fielding complaints arising from domestic violence discrimination. She also performed significant work assisting with the implementation of New York City’s Fair Chance Act, which provides new protections for persons with criminal convictions seeking employment.

Along with coordinated field placements, the clinic hosts a twice-weekly intensive seminar where students deepen their understanding of robust client advocacy and family law system engagement. Last semester the class worked on the “Family Defense Project.” In this project students collectively research, make presentations, and create advocacy materials on a variety of topic areas related to the collateral consequences of criminal convictions, such as protections for those seeking employment (e.g. Fair Chance Act materials). The next phase of the project will develop a plan to make these resources widely available.
The Health Law Practice Clinic offers placements in a variety of settings, including local and national organizations that promote access to public and mental health services and reproductive rights, as well as government entities working in matters of medical malpractice and insurance fraud, and with national organizations promoting access to insurance through the Affordable Care Act. The practice clinic includes a weekly seminar that provides student-attorneys the opportunity to delve deeper into these issues through class presentations and practice of lawyering skills.

During Fall 2015, student-attorneys specializing in mental health legal issues worked with clients at the Mental Health Project of Nassau Suffolk Legal Services, the Mental Health Project of the Urban Justice Center, and with Mental Hygiene Legal Services. They represented individuals seeking SSI benefits and contesting their hospitalization or treatment regimes, developed empathetic communication skills while working with clients with mental health concerns, and practiced cross-examining experts regarding client treatment.

Through placements at the Reproductive Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union and Earth Justice, students learned the importance of community based lawyering in law reform efforts. At the Reproductive Rights Project students worked on effective impact litigation in the context of the right to reproductive freedom. At Earth Justice, they focused on cases in which adverse environmental situations had an impact on health, particularly in African American communities.

Those students interested in health care access, particularly through health insurance after the Affordable Care Act, took placements at the Office of New York Health Insurance Exchange Planning, where they practiced developing administrative regulations and comments to facilitate government supported health care access. At another health care access placement, the Community Service Society, students assisted individuals in acquiring health coverage and contesting insurance company denials. Students focused on the skills needed to engage in appeal processes to challenge insurance company refusals to cover needed health care.

In addition to civil society organizations, students work with government entities that enforce laws and standards to protect public health and programs, particularly in the areas of medical malpractice and insurance fraud. Last semester, students worked with the State Attorney Generals Office and at the Health Care Frauds Bureau of the Kings County D.A. on Medicaid fraud cases, focusing on enterprise corruption in Medicaid fraud.

Other students worked directly with a judge whose docket was primarily medical malpractice, and for the New York City Corporation Counsel and the Bureau of Professional Medical Misconduct. In these placements the students practiced effective negotiation and settlement skills, wrote judicial opinions, and engaged in significant motion practice.

The Health Law Practice Clinic will be on hiatus for the 2016-17 academic year.
The Human Rights & Gender Justice

Clinic (HRGJ) started off the new semester with an update to its name. Formerly the International Women's Human Rights Clinic, the change reflects the broadening range of topics on which HRGJ students work, including women, youth, and LGBT issues, and engaging men in ending gender based violence.

Students are currently working on reproductive rights issues in Texas and the U.S. Supreme Court, youth in prisons, representing clients in Syria who are working on women's rights, and clients in Iraq working on women and LGBT rights in the context of ISIS.

Last fall students in both the Syria and Iraq projects travelled to Istanbul, Turkey to meet with their clients, along with victims and witnesses of gender based violence from those countries. They conducted interviews about the human rights abuses being carried out by state and non-state actors and held know your rights trainings on the application of international law. The students used this testimony in submissions to the UN Human Rights Council recommending necessary action that should be taken to protect women and LGBT rights. They also presented their findings at a public event held at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College.

Within the context of reproductive rights, clinic students in HRGJ represented the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health and filed an amicus brief in Whole Woman’s Health v. Cole, which was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on March 3, 2016. The brief describes the impact of Texas House Bill 2 (H.B. 2) on the 2.5 million Latinas of reproductive age in Texas. For these women, the scarcity of appointments, increased wait times, and cost and travel distances resulting from clinic closures will be a substantial, and in many cases insurmountable, obstacle to accessing legal abortion services. The brief ends by documenting that where women lack access to legal abortion services, there is an increased rate of illegal and unsafe abortions, creating risks to women's health.

This spring students have the chance to continue on with their projects or work on new ones, including: Supporting a Gender Narrative within the Palestinian Conflict, Criminalization of Sex Work Research and Violence Against Women Dossier: Regional and International Standards with a focus on Africa.

From left: Hilal Khalil ’16 and Frankie Herrmann ’16
The student attorneys in the Immigrant & Non-Citizens Rights Clinic (INRC) continue to represent clients seeking assistance with all forms of affirmative and defensive immigration proceedings, including: asylum, criminal immigration matters, gender-based violence related claims, and deportation defense. Additionally, INRC students represent prisoners currently or formerly held by the U.S. military, primarily in Guantánamo Bay.

In the past year, clinic students have experienced several victories related to their cases, including successfully obtaining relief under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), preventing a client's deportation by suppressing evidence in a matter that was appealed before the Board of Immigration Appeals, and securing Special Immigrant Juvenile Status for unaccompanied minor clients. Recently, a client of INRC since 2011 was released from the Guantánamo Bay detention facility. Several classes of INRC students played a vital role, both in court and out, in securing positive outcomes in all of these matters.

A sampling of current cases includes: appealing the wrongful naturalization denial of a young American activist, negotiating prosecutorial discretion for a client picked up by ICE despite not falling under the Obama administration's enforcement priorities, preparing an asylum application for a domestic violence survivor from Peru, and continued advocacy before U.S. and international courts on behalf of our clients indefinitely detained in Guantánamo Bay.

In addition to their active litigation docket, student attorneys participate in a host of other projects. This year that project work has included work related to language and educational accessibility with NYCLU and NYSED (the New York State Education Department), documentation and advocacy on improving immigration detention conditions with NYLPI (New York Lawyers for Public Interest), and continued work in the in-house, cross-clinical CLEAR project.

CLEAR
As part of the CLEAR project (Creating Law Enforcement Accountability and Responsibility) students in INRC and other clinics represent and work with Muslim, Arab and South Asian communities who are targeted by local and federal law enforcement as a result of national security and counterterrorism policies.

Since last year, student attorneys, both in the INRC clinic and participating in CLEAR, represented a Yemeni-American man whose passport was seized by the U.S. embassy in Sana’a on unfounded accusations that he had obtained it fraudulently. Under the leadership of Prof. Ramzi Kassem and CLEAR Staff Attorney Naz Ahmad, Nabila Taj ('15) who graduated last spring, took on this man’s case and in December the client’s passport was reinstated.

In addition, CLEAR students Cassie Veach, Hilal Khalil, and Jackie Mariano helped draft and submit a report and complaint to the U.S. State Department Inspector General, calling for an official investigation into multiple instances where Yemeni-Americans had their passports seized at the U.S. embassy. The name of the report is Stranded Abroad: Americans Stripped of their Passports in Yemen.
In the Mediation Clinic

In the Mediation Clinic, student-attorneys learn professional neutral intervention skills that allow them to assist parties in resolving disputes in commercial, landlord-tenant, family, neighbor, and workplace matters.

Professor Beryl Blaustone directs the Mediation Clinic and teaches the Clinic classes and rounds. Last semester student-attorneys co-mediated cases in Brooklyn and Queens Small Claims Court and Civil Court. As part of their casework, Clinic interns drafted stipulation agreements under the supervision of several supervising attorneys, including Edward Bonsignore. An alum of the Clinic, he runs his own successful mediation and family law firm.

Last semester, students also worked on federal employment discrimination cases by serving as second seat counsel to Professor Blaustone in mediations for the Southern District Federal District Court (SDNY). In addition to casework, student-attorneys taught a class on mediation in the legal system to first year law students and presented a CUNY career panel discussion with practicing attorney-mediators.

This year the Mediation Clinic partnered with Legal Services NYC in its development of a Divorce Mediation Project. The partnership allows students the opportunity to intern at Legal Services NYC and gain experience in resolving disputes during divorce proceedings.

Professor Blaustone also hosted a continuing education discussion for a group of attorney mediators from the Divorce Mediation Project on effectively using interpreters in divorce mediation.

The Mediation Lawyering Seminar is offered in the spring to second year law students to learn mediation theory and practice basic lawyering skills. Students take part in several simulations that allow them to practice mediation skills, both in the role of mediator and disputant. During the semester they also research and write a memorandum of objective analysis on a topic of their choice related to mediation.

Many Mediation Clinic alums remain active and engaged in the Clinic as Teaching Assistants. They support Professor Blaustone during the Mediation Seminar by helping students during simulations and providing feedback. They also serve as mentors for second year law students interested in the Mediation Clinic and for all clinical programs at CUNY.

"Mediation can be an empowering experience for all parties, but especially those from marginalized communities.”

-Professor Beryl Blaustone, Mediation Clinic
**Zamir Ben-Dan, Criminal Defense Clinic JD ’15**

Where are you currently working and what type of work do you do?  
I work at the Legal Aid Society in the Bronx, in criminal defense.

What was your clinical experience like and how has it had an impact on your career path?  
I enjoyed it because it was full of people who were equally passionate about criminal defense, which strengthened my desire to specialize in this area of law. However the desire was there long before I stepped into the clinic room for the first time.

How has your clinical experience prepared you for the work you do now? Are there any specific skills you gained that you find essential to your work?  
It helped to give me exposure to the type of work I sought to do, the type of considerations I needed to be aware of and deal with, and other aspects of criminal defense.

What type of advice would you give to new clinic students?  
Take clinic seriously. If you manage to land a public defense job, you’ll be ahead of many of your peers in training.

**Blakeley Decktor, Human Rights and Gender Justice Clinic (Formerly IWHR) JD ’12**

Do you work in a field related to your clinical studies?  
I work in a field that is very closely related to my clinic study. My current position is a staff attorney at the international human rights organization Women’s Link Worldwide. The organization seeks to bring a gender perspective and an intersectional analysis to human rights law.

What was your clinical experience like and how has it had an impact on your career path?  
Upon entering the clinic, I was part of the Latin American Project. Some of the work we did in the clinic included working with grassroots activists in Guatemala to continue drafting a shadow report on human rights violations regarding labor conditions, gender-based violence, and prison conditions for women. As a part of this project, we also testified before the Human Rights Committee for Compliance review of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights.

The clinic had an impact on my career in inspiring me with the work, but also in directly connecting me with organizations. At the ICCPR hearing at the UN, I met with OutRight Action International, where I would work for two years after law school. I also now work again at Women’s Link Worldwide, which I was introduced to as an intern through the clinic my 2L summer.

How has your clinical experience prepared you for the work you do now? Are there any specific skills you gained that you find essential to your current work?  
I recall trainings we did on interviewing survivors of violence and the importance of being clear, patient, attentive, taking breaks, etc. I certainly recalled this exercise in interviews I have conducted since law school and I rely on these skills. Finally, the technical skills we learned, such as legal research, drafting shadow reports and making...
legal arguments have also been extremely useful to me following law school.

What type of advice would you give to new clinic students?
What is also just as important is taking the practical exercises seriously, being engaged in directly contact with clients and allies. These are skills that organizations will want and expect you to have upon graduation. If I were to do it again, I think I would ask even more questions because school gives you the time and space to do so.

Jen Vail, Criminal Defense Clinic JD ’15

Where are you currently working and what type of work do you do?
I am a criminal immigration attorney in the Civil Action Practice of The Bronx Defenders. I represent detained noncitizens placed in removal proceedings in New York City and New Jersey. The city-wide project that funds my work is called the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP).

NYIFUP is the first of its kind in the country, and it is premised on the ideas that noncitizens, just like U.S. citizens, deserve access to free legal services when placed in removal proceedings and that providing public defenders to noncitizens in proceedings leads to better informed clients and a more efficient court system.

Do you work in a field related to your clinical studies?
I am doing work directly related to my clinical studies! I approached the Criminal Defense Clinic through the lens of criminal immigration law (where criminal proceedings directly, and often disastrously, impact the immigration circumstances of an individual) and through clinic I supplemented my immigration knowledge with a much stronger foundation of the criminal court proceedings in New York. What I learned in clinic proved helpful both as an intern at The Bronx Defenders and as an attorney there now.

What was your clinical experience like and how has it had an impact on your career path?
Without question, the open-mindedness and supportiveness with which Prof. Steve Zeidman handles his clinic made a decisive impact in my career path. When deciding which clinic to apply for during my 2L fall I met with Steve to discuss my career goal and to see what his clinic could do to help me get there.

What are some other places you have worked or interned?
My current job is my first job out of law school. Before school I worked as an immigration paralegal at The New York Legal Assistance Group, and I interned at The Advocates for Human Rights in college and at Immigration Equality and The Bronx Defenders during law school.

How has your clinical experience prepared you for the work you do now? Are there any specific skills you gained that you find essential to the work you do?
Clinic was huge for my current work because it familiarized me with processes and documents in a criminal proceeding which are critical to be able to understand and analyze quickly in my work. We have very little time to review an evidence file for a client and I need to be able to understand, and pick out the critical components of, rap sheets, indictments, CODs, etc., to most effectively serve my client.

What type of advice would you give to new clinic students?
Be critical, curious, and find the smartest people in the building and ask them questions.
Community & Economic Development Clinic: Many CEDC Clinic alum are transactional, housing, or labor attorneys at public interest law firms such as the Urban Justice Center and Queens Legal Services. Some are in-house counsel to innovative and respected non-profits such as The Acacia Network, ICA Group, and Unlocal. Others are government attorneys working for the New York City Council and the New York State Assembly. Still others are in “non traditional legal careers,” serving in roles such as political correspondent covering legal matters and the Supreme Court for the Huffington Post and as policy director for The Center for Working Families.

Criminal Defense Clinic: See alumni profiles p. 18 & 19

Economic Justice Project: From the most recent class (2015), every labor student seeking work in the field has achieved it: Amanda Bransford and Elizabeth Koo are both staff attorneys in the workers’ rights project of the Empire Justice Center; Tana Forrester works as an associate at the employee side labor firm Shulman Kessler; and Aaron Samsel works for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Elder Law Clinic: Among the Elder Law Clinic alums who graduated in 2015: Chelsea Breakstone is a staff attorney in the housing unit at Bronx Legal Services, as part of a Poverty Justice Solutions Fellowship. Catalina De La Hoz is working as a court attorney for the New York Court of Appeals in Albany. Brett Dolin is a staff attorney in the housing unit at Brooklyn Legal Services. Emily Farrell is clerking for Federal Magistrate Judge Ronald Ellis in the Southern District of New York. Amanda O’Keefe is working at Boomhealth, representing tenants in housing matters and related issues in the Bronx. Yi Stewart is working for Manhattan Surrogate’s Court Judge Rita Mella.

Equality Practice Clinic: CUNY Law alum, Cesar Vargas (’11), was admitted to practice law in February 2016. Originally denied admittance to the bar because of his immigration status, on February 3, the New York State Appellate Court reversed the Bar Admissions Committee’s original decision. Other Equality alumni include Bob Perry, who is the Director of Litigation at the NYCLU, and who has supervised past students on public policy and legislative work. Alum Kary Moss is the Executive Director of the Michigan ACLU.

Family Law Practice Clinic: Field supervisors for the Family Law Practice Clinic are overwhelmingly drawn from the ranks of CUNY alums, as many have established important careers in family law and understand our mission and the importance of client-centered lawyering.

Health Law Practice Clinic: Health Law Concentration graduates are working in a wide variety of positions in government agencies, law firms, and non-profit organizations that protect and promote access to affordable, quality health care. Examples include: Lisa Sbrana, who is the New York State Department of Health’s Director of the Office of Marketplace Counsel; Neal Bhushan, an associate at the Jacob Fuchsberg Law Firm; and Beth Shyken, a staff attorney at the Medicare Rights Center.

Human Rights & Gender Justice Clinic: See alumni profiles p. 18 & 19

Immigrant & Non-Citizens Rights Clinic: INRC alumni have gone on to work at leading organizations in the area of immigration law. As a student in the clinic, Talia Peleg (’10) worked on federal habeas corpus cases as part of the law and security docket. She currently works at Brooklyn Defender Services under the New York City Immigrant Family Unity Project where she represents detained immigrants in removal proceedings.

Mediation Clinic: Edward Bonsignore, Esq. is a supervising attorney who has worked with the Clinic for ten years and is a Mediation Clinic and CUNY Law alum. He has built a successful family mediation law practice in Long Island.
Megan Lynch (‘17), a student from the Economic Justice Project seminar, was recently awarded the Brehon Law/KRW Summer Fellowship to complete an internship at KRW LLP, a prestigious human rights law firm in Belfast. This summer Megan will be the inaugural fellow in their legacy litigation practice, which represents families in civil actions against the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and/or the Ministry of Defense (MoD) in allegations of collusion by the state in the death of their loved ones.

The Brehon Law Society was founded in 1978 and is distinguished by its emphasis on egalitarianism and respect for human rights. Megan was invited to their annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner, where she was recognized for her selection for the internship. Judge George J. Silver of the New York County Supreme Court was also honored by the society and Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams spoke about the fundamental contributions the Brehons have made to the realization of civil and human rights in Ireland.
Let me take you back to the late summer in 1985, we were a small, intrepid group consisting of two clinics: Health in the Workplace and Immigrant Access to Government Benefits and Health Care; three supervising attorneys: Paul O’Neil, Vanessa Merton, and Janet Calvo; two support staff: Sandy Carbone and Dorothy Matthew; and 26 students.

We did not know exactly what we were doing, but we were creating something new. And we never let schooling interfere with our education. Together we created a foundation that stands to this day and has shaped our clinical program.

Our award recipients are distinguished by their personal integrity and professional accomplishments:

Dorothy, adapting to many changes, overcoming hardship, rising to clinic administrator with unparalleled dedication, skill, and spirit.

Paul, you left it all behind, moving from managing a leading west coast plaintiffs personal injury/asbestos litigation law firm, to come to CUNY to start the Health in the Workplace Clinic with Vanessa, and for many years working with another CUNY colleague, Sharon Hom, at Human Rights in China.

Vanessa, you conceptualized the Health in the Workplace Clinic, bringing it to fruition, forced to close the clinic only a few years later when you were unfairly denied tenure by the CUNY bureaucracy, and moved onto Pace law School, where you have fought tirelessly and courageously for immigrant rights, endlessly giving of yourself to students, clients, alums, and other advocates, and recently being recognized by the New York Law Journal as a public service lawyer who leads by example.

Janet, you created and built the immigration clinic, continued your pathbreaking work securing health care access and other benefits for immigrants, and over the years have taught in virtually all parts of the CUNY Law curriculum, setting a standard for excellence, and mentoring students and colleagues with endless thoughtfulness and generosity.

And now for the awards:

Dorothy, from the very beginning, you have devoted yourself to the greater good of the clinical program. You have smoothed the way for countless students and exemplified and modeled the kind of professional and personal growth to which we all aspire. Now, as clinic administrator, you have led us as we meet the challenges of the digital world of law practice. I am honored to work with you and present this award for your service and achievements.

Paul, Vanessa, and Janet, your commitment to experiential, self-directed learning prepared students for public interest practice, instilled confidence, courage and humility and made us better people. Each of you have had a profound impact on me and countless others as teachers, mentors, colleagues, and friends.

You challenged us to be excellent advocates and also reinforced the importance of having fun in the midst of all our hard work! It is my deep honor to present you with these awards, which recognize your profound contributions as founders of Main Street Legal Services.
## Clinical Training

Clinics give students hands-on experience with interviewing, counseling, and advising clients. Law schools often offer clinics in criminal justice, family law, consumer rights, and more. These are the top law schools for clinical training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>School name</th>
<th>Tuition and fees</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td><strong>Georgetown University</strong></td>
<td>$55,255 per year (full-time)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td><strong>American University</strong></td>
<td>$51,002 per year (full-time)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td><strong>CUNY</strong></td>
<td>$14,663 per year (in-state, full-time); $23,983 per year (out-of-state, full-time)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long Island City, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td><strong>New York University</strong></td>
<td>$59,330 per year (full-time)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td><strong>Washington University in St. Louis</strong></td>
<td>$51,626 per year (full-time)</td>
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<td>St. Louis, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td><strong>Yale University</strong></td>
<td>$58,050 per year (full-time)</td>
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<td>New Haven, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td><strong>University of Maryland (Carey)</strong></td>
<td>$30,177 per year (in-state, full-time); $43,657 per year (out-of-state, full-time)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baltimore, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td><strong>Northwestern University (Pritzker)</strong></td>
<td>$58,398 per year (full-time)</td>
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<td>Chicago, IL</td>
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