



Main Street Legal Services

Bridge to Justice

The City University of New York

CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW

Law in the Service of Human Needs

LEFT TO RIGHT BACK: RAMZI KASSEM, DONNA LEE, NERMEEN ARASTU, STEPHEN LOFFREDO, LISA DAVIS, CYNTHIA SOOHO, LYNN LU, JOE ROSENBERG, STEVE ZEIDMAN; LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT: CARMEN HUERTAS-NOBLE, ALIZABETH NEWMAN, DOROTHY MATTHEW, V HILL, AYESHA YASMIN, BERNICE COHN AND ALEXA POLLOCK. MISSING: BERYL BLAUSTONE, JOHN WHITLOW, NICOLE SMITH FUTRELL

Welcome



Joe Rosenberg, Clinic Dean

This inaugural newsletter is a snapshot in time of Main Street Legal Services, CUNY School of Law's clinical program. We have a fantastic faculty and support staff, each of whom "represents" the Law School's motto, "Law in the Service of Human Needs." Main Street Legal Services is justifiably recognized as one of the top law school clinical programs in the country (and, perhaps, the world). We are currently rated as the #3 clinical program in the U.S. in the 2016 U.S. News and World Report Best Graduate School rankings. Our CLEAR Project's "Mapping Muslims" report received the 2013 Clinical Legal Education Association Award for Excellence in a Clinical Case or Project.

The clinical faculty, individually and collectively, are engaged in a wide range of activities centered on our clinical teaching, work with students, and social justice advocacy. Each of our clinics is engaged in exciting, interesting, and vitally important work that you will read about in this newsletter (for a list of clinics, see p. 2)

While our individual clinics are the focal point of our work, we derive strength from our collective efforts as a single law office.

CROSS CLINIC SEMINARS

On the first Tuesday of the fall semester, we held a "CUNITY" event to honor the 50th anniversary of the

Civil Rights Act, Freedom Summer, and the War on Poverty. I spoke about the haunting parallels between the events and injustices in 1964 and 2014. Two alums, Pavita Krishnaswamy, Deputy Director of Litigation at South Brooklyn Legal Services, and Mike Oppenheimer, Bronx Defenders, spoke eloquently of how their work is impacted by race and poverty.

Later in the fall, the topic was "Secure Communications for Attorneys in the Age of NSA Surveillance." Led by alum Jonathan Stribling, we learned about broad government surveillance programs and practical strategies for attorneys to protect confidential digital information.

CLINIC - LIBRARY COLLABORATION: LAW PRACTICE TECHNOLOGY

The Clinic and Law Library are collaborating on a Law Practice Technology Project. Librarian Alex Berriro-Matamoros is leading a needs assessment with the goal of identifying ways to enhance our use of technology in our clinical practices.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH CUNY COLLEGES

We have partnerships with Hunter College's Silberman School of Social Work and the LaGuardia Community College Paralegal Studies Program. Our Clinical Social Worker, Nathaniel Cavalletto, is supervising Hawa Omar, a Hunter College Social Work Student.

Our clinic continues to be enhanced by our paralegal interns from LaGuardia, Rolanda Coleman and Briana Cattenhead. Guadalupe Vidal, a graduate of the LaGuardia program, has been working as a paralegal in the Elder Law Clinic, primarily on our A2J pro se guardianship project.

This summer we will welcome undergraduate students from the CCNY Skadden Arps Honors Program in Legal Studies and, hopefully, other CUNY colleges, including Hunter.

CLINIC FACULTY EXCHANGE WITH UNC

Donna Lee will be participating in what we hope will be the first of many exchanges with the University of North Carolina Law School clinics. Donna will be travelling to North Carolina to spend a full day meeting with UNC clinical faculty this spring. This fall we will welcome a clinician from UNC.

MSLS STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

V Hill of our support staff and I co-chair our MSLS Student Advisory Committee. We meet several times a year to get input from clinic students on matters that affect all clinics.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are excited about expanding our housing advocacy project in collaboration with Queens Legal Services as part of a broader anti-displacement coalition that is focusing on protecting tenants in several neighborhoods that are part of Mayor DiBlasio's redevelopment and affordable housing initiative. One of the neighborhoods is Long Island City (zip code 11101), which is where our law school is located. We anticipate that this project will provide many advocacy opportunities for clinical students and the entire CUNY Law community.

We also want to congratulate our colleagues Degna Levister, who is now our Director of Admissions, and John Whitlow, who has accepted a tenure track position with the University of New Mexico Law School. We will miss Degna and John, but their work and presence will continue to inform our clinical program.

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Alexa Pollock whose persistence and creativity made this newsletter possible.

MSLS Faculty, Staff, & Collaborators

Clinic Faculty, Fellows, and Staff Attorneys

Community & Economic Development:

Professors: Carmen Huertas-Noble and John Whitlow; Fellows: Chris Adams and Chris Michael

Criminal Defense: Professors: Donna Lee, Nicole Smith Futrell, and Steve Zeidman

Economic Justice Project: Professors: Stephen Loffredo and Lynn Lu

Elder Law: Professor: Joe Rosenberg

Immigration & Non-Citizen Rights:

Professors: Nermeen Arastu, Ramzi Kassem, and Alizabeth Newman; Staff Attorney: Diala Shamas; Fellow: Naz Ahmed

International Women’s Human Rights:

Professors: Lisa Davis and Cynthia Soohoo; Fellows: J.M. Kirby, Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, and Ramy Ibrahim

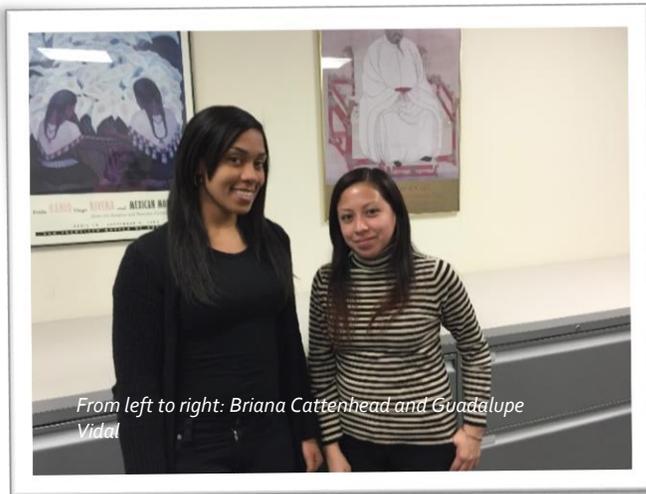
Mediation: Professor: Beryl Blaustone



Left to right MSLS Support Staff: Ayesha Yasmin, V Hill, Dorothy Matthew, Alexa Pollock, Bernice Cohn

Support Staff

- Bernice Cohn - Mediation and Immigrant & Non-Citizen Rights
- V Hill - Criminal Defense and Economic Justice Project
- Dorothy Matthew - Clinic Administrator
- Alexa Pollock - International Women’s Human Rights and MSLS
- Ayesha Yasmin - Elder Law and Community Economic Development



From left to right: Briana Cattenhead and Guadalupe Vidal

Paralegal Team

- Guadalupe Vidal - Elder Law Clinic Paralegal
- Briana Cattenhead – Elder Law Clinic LaGuardia Paralegal Intern

Social Work Team

- Nathaniel Cavalletto - MSW
- Hawa Omar - Social Work Intern, Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work



From left to right: Nathaniel Cavalletto and Hawa Omar

Community & Economic Development

The [Community & Economic Development \(CED\) Clinic](#) addresses economic inequality in marginalized communities in New York City through litigation, transactional representation, grassroots community advocacy, and policy reform.

Clinic interns provide legal advice and assistance to community based organizational clients that are creating vibrant neighborhood institutions and organizing for social and economic justice in their workplaces and in their homes.



CED clinic interns meet with Bedford Stuyvesant tenants to discuss their upcoming receivership trial, February 2015

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Promoting Community-Run, Worker-Owned Businesses: CED clinic interns are assisting members of Make the Road New York, an immigrants' rights membership organization, on creating worker owned co-ops. Clinic interns advise and counsel the organization members on how to set up a cooperative business entity, create democratic governance structures and guide them through the process.

Fighting for Tenants' Rights: Clinic interns in the Tenant Law and Organizing Project are helping tenants in a Bedford-Stuyvesant apartment building assert their right to a safe and healthy home. This March the residents are taking their absentee landlord to trial to be replaced, because of the landlord's negligence in upkeep of the building.



CED Clinic students, Melissa Risser and Chris Michael and alums co-organized the first annual NYC Worker Cooperative Conference, "Economic Democracy and Economic Justice: A Tale of Two Cities."

CED IN THE NEWS

Carmen Huertas-Noble and the CED clinic are mentioned in a [Forbes](#) article on the benefits of worker cooperatives.

Carmen Huertas-Noble has been invited to consult and work with the Catholic Scholars for Worker's Justice. She will participate in writing an encyclical that will call for worker cooperatives being officially endorsed by papal and Catholic social teaching. She has been invited to participate in next year's conference in Rome "On Labor Unions and Green Worker's Cooperatives" where the encyclical will be presented to Pope Francis.

The CED Clinic is partners with Mondragon-USA. Mondragon is one of the largest networks of worker owned cooperatives in the world.

SPOTLIGHT

Chris Adams Class of 2014, CED Fellow: As the CED Fellow I work in pursuit of an economy that equitably rewards individuals for the value they create through their labor and anchors that wealth to the communities in which they reside. Toward that end, I conduct research, draft transactional documents and advise clients on issues related to creating and sustaining worker-owned cooperatives.

CED Alums have obtained transactional employment at Acacias, Inc., the Urban Justice Center and ICA Group; housing employment at Legal Services, Legal Aid and the Real Estate Finance Bureau of the Attorney General's Office; and policy employment at the Office of the Speaker, City Council, and the New York State Senate.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Worker Cooperative Law Project: Clinic interns provide legal support to organizations that are creating worker owned cooperatives.

Non-Profit Legal Support Project: Clinic interns assist community based organizations incorporate as non-profits and obtain tax exempt status.

Tenant Law and Organizing Project: Clinic interns provide legal advice and counsel for tenant organizations organizing for improved living conditions for low income residents in gentrifying neighborhoods.

Partners: Urban Homesteading Assistance Board, The Urban Justice Center, South Brooklyn Legal Services, Make the Road New York, Green Worker Cooperative, and Mondragon USA.

Criminal Defense

In the [Criminal Defense Clinic](#) (DEF), student defenders provide direct, one-on-one representation in a variety of contexts, including representing indigent clients charged with various misdemeanors in the New York City Criminal Court, and incarcerated men and women challenging their placement in solitary confinement in New York State prisons.

In addition, clinic interns assist federal prisoners seeking clemency from the President of the United States, work with Public Defender offices and experienced practitioners on serious felony cases, and engage with criminal justice organizations and think-tanks on current issues.

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Criminal Court Cases: Student defenders handled the full range of charges faced by any of the thousand or so people arrested each day in NYC and achieved dismissals or non-criminal dispositions in every case. Defenders also assisted their clients with all related matters that resulted from arrest, including potential suspension from college, revocation of security guard and taxi driver licenses, and immigration concerns.

Challenging Solitary Confinement: CDC had a breakthrough representing a client contesting his solitary confinement as a petition for certiorari was granted by the New York Court of Appeals. This case presents an issue that potentially arises in every prison disciplinary hearing: whether and when a *pro se* prisoner will have access to judicial review based on having sufficiently preserved a legal challenge. In addition, student defenders are drafting an amicus brief on another prisoners' rights case pending before the Court. This case involves the relief provided when a prisoner's placement in solitary confinement was based on a constitutionally deficient administrative process.

Federal Clemency Cases: The Clinic joined the newly created Clemency Project 2014, an unprecedented, national consortium of criminal justice organizations working to identify and represent federal prisoners serving lengthy sentences who are eligible for clemency by the President of the United States. The Clemency Project, spurred initially by the Attorney General, is a response to the policies of mass incarceration that have led to more than two million people in America's jails and prisons.

Working in the Community: Locally, clinic interns began working on a project to educate incarcerated persons at Rikers Island about their right to modify child support obligations based on being incarcerated. Previously, clinic interns held workshops to assist formerly convicted persons obtain Certificates of Relief from Civil Disabilities to help enable them to secure employment.

SPOTLIGHT

Alumni: Clinic graduates are substantially represented as staff and supervising attorneys at state and federal trial and appellate defender offices across the country. Recent Criminal Defense Clinic alums are working as Public Defenders in California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Many Clinic graduates are also part of small criminal defense and civil rights firms or have their own private practice, while others can be found at not-for-profit or governmental criminal justice agencies.



Professors. Nicole Smith Futrell and Steve Zeidman in class

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Misdemeanor Representation: Clinic interns represent indigent clients through the Clinic's contract with the Legal Aid Society and pursuant to the Judiciary's Student Practice Order. Clinic interns meet their clients approximately 24 hours after their arrest, argue to the court for their client's release, and continue their representation until the charges are resolved.

Prisoner Disciplinary Hearings: In partnership with Prisoner's Legal Services, student defenders represent NY State inmates who have received disciplinary violations and are serving lengthy sentences in solitary confinement.

External placements: CDC partners include the Bronx Defenders, Brooklyn Defender Services, the Legal Aid Society, the Center for Appellate Litigation, the Office of the Appellate Defender, the Vera Institute of Justice, and Mental Hygiene Legal Services.

Trial Advocacy: Guest lecturers from Bronx Defenders and the Legal Aid Society provide trial advocacy training, and clinic interns work in teams to prepare and conduct a pretrial suppression hearing based on a real case handled by a Clinic alum.

DEFENDER CLINIC IN THE NEWS

[Steve Zeidman Comments on Police Dragnets](#)

Read Nicole Smith Futrell's analysis of the Floyd decision in the [Oxford Human Rights Hub blog](#).

For more articles by Defender Faculty please visit their [faculty pages](#).

Economic Justice Project

From its founding, a central mission of the City University of New York has been to offer educational and economic opportunity to low-income New Yorkers, to provide a pathway to the middle class, and to promote the economic and social mobility that is the cornerstone of a democratic society.

Unfortunately, significant obstacles prevent realization of this dream for many of the poorest Americans who rely on public benefits to meet basic needs. Federal “welfare reform” and subsequent state and federal welfare policies all but closed the door to higher education for many families living in poverty. These policies forced tens of thousands of low-income CUNY students to drop out of school and abandon their pursuit of economic advancement in order to perform “workfare” assignments. Many of these students were single parents determined to obtain the skills and credentials needed to secure living-wage employment, move their families out of poverty, and improve the life chances of their children; others were teenagers or young adults in families so poor as to qualify for public assistance.

CUNY School of Law launched the [Economic Justice Project \(EJP\)](#) in response to the social justice crisis triggered by these regressive welfare policies. EJP interns operate on several fronts, providing direct representation to hundreds of CUNY undergraduates, collaborating closely with and supporting the organizing and political efforts of the Welfare Rights Initiative and other grassroots organizations, and engaging in legislative and other systemic advocacy.

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Public education and outreach: To solidify this legislative victory and begin to undo the damage caused by decades of policy that restricted access to higher education, EJP and WRI are embarking on an extensive outreach campaign to educate current and prospective four-year college students about the change in law and to assist them in maintaining critical public supports for themselves and their families.

Challenging agency errors: We are also continuing our strategic advocacy at the city and state levels to identify and remedy protracted problems affecting large groups of public assistance recipients as the result of decades of bureaucratic neglect and ideological opposition to equal access to higher education for the poor. Finally, we continue our individual representation of CUNY students receiving public benefits to vindicate their rights and facilitate achievement of their educational and career goals.



EJP Faculty staff and clinic interns 2015

SPOTLIGHT

Influencing Public Policy: In Spring 2014, the New York Legislature enacted a law that - for the first time - allows welfare recipients to meet a substantial part of their “workfare” obligations through studies in four-year college. EJP drafted the initial version of the law and has labored for years, in collaboration with the Education and Training Taskforce and the Welfare Rights Initiative, to secure its passage. Before this reform, welfare policies in New York all but excluded poor families from four-year college. The adoption of the law may open opportunities for thousands of poor families and, given the link between educational attainment and economic mobility, holds out the possibility of transformative change.



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Trainings: Provide training for community members on accessing benefits, including victims of domestic violence, immigrants and individuals transitioning off of public benefits.

Collaboration: EJP students work with grass-roots public advocacy organizations in education and training efforts and policy reform campaigns that address the right to education.

Partners: Welfare Rights Initiative at Hunter College and the Education Task Force.

Elder Law

The [Elder Law Clinic](#) (ELC) docket has revolved around adult guardianship cases under Article 81 of the New York Mental Hygiene Law. These cases arise when a person is alleged to need a guardian to help make decisions about personal needs (where to live, health care decisions, managing property, paying bills and signing leases.) In the ELC practice, people alleged to need a guardian range in age from 18-100, and may be grappling with mental health issues, developmental conditions or age related dementia.

Our primary goal is to keep the person in the community or have them discharged from an institution back into the community. The guardianship cases are usually brought by Adult Protective Services, and also by hospitals, nursing homes, and sometimes family members.

We use the problems we encounter—in the initial pleadings, the work of the lawyers on the case, and the decision of the court—as the basis for critical reflection and analysis of the law, lawyering, and the justice system.

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Article 81 Court Appointed Evaluator:

The Court Evaluator (CE) serves as the “eyes and ears” of the court. This role gives clinic interns multiple opportunities to conduct fact investigations, interview interested parties, work with professionals from other disciplines, engage in nuanced legal analysis, write a report to the court, and examine witnesses at the hearing.

Representing Homebound Clients:

Clinic interns work on “planning” cases with homebound clients as part of a project with the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House. This work typically involves interviewing, counseling, and drafting wills, advance directives, and related documents. We often advise clients on government benefit issues, primarily Medicaid, that relate to their estate planning.

SPOTLIGHT

Partnership with LaGuardia Community College: This winter Rolanda Coleman, a paralegal student at LaGuardia Community College, interned in the Elder Law Clinic. This spring Briana Cattenhead is interning with us.

Guadalupe Vidal, a graduate of the LaGuardia program, has been working as a paralegal in the clinic, mostly with the ELC, as well as with the INRC. Guadalupe is playing a key role in our Article 81 Access to Justice Project.

Alumni Guest Speakers:

Elizabeth Valentin, Partner in the Elder Law firm Litman & Krooks, spoke about her litigation practice in contested adult guardianships and the challenges of developing professional identity and practice skills.

Lian Kuan-Maoga, Associate with the Elder Law firm Ronald Fatoullah Associates, spoke about her fellowship with the Borchard Center on Aging, during which she worked with Chinese elders in New York City and the challenges of developing a professional identity and lawyering expertise.

Kim Tate Brown, Staff Attorney with Mental Hygiene Legal Service, discussed best practices for litigating involuntary commitment and sex offender cases, including strategies for persuading juries and judges.



Elder Law clinic interns, faculty and staff Fall 2014

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Technology and Access to Justice: The ELC is developing our Article 81 Pro Se project by transforming our written materials, which are available on the clinic website, into an electronic A2J guided interview. The interview is designed to divert people away from guardianship and, only if there are no other options, guide them through an interview that will populate HotDocs pleadings that they can file in court to initiate a guardianship.

Community Education: Clinic interns conducted “know your rights” workshops in community centers on the Lower East Side in Manhattan and in Brooklyn and for staff at the Law School. Topics include planning for incapacity, avoiding guardianships, and Medicaid eligibility.

Elder Law Clinic Hiatus: The Elder Law Clinic will be taking a hiatus in its current form during the next academic year.



(From left to right) Rolanda Coleman, intern and paralegal student at LaGuardia; Guadalupe Vidal, ELC paralegal and LaGuardia graduate

Immigrant and Non-Citizen Rights

[INRC](#) assists non-citizens - either through individual legal representation or as groups and organizations - as they assert their rights to live in the United States without fear, exploitation and subordination, or to be free from U.S. custody. Clinic interns represent legal permanent residents with criminal convictions, domestic violence survivors and asylum-seekers in deportation proceedings as well as prisoners currently or formerly held at American military detention sites, such as Guantánamo Bay.

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHTS

Helping Immigrants and Non-Citizens with their Immigration Status: Recent INRC victories:

- A Chilean political and indigenous rights activist was granted permission to stay in the United States after a seven year battle against deportation in immigration and BIA court.
- INRC worked with a young unaccompanied minor who fled gang violence in El Salvador to gain special immigration juvenile status through proceedings in Family and Immigration Court. He has now successfully settled into life in the United States under the care of a loving guardian.
- INRC also prevented a client who had resided in the United States for the last 30 years, with two U.S. Citizen children, from being deported by representing him through a two-day immigration trial. During the trial they argued that the client was deserving of discretionary relief due to his strong ties in the United States.

Representing Detainees: With the help of ICRN, a detainee at Guantanamo Bay was released and is now resettled in Uruguay.

Educating Communities: Through its CLEAR project, INRC provides rights awareness education and counseling to individuals and charitable organizations that travel and work in the Middle East. The project supports and represents individuals re-entering the U.S. who expect close scrutiny because of where they have traveled, or what demographic they fit.

Advocating for immigrants: INRC is working with the Department of Education to investigate allegations that some New York City schools are attempting to block registration of the recent surge in Latin American unaccompanied minors by asking for inappropriate documentation.

Upcoming Trials: INRC is bringing two lawsuits against the federal government involving police surveillance of Muslims in New York City and FBI retaliation against politically active American Muslims who refuse to act as informants and who are subsequently put on the no fly list.

SPOTLIGHT

Diala Shamas, CLEAR Senior Staff Attorney:

Diala Shamas is a senior staff attorney with the CLEAR project. Diala works with individuals, organizations, and communities that are facing pressures exerted by counter terrorism and national security policies. Along with CLEAR clinic interns and her colleagues, she has represented scores of individuals who have been approached for questioning by the FBI or the NYPD. Diala is also counsel in [Raza v. City of New York](#), a federal lawsuit challenging the NYPD's program of suspicionless surveillance of Muslims, and [Tanvir v. Holder](#), a lawsuit brought on behalf of CLEAR clients who have been unlawfully placed on the Federal Government's "No Fly List" in retaliation for their refusal to become FBI informants.

Professor Ramzi Kassem and INRC clinic interns 2015



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

The CLEAR (Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility) project aims to address the unmet legal needs of Muslim, Arab, South Asian, and other communities in the New York City area that are particularly affected by national security and counter-terrorism policies and practices. Clinic interns work on a wide variety of issues from representing individuals who are contacted for questioning by law enforcement, to facilitating Know-Your-Rights at different community sites, to supporting organizing by affected communities in New York City. Click [here](#) for more information.

Community Lawyering Project: This project takes a holistic approach to working with immigrant survivors of gender violence. Clinic interns facilitate educational and consciousness raising workshops at community organizations as the women prepare their legal petitions for status.

Partners: ACLU, New York Civil Liberties Union, Queens Legal Services, CUNY Citizenship Now

INRC IN THE NEWS

Ramzi Kassem discusses continued detainment of cleared prisoners at Guantanamo in [VICE](#).

Nermeen Arastu and Senior Staff Attorney Diala Shama, discuss government surveillance of politically active American Muslims and its effects in [The Washington Post](#).

International Women's Human Rights



[International Women's Human Rights \(IWHR\) Clinic](#) interns engage in cutting edge human rights work in the U.S. and around the world. Interns develop a sound understanding of international human rights and sharpen lawyering skills necessary for effective law reform advocacy work applicable in both U.S. and international contexts. The Clinic's work focuses on gender-based violence, reproductive rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, economic and social rights, children's rights and anti-trafficking work.

SPOTLIGHT

Alumni: IWHR has graduated approximately 165 alumni. This semester alumni Pam Spees and Katherine Gallagher, Senior Staff Attorneys at the Center for Constitutional Rights, returned to the Clinic as guest speakers.

IWHR clinic interns at Colombia trainings 2015

PRACTICE HIGHLIGHT

Fact Finding Trips to Turkey: In January, clinic interns in the **Iraq Project** participated in a 3 day work shop with Iraqi activists in Turkey. The workshop covered documentation of violations and treaty protocol for Iraq's upcoming review for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Clinic interns collected testimony on issues of gender based violence such as forced, temporary and/or child marriage, honor crimes, sex trafficking, and treatment of women in detention centers. Their testimony will be featured in IWHR's legal submission for the ICCPR review.

Last May, clinic interns in the **Syria Project** travelled to Turkey and Lebanon to conduct trainings in how to identify gender-based violence violations and how to navigate the CEDAW review for Syrian women's rights organizations and activists. They interviewed women currently living under ISIS-controlled areas for a legal submission to the UN Commission on the Inquiry of Syria. In the fall, clinic interns made a follow up trip to gather more testimonies from the women and organizations.

Fact Finding Trip to Colombia: This February, clinic interns travelled to Colombia to gather first person accounts of former child soldiers and advocates with the organization Taller de Vida. Colombia will be up for review by the UN Committee Against Torture and these survivors' stories will be included in an IWHR legal submission. The interns also conducted human rights trainings for families displaced by the armed conflict in Colombia as well as participated in trainings on transitional justice.

Advocating on Behalf of Youth in the Criminal Justice System: Cynthia Soohoo and three IWHR Clinic interns were invited by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of the Child to participate in a meeting and report writing session on youth in the criminal justice system. The meeting took place at the Inter American Council on Human Rights in Washington, DC. IWHR Fellow, J.M. Kirby, supervises a team of students working in the Youth Justice Project, who testified at a NYC hearing on the treatment of youth at Rikers Island.

Supporting Reproductive Health Rights: In March, IWHR Professor Cynthia Soohoo, and Diana Aragundi and Sarah Verbil participated in a hearing on women's reproductive rights in McAllen, Texas. The hearing was held by Nuestro Texas in partnership with the Center for Reproductive Rights, to address barriers that prevent Latino and immigrant communities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley from accessing reproductive health care.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Seeking Accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Syrian Women: IWHR works with local Syrian women's organizations that serve refugees on the Turkey-Syria border, who are seeking accountability and redress for crimes committed in the context of the Syrian conflict. IWHR conducts trainings on human rights documentation and reporting.

Promoting the Rights, Protection, and Physical Security of Marginalized and at Risk Iraqis: IWHR works to promote human rights and democracy and the wellbeing of marginalized Iraqis. IWHR provides legal, capacity building, and technical skills and trains women's organizations to document human rights violations.

Redress for Colombian Child Soldiers: IWHR works to address human rights violations committed against demobilized child soldiers and Afro-Colombians. IWHR provides training in transitional justice processes and initiative creation with a gender perspective.

US Anti Trafficking Project: IWHR works to address and end the criminalization of individuals trafficked into sex work. The project has both provided direct representation to clients who have been victims of trafficking and engaged in advocacy to change law and policies to protect trafficking victims.

Youth in Adult Jails and Prisons: IWHR has spearheaded international human rights advocacy in the U.S. addressing children under 18 who are tried in adult criminal courts and who serve sentences in adult facilities. IWHR works internationally and domestically to help juvenile justice activists incorporate human rights law into their advocacy work.

Reproductive Rights in Texas, Asia and Latin America: IWHR uses human rights standards to address reproductive rights and health issues including forced sterilization, contraception bans, and funding cuts to reproductive health clinics.



From left to right: IWHR Clinic intern Sarah Verbil ('15) and Professor Cynthia Soohoo, and IWHR Clinic intern Diana Aragundi ('15)

Mediation

In the [Mediation Clinic](#), student attorney-mediators learn professional neutral intervention skills that allow parties to resolve their disputes. As mediators, clinic interns help parties resolve commercial disputes, torts, and landlord-tenant, family, neighbor, and employment-related disputes. They work in two-person teams to co-mediate cases under direct faculty supervision and second-seat faculty in complex cases. Clinic interns study the substantive law in matters including contract law, disability and anti-discrimination law, and court procedures /protocol for dispute resolution.



Clinic interns with Professor Beryl Blaustone, Catherine Hannibal Esq. and Neely Moked Esq. Fall 2014

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRACTICE

Current Work in Court: Last semester student interns helped reach settlements for three plaintiffs in cases regarding police misconduct. Other interns worked on a religious discrimination suit dealing with explicit anti-Semitism in training of executive staff.

Staff Excellence: Beryl Blaustone has ongoing clinical exchanges with both Northumbria Law School in the United Kingdom and University of New South Wales in Australia. She has been reappointed for an unprecedented third term at Northumbria and is the only teaching colleague there to be appointed for three terms straight. In addition, she is being asked to present on Issues of Assessment in Legal Clinical Education at Northumbrian Law School later this year.

SPOTLIGHT

Alumni: Several CUNY School of Law and Mediation Clinic alumni have returned to act as supervising attorney mediators for clinical projects.

Eddy Bonsignore, Esq. is a supervising attorney who has worked with the Clinic for ten years and is a Mediation Clinic and CUNY Law alumus. He has built a successful family mediation law practice in Long Island.

Rebecca Price, Esq. is a CUNY Law graduate, who has worked as a supervising attorney in the past, and is currently the Director of the Mediation Project at the Southern New York Federal District Court.

The Mediation Clinic also has two other attorney supervisors, Catherine Hannibal, Esq. and Neely Moked, Esq.

There are three Mediation Clinic alums working as teaching assistants in the Mediation seminar this semester. They are: Andrew Foley, Logan Gerrity and Leno DeMasi.

Mediation clinic alumnus, Marianna DeCrescenzo, is working with Beryl on revising the Mediation Clinic manual.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Student Team Work: Clinic interns work in teams of two. They co-mediate at Brooklyn and Queens Civil and Small Claims courts. They co-mediate cases between landlords and tenants, commercial transactions, warranties, and tort matters.

Work in the Federal District Court: Beryl Blaustone is a mediator for the Federal District Court Southern District. Clinic interns have the opportunity to assist her in complex cases involving allegations of employment discrimination and police misconduct.

Report Work: Clinic interns write bench memos updating the law on issues such as confidentiality enforcement and calculation of damages.



Mediation seminar discussion 2015



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.

Rankings		
Rank	School name	Tuition and fees
#1	Georgetown University Washington, DC	\$53,130 per year (full-time)
#2	American University (Washington) Washington, DC	\$49,542 per year (full-time)
#3	CUNY Long Island City, NY	\$15,193 per year (in-state, full-time); \$24,073 per year (out-of-state, full-time)
#4	New York University New York, NY	\$56,838 per year (full-time)
#5	University of Maryland (Carey) Baltimore, MD	\$28,657 per year (in-state, full-time); \$41,464 per year (out-of-state, full-time)
#5	Washington University in St. Louis St. Louis, MO	\$50,152 per year (full-time)
#7	University of the District of Columbia (Clarke) Washington, DC	\$11,383 per year (in-state, full-time); \$22,136 per year (out-of-state, full-time)
#8	Stanford University Stanford, CA	\$54,366 per year (full-time)
#8	Yale University New Haven, CT	\$56,200 per year (full-time)
#10	University of New Mexico Albuquerque, NM	\$16,251 per year (in-state, full-time); \$34,521 per year (out-of-state, full-time)

The City University of New York

CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW



Law in the Service of Human Needs

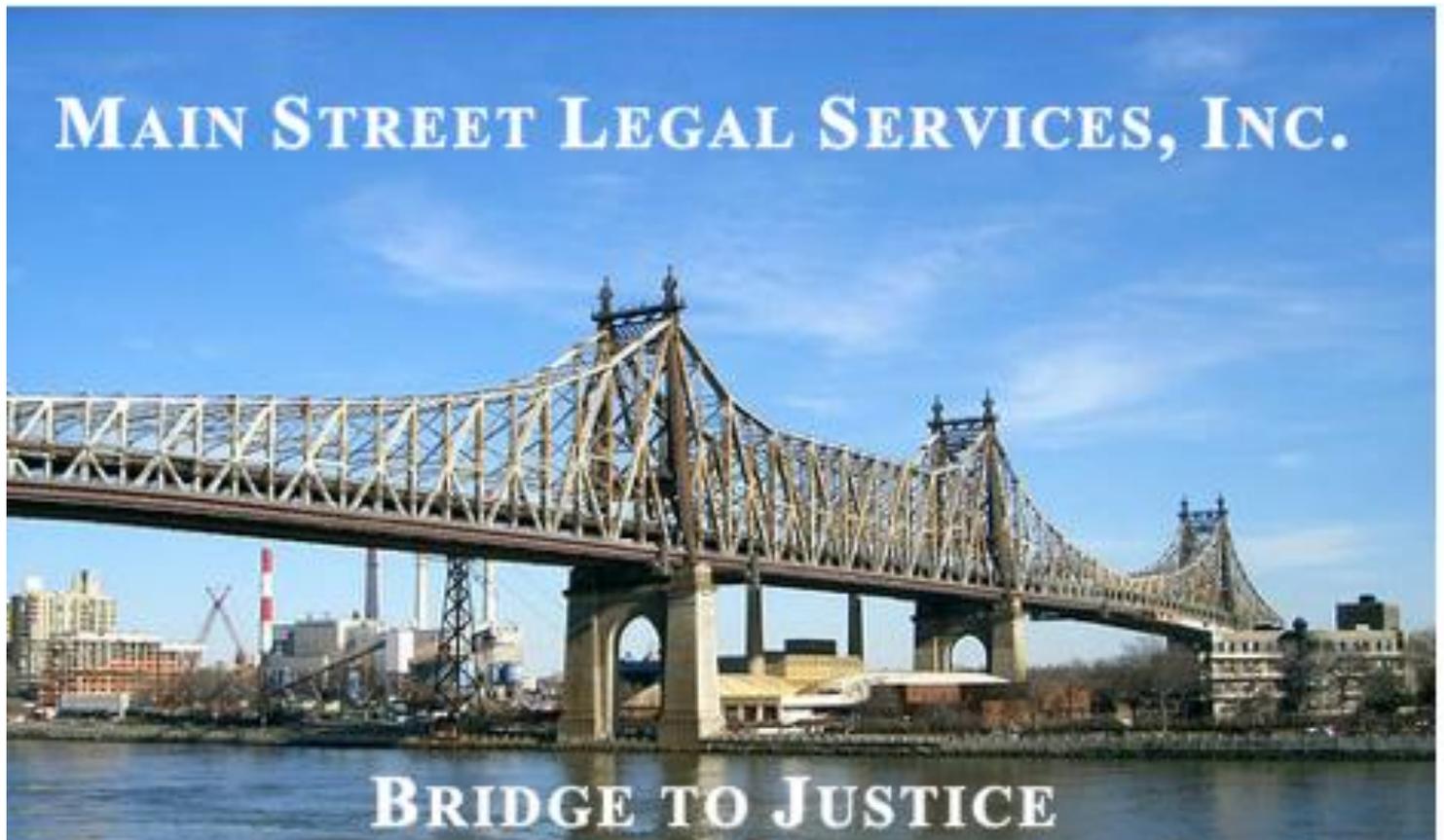


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