As the 2010 session of the State of Maryland’s General Assembly neared its conclusion, faculty and students at the University of Maryland School of Law knew the work of its Environmental Law Clinic had raised the ire of several powerful state legislators. But nobody at the Law School realized just how much.

On March 23, amidst Senate debate over the State of Maryland’s Fiscal Year 2011 budget, an amendment was introduced that would have withheld $750,000 in university funding until all 22 of the Law School’s clinics submitted a report “listing and describing each legal case in the past five years in which they participated in a court action, including the client represented, complete delineation of the expenditures for each case, and the source of funds for each expenditure.”

Senator Brian Frosh, who had worked closely with the Environmental Clinic during his eight years as Chair of the State Senate’s environment subcommittee, rose to challenge the amendment’s sponsor, Senator Lowell Stoltzfus. “What’s this about?” Frosh asked.

Nominally, it was about a suit the Clinic had filed earlier in the month on behalf of an environmental group against poultry giant Perdue and a chicken farmer who supplies the company, contending that the defendants are illegally discharging pollution into rivers feeding the Chesapeake Bay. But it was about much more than that.

“Lawyers must be able to fulfill their professional responsibility to provide effective representation, to protect client confidentiality, and to resist pressures that compromise their judgment and integrity,” said Dean Phoebe A. Haddon. “To safeguard these vital principles, as well as academic freedom, it was crucial for us to speak out.”
By the time the issue was resolved, the proposed legislation was transformed to a request for a report on public information about Environmental Law Clinic cases over the last two years, without any money being at stake. But to reach that reasonable compromise took an effort unparalleled in the Law School’s history, mustering support from the American Bar Association, every national legal education association, more than 500 individual faculty members and deans from law schools around the country, and hundreds of letters, phone calls, and electronic mail from law school alumni and students. The story was reported in every newspaper serving Maryland citizens, including the Baltimore Sun and the Washington Post, and received national attention in The New York Times, the National Law Journal, the Chronicle of Higher Education, and Legal Times.

A Chilling Effect
Now Chair of the Maryland State Senate’s Judicial Proceedings Committee, Brian Frosh had utilized the Environmental Clinic as legal counsel during his tenure as chair of the Senate’s environment subcommittee. At his request, the Clinic’s student attorneys had completed a pair of comprehensive and influential reports on the state’s most pressing environmental problems. When the budget amendments regarding the Law School’s clinics reached the Senate floor, Frosh was shocked. In addition to the Senate’s proposed amendment, the House was going to introduce a companion amendment withholding additional funding until the University System submitted a report on how clinics at other public law schools across the country select their cases and fund their programs.

The amendments’ sponsors said they were acting to protect not only a vital industry, but also small businesses that could not afford to defend themselves in litigation brought by the publicly supported School of Law. Others saw the legislation as little more than an attempt by elected officials to look out for the private interests of powerful constituents.

Frosh and a number of his colleagues rallied to the Law School’s defense. Senator Lisa Gladden, a public defender and 1991 UMDLaw graduate, spoke movingly about how her clinical experience as a student had shaped her career and changed the course of her life. Ultimately, these supporters engineered passage of compromise language that limited the reporting requirement only to the Environmental Clinic for the past two years, with the conditional funding reduced to $250,000. “It’s better than it was, but it’s still a pretty big abridgement of academic freedom,” Frosh told the Washington Post, likening the amendment to the threat, “If you guys are getting involved in issues that we don’t like or you’re bothering people that we do like, we want you to shut up.”

By the next morning, Dean Haddon had convened an ad hoc group of faculty and administrators with political experience. Their immediate goal was to convince the House to forego its two amendments, withholding up to $750,000 and requiring reporting on all clinics, and accept the Senate’s version. It seemed impossible to convince the House, whose members had demonstrated greater dissatisfaction with the Clinic than their Senate counterparts, to drop the amendments entirely.

An Outpouring of Support
Support for the Law School and, by extension, clinical legal education, was swift and widespread. UMDLaw alumni published letters to the editors in local papers and organized efforts to contact legislators. Following a teach-in (see p. 3), current students drafted opinion pieces and hand-delivered letters—bearing hundreds of signatures—to every member of the General Assembly.

Carolyn Lamm, President of the American Bar Association, wrote: “I urge those who would undermine clinical law school programs to step back and remember that the rule of law cannot survive if pressure prevents lawyers from fulfilling their responsibilities to their clients. I call on lawyers in every state to remember their professional obligation to uphold the independence of their profession, and speak out against intimidation whenever they see it. Just as lawyers who represent unpopular clients are fulfilling the responsibilities of all lawyers, so too are law students who assist clients in clinical legal programs.”

“These actions demonstrate a failure to understand the professional responsibilities of lawyers and the structure of contemporary legal education,” wrote Clinical Legal Education Association President Robert Kuehn. “Unfortunately, those attacking the law clinics appear more concerned about protecting favored businesses from compliance with the law than about supporting one of their state’s flagship schools.”

Washington University in St. Louis Professor of Law Peter Joy wrote and circulated a letter that garnered more than 500 signatures from law faculty and deans. “A university’s ability to attract top students and faculty rests upon the fundamental notion that it must be free to take up controversial ideas that may be at odds with established interests within the state,” it
read. “Rather than punishing the Maryland School of Law, state lawmakers should be praising it.”

In a legislative session that had been relatively free of conflict, the story quickly captured significant media attention. In addition to coverage in the Maryland press, as well as legal and higher education outlets, the Washington Post and The New York Times not only wrote news stories about the issue, but also editorialized in support of the Clinic (see p. 4).

“As educators, we recognized what a wonderful opportunity this was to educate both sides about what was at stake,” said Dean Haddon. “We understand that we are a public institution and have to be accountable for the work we do. But we also have a responsibility to provide our clients the best representation possible, and to offer our students the best educational experiences we can.”

Numerous legislators were at first surprised, then overwhelmed, and finally swayed by the outcry of opposition. A week after the Senate acted, the House voted to strike its budget amendments regarding the Clinic. Ultimately, a conference committee charged with resolving the differing versions of the bill agreed to a “budget narrative” that still requires UMDLaw to report on Environmental Clinic cases over the last two years that have resulted in court action, but does not attach any funds to the requirements.

“We have responded to requests for information when asked, but we are always careful in case those requests broach confidentiality or other professional responsibility-related issues,” said Dean Haddon. “I remain concerned about the allocation of funding being tied to reporting. There is a specter of intimidation that could affect how the clinics choose clients or accept cases.”

**A National Trend**

That could be the intention of some Maryland lawmakers. “I was satisfied that the message had been heard,” said Eastern Shore lawmaker Norman Conway, chair of the House Appropriations Committee. “We’ll be watching.”

Unfortunately, UMDLaw’s situation is not unique. Clinics at other law schools across the country find themselves under similar scrutiny.

In Michigan, a Wayne County prosecutor tried to include six University of Michigan law students on the witness list during the retrial of a man the students had worked to exonerate from criminal charges. In New Jersey, a developer sued the environmental clinic at Rutgers School of Law-Newark. The clinic had represented a group of citizens opposing an outlet mall that the developer was planning. After Tulane’s environmental law clinic raised concerns over the proposed site of a petrochemical plant, the Louisiana Supreme Court tightened restrictions on which cases the students could argue in state courts. Now, a state senator has proposed a bill that would prohibit legal clinics that receive state funding from suing a government agency, and ban them from filing lawsuits that seek monetary damages from an individual, business or government agency.

Professor Steinzor expects such efforts to continue in Maryland and elsewhere. But she says she and colleagues will not be dissuaded.

“The clinics represent people or groups that can’t otherwise afford lawyers and by definition, this work often puts the clinics on the opposite side of the government or powerful interests,” she said. “We’re willing to accept that.”

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**A Teachable Moment**

As the General Assembly debated, the Clinic organized a teach-in to educate students about the issues of professional responsibility that were at stake, and to ensure they had the most accurate and up-to-date information.

Professor Doug Colbert provided a national and historic survey of attacks on clinical law programs. Professor Blom updated students on the latest developments and the Law School’s intended response. Feeling it inappropriate to suggest student action, the faculty left the room.

In two hours, the Student Bar Association had drafted a letter to the General Assembly, scheduled staffing for a table where students could sign on, and gathered almost 200 signatures. Later that week, when student leaders hand-delivered copies of the letter to every state lawmaker, more than 350 students had signed.

“This has been a stark lesson for students,” said Professor Blom. “Democracy is robust but fragile. And access to justice for people who don’t normally have it can be very threatening to those who do. That’s why it’s so important for us to guarantee.”
EDITORIAL

First, They Get Rid of the Law Clinics

Law school clinics give students real-world experience in advocacy and provide underserved communities with legal representation. Increasingly, they are being attacked by business interests, which are often the targets of clinic lawsuits.

Maryland’s lawmakers have been wrestling over a bill that threatened the funding of the University of Maryland’s law clinic if it did not provide more information about its clients. The clinic has come under assault after filing an environmental lawsuit against Perdue, a powerful force in the state, charging that chicken waste from farmers who contract with the company is polluting Chesapeake Bay. Similar campaigns are being waged across the country, as Ian Urbina reported in The Times recently.

In Louisiana, the powerful chemical industry is unhappy with the Tulane Law School clinic, which has sued to increase air quality enforcement in the state. The State Legislature is considering barring clinics that receive public money from suing companies or government agencies for money damages, unless the Legislature gives them an exemption. In New Jersey, a real estate developer sued a state-financed law school clinic at Rutgers University seeking its internal documents, after the clinic sued to stop the developer’s planned strip mall.

Attacks like these are a direct interference with law schools’ freedom to decide how to educate students. Jamin Raskin, a law professor at American University and a Maryland state senator, compared it to “going into somebody’s class and trying to change their syllabus.”

Extracting information from clinics about the people they serve and the work they do also threatens the clinics’ professional relationships with their clients.

The president of the American Bar Association, Carolyn Lamm, urged “those who would undermine clinical law school programs to step back and remember that the rule of law cannot survive if pressure prevents lawyers from fulfilling their responsibilities to their clients.”

Law school clinics often provide the only legal assistance available to poor people. Some powerful interests may not like that, but it is critically important work.

In January, Dean Phoebe Haddon announced the appointment of Professor Michael Pinard as the Co-Director of the Clinical Law Program. Professor Pinard joins Professor Brenda Bratton Blom, who has been the Clinical Director since 2003. Professor Pinard teaches the Reentry of Ex-Offenders Clinic and most recently was a Visiting Professor at NYU where he taught the Offender Reentry Clinic during the 2008-09 academic year. Professor Pinard also teaches Criminal Procedure and Legal Profession, and has taught Comparative Criminal Process at the University of Aberdeen.

Professor Pinard has published articles in the *Arizona Law Review*, the *Boston University Law Review*, the *Connecticut Law Review*, the *Nevada Law Journal* and the *New York University Review of Law & Social Change*. He has forthcoming articles in the *New York University Law Review* and the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. He is coeditor-in-chief of the *Clinical Law Review*, serves on the ABA’s Clinical Skills Committee, and is a former president of the Clinical Legal Education Association. He serves on the board of directors of the Public Justice Center and the Jobs Opportunities Task Force, both in Baltimore, and also serves on the advisory committee of John Jay College of Criminal Justice’s Prisoner Reentry Institute in New York City. Professor Pinard received the Shanara Gilbert Award in 2006 from the Association of American Law Schools’ Section on Clinical Legal Education. He was a Robert M. Cover Clinical Teaching Fellow at Yale Law School, taught at St. John’s University School of Law, and was a Visiting Professor at Washington University School of Law. He also worked as a staff attorney at the Office of the Appellate Defender and the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, both in New York City.

The Reentry of Ex-Offenders Clinic offers an ambitious and exciting opportunity for students to engage in a critical examination of important and complex criminal justice issues. At present, over 700,000 individuals are returning each year to communities throughout the country from state and federal prisons. The issues relating to reentry are complex and interrelated, including sentencing policies, conditions of confinement, coordinated criminal/civil legal services, public benefits, housing, employment, child custody/support and civil rights. This complexity demands flexible and multifaceted strategies, which include direct individual services, community education, and legislative/policy-related advocacy.

Clinic students have worked on various projects related to these issues, including conducting workshops at a local one-stop reentry center on expungement laws; representing individuals seeking to expunge their criminal records; partnering with the social work clinic to provide services to individuals nearing release from correctional facilities; initiating a policy effort to “ban the box” on Baltimore City’s job application that asks applicants if they have criminal records; providing written and oral testimony in support of legislative bills aimed at easing the restrictions on individuals with criminal records; issuing a report detailing the collateral consequences of Maryland criminal convictions; educating middle and high-school students about these various collateral consequences; conducting workshops at a local women’s facility on child support/custody issues; conducting workshops at a local jail that houses juveniles charged as adults; and helping pretrial detainees exercise their voting rights.
**Access to Justice Criminal Law Clinic**

The Access to Justice Criminal Law Clinic provides students with various courtroom experiences of representing indigent defendants charged with non-violent offenses who remain in jail awaiting trial because they cannot afford the bail amount. Students fill an important gap before an assigned attorney appears on behalf of defendants. With verified and reliable information, reviewing judges have ordered the earlier release of two-thirds of the clients, allowing most to return to jobs, school, family, or the benefit of substance abuse counseling. The clinic also provides the opportunity for students to engage in a law reform project intended to enhance Maryland’s current pretrial release and bail system. Projects have contributed to the public’s understanding of counsel’s importance at early stages to promote a more just and efficient pretrial justice system, and have included administrative, legislative, and litigation models for an accused to gain access to an assigned lawyer, and to employ alternatives for pretrial release other than financial conditions.

Professor Doug Colbert has specialized in teaching the client-represented clinic to law students for more than 25 years. During this period, he also has taught a variety of substantive courses ranging from Professional Responsibility, Criminal, Constitutional, Evidence, Human Rights, and Race and Law classes. Professor Colbert has published extensively in subject areas such as indigents’ right to counsel, the Thirteenth Amendment, jury selection, and legal education in the *Stanford Law Review*, *Cornell Law Review*, *Harvard Civil Rights - Civil Liberties Law Review*, *University of Illinois Law Review*, *Howard Law Journal*, and *Hastings Law Journal*, among others. He devotes substantial time to public service and education, and has been the faculty supervisor to Maryland law students’ Hurricane Katrina defender projects since 2006.

Recent successes include the representation of a former Iraq veteran, charged with marijuana possession, to return to his family after 14 days in jail; a 21-year old with no prior convictions, who faced a similar charge, returned to his job at a local supermarket; and the release of a 63-year old married man who remained in jail for nine days on a public urination charge. Students also wrote an op-ed article published by the *Baltimore Sun* about their lawyer experiences.

**Appellate and Post-Conviction Advocacy Clinic**

The Appellate and Post-Conviction Advocacy Clinic teaches students about criminal appeals and post-conviction advocacy through the representation of real clients. Each year, the Clinic handles approximately ten appellate cases and five or six ongoing post-conviction matters. During the fall semester, the scope of representation focuses primarily on direct appeals before the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, Maryland’s intermediate appellate court. The Office of the Public Defender refers the appellate cases handled by the Clinic, and the Clinic becomes exclusively responsible for representing the client in the direct appeal of their case. During the spring semester, the clinic’s work shifts largely to post-conviction matters. This representation entails, in most cases, a post-conviction proceeding in state court. However, increasingly, the clinic has taken on a number of cases requiring clemency pleas and claims raised under the newly-enacted writ of actual innocence statute.
Over the last several years, the clinic has enjoyed a number of successes. For example, last year alone the clinic prevailed in three appellate cases and secured a new trial for a post-conviction client.

The clinic is taught by Professor Renée Hutchins, who joined the law school faculty in 2004 after spending over a decade in private practice. Through her research and writing, Professor Hutchins seeks to provide analysis of, and thoughtful commentary on, questions with some practical relevance to the field of criminal procedure. Following graduation from Yale Law School, she served as a law clerk to Judge Nathaniel R. Jones on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Immediately prior to joining the faculty, Professor Hutchins was part of the Lawyering Program faculty at the New York University School of Law.

**Appellate Advocacy Clinic**
The Appellate Advocacy Clinic is designed to help students hone their issue spotting, writing, and oral argument skills. Instilling confidence in students is almost as important as improving skills. Every opportunity is taken to have class exercises where students take positions and defend those positions. Students argue cases in the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland and often must prepare their briefs under stringent time constraints. Having a case reversed, sometimes in reported opinions, is a success not just for the individual student but for the entire Clinic.

Successes for the Clinic come in several ways. There is, of course, the individual success with having done a good job. Some years ago a student summarized the matter very well when she said that after meeting her client, she really understood that her work was more than an academic exercise. There is also the success in having a client benefit from his legal representation. Finally, there is the readily shared success in participating in the development of cases that result in reported opinions. This shows students that their efforts are important for clients and for society.

George Burns is an Adjunct Clinical Professor, and has handled appeals in Maryland, as well as three cases before the Supreme Court, for the past thirty-five years. Maryland is, more than most jurisdictions, still heavily influenced by the common law. This has allowed Professor Burns to combine his interest in legal history with the practice of law. It also has led to the writing of articles on legal history. Perhaps the most notable combination of these interests came with the publication of “Manslaughter: Dead Adulterers,” which led to the Maryland General Assembly eliminating adultery as a basis for reducing murder to manslaughter. His experiences and research have also persuaded him that lawyers should be extremely careful in accepting history, which all too often rests on unsupported assertions rather than a careful consideration of how the law has developed and why it has developed in particulars ways.

**Civil Rights of Persons with Disabilities Clinic**
The Civil Rights of Persons with Disabilities Clinic represents individuals with disabilities in complaints brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Fair Housing Act Amendments, as well as under state law. Issues include access to public entities and public accommodations; post-secondary and employment matters; and
special education. Students have the opportunity to represent clients in a variety of settings and work with organizations in broad impact litigation. In court and/or administrative advocacy matters, students have the opportunity to handle cases at various stages of legal proceedings, from client interviews to trial and every process in between. Students also draft amicus briefs in cases of significant impact to individuals with disabilities.

Recently, students in the Clinic successfully represented an individual with a mobility impairment in connection with his complaint against his condo association regarding access to and from his unit. One student handled pretrial matters and legal research, a second student handled the direct examination of our client before an administrative law judge, a third student handled the oral argument before a state human rights commission, and a fourth student handled the oral argument before a state court judge in connection with the association’s appeal. As a result, a state court affirmed both injunctive relief and compensatory damages for the client.

Adjunct Professor Marc Charmatz has taught the Clinic for more than ten years. Marc has served as the legal director, and now serves as the senior attorney, at the National Association of the Deaf Law and Advocacy Center in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he has worked for more than 33 years representing deaf and hard of hearing individuals. He is a contributing writer to the ABA’s Mental & Physical Disability Law Reporter. Marc has orally argued cases on behalf of deaf and hard of hearing individuals before the United States Supreme Court, the First, Second, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, Ninth, and Tenth Circuits, as well as federal district courts throughout the United States in a variety of areas, including access to state and local government services, access to public accommodations, post-secondary education, health care, employment, and special education.

### Community Development Clinic/Community Recovery: Legal Theory & Practice Clinical Seminar

Community recovery refers to long-term, comprehensive efforts of community organizations and enterprises seeking to reduce poverty and recover from disinvestment. In this clinic and the related LTP course, student attorneys work with clients to provide a wide range of legal assistance that supports community-directed revitalization efforts. In addition, students’ research helps clients to develop and use “capture” strategies in conjunction with large-scale redevelopment projects in greater Baltimore. Closely related is the summer clinic in Biloxi, Mississippi, built specifically on clinical community recovery work that clinic students were already doing in Baltimore.

This fall the clinic began to work with several communities on Maryland’s Eastern Shore to help rural and minority land owners to preserve their small farms, held as “heirs’ property.” A Heirs’ Property designation prevents owners from enjoying the benefits of land ownership, because every family member with legal rights to the property has to sign off before anything can be done with that property. This includes selling it, taking out loans for fixing it, or getting governmental assistance after flooding or other natural disasters. This designation also makes land especially vulnerable to loss under the pressures of redevelopment. Students in the clinic are conducting outreach events to educate landowners and small farmers, and aid families to preserve family farmland for the next generation by translating the requirements of deeds, wills and probate, and formulating models for consolidating
many heirs’ interests through various management or title holding agreements. The project is an extension of work in Mississippi by the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law with pro bono attorneys with DLA Piper.

Under the Community Greening to Reclaim Baltimore Alleys project, student attorneys devised legal solutions for Baltimore communities seeking city approval to create shared interior-block community greens. Urban neighbors sought to gate the alleys behind their homes to curb the alleys’ attraction to nuisance and crime, instead creating clean green and safe play spaces for young children and a stronger sense of community, as well as environmental gains. The City was initially resistant, concerned that closing off egress to the general public would amount to a taking for which the city might be sued. But the students’ analysis of state takings doctrine, easements and use rights, title-holding entities, and community governance options enabled them to advance the clients’ objectives through organizing, public hearings, drafting legislation, negotiating with city agencies and the city solicitor’s office. After five years, the clinic’s ordinance was enacted by the City Council, and community greening is taking hold in Baltimore’s downtown alleys.

Community Justice Clinic

Growing out of a collaboration of the Mediation Clinic and the Economic, Housing and Community Development Clinic, the Community Justice Clinic focuses on linking communities and the justice system in ways that give voice, vision, and hope to those who live in some of Baltimore’s most economically challenged neighborhoods. Students work with prosecutors to address particularly vexing property-based nuisances, participate in law and leadership development of youth who have been charged as adults and are awaiting disposition, and work with community groups to understand and support greening and local food development activities, and greening of affordable housing. In addition, the Clinic is studying Maryland’s problem solving courts to provide model proposals for community justice centers that would expand restorative justice opportunities inside Maryland’s communities. This year-long clinical course is coupled with the Legal Grind® of Maryland, where students work with experienced pro bono attorneys to provide brief advice sessions for residents of Maryland. Over 250 residents have been served since June of 2009.

The Clinic has experienced an overwhelming following of Clinic II students. These students began in the Community Justice Clinic or Summer General Clinic, and devoted an additional piece of their legal education serving as “senior associates” in our clinical practice. Responsible for leading client teams, the degree of their dedication to the legal profession has been inspiring. They will be graduating uniquely equipped to be strong advocates and practitioners thanks to Maryland’s rigorous and engaging clinical practice component.

Professor Brenda Bratton Blom is the Co-Director of the Clinical Law Program, having served in the capacity of Director since January of 2003. A community economic development lawyer, she has lived and worked in Baltimore’s neighborhoods for nearly 30 years. The Community Justice Clinic has provided the opportunity for her to work with a broad array of professionals and community members that she might not have otherwise met, and is committed to providing excellent service to clients and partners, and excellent educational opportunities for law students at Maryland. She also participates in Maryland’s Leadership, Ethics and Democracy
Denise Duval is a new adjunct faculty member in the Community Justice Clinic this year. After working at Venable LLP, she joined the staff of the Community Law Center and represented community associations in Baltimore’s most distressed neighborhoods. Then, as a Clinical Fellow at the University of Baltimore Law School, she helped start their Community Development Clinic. Denise then worked for the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, first as the Director of the Code Enforcement Legal Section, and later as Deputy Housing Commissioner. Denise and her student team are exploring issues of community sustainability, including strategies to increase green affordable housing in Baltimore; and helping communities pursue urban agriculture and healthy foods initiatives in order to build more sustainable neighborhoods. They are also working with community groups to access federal stimulus funding to address the mortgage foreclosure crisis.

As a Clinical Law Instructor, special prosecutor and trained mediator, Leigh Maddox works with Clinical students and the legal community to promote a restorative approach to justice. Leigh is also committed to encouraging leadership development among student attorneys. She has been a driving force behind Legal Grind® Baltimore. Before joining the Law School clinical program, Ms. Maddox worked as a career law enforcement officer with the Maryland State Police, retiring in 2007 at the rank of captain. Ms. Maddox is currently writing and speaking about the escalating violence associated with the global drug cartels engaged in the manufacture and distribution of illicit drugs; how the domestic and global failed prohibitionist laws have destabilized communities; and the measures governments and communities can take to reduce the harm of current drug policies while simultaneously working toward strategic reform.

Professor Terry Hickey is a community lawyer and educator specializing in legislative advocacy and youth policy. An Adjunct Professor since 1999, Professor Hickey facilitates the City’s Prostitution Court Advisory Committee and is involved in addressing the city’s thousands of vacant properties through the Receivership program. In 1998, Professor Hickey founded Community Law In Action, Inc., a nonprofit organization to engage inner city youth in advocacy-related initiatives. Professor Hickey’s main role in the Community Justice Clinic is supervising law students in a “teaching rotation” in the Baltimore City Detention Center, helping students design and present workshops on self-advocacy and law-related education to young men who are awaiting trial on adult charges.

**Consumer Protection Clinic**

The Consumer Protection Clinic has taken a leading role representing victims of home improvement contractor fraud in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Students have represented clients as far away as Biloxi, Mississippi in asserting their rights and obtaining judgments against unscrupulous “disaster capitalists.” Students have also worked on foreclosure prevention cases. This semester, the clinic is focused on representing consumers in debt collection defense, and on developing public information outreach to judges, lawyers and pro se litigants.

Over the past two years, students have observed court proceedings and then
produced lengthy reports on the challenges faced by consumers who are forced into Maryland's debt collection “Rocket Docket” program. In the Rocket Docket, consumers are encouraged to engage in pro se negotiations with lawyers for the debt collectors, which often result in consent judgments for the full amount sought by the collectors. As a result of students’ findings, the District Court instituted some broad reforms which provide consumers with greater protections when dealing with the Rocket Docket. There is still much work to be done, but we are proud of the reforms that our students have already helped bring about through their hard work and dedication.

Visiting Professor Peter Holland graduated from the School of Law in 1992, and went on to build one of the few full-time Consumer Protection law firms in the state of Maryland. Over the years, he has worked on projects with the Law School, Legal Aid, Civil Justice, the Community Law Center and other public interest organizations. During the past several years, he has concentrated on representing consumers in foreclosure rescue scams, car dealer fraud, and debt collection matters. In his Consumer Protection Clinic, students are currently trying to help consumers fight back against junk debt buyers. For the past three years in a row, Peter was voted by his peers to be a “Maryland Super Lawyer” in the area of Consumer Law.

**Criminal Defense Clinic**

Students in the Criminal Defense Clinic represent clients charged with various criminal offenses in federal and state courts. Adopting a client-centered, problem-solving methodology, students identify the client’s goals for representation and develop strategies to achieve them. This may be accomplished through counseling, negotiation, or other, non-litigation strategies. When these alternatives are unavailable or unsuccessful, students prepare to litigate the case before a judge or jury.

Before joining the law school, Professor Jerry Deise was Chief Attorney of the Capital Defense Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. In 2004, he received the Law School’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award and the prestigious Roscoe Pound Institute’s Richard S. Jacobson Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy, a national award given annually to an outstanding law professor in recognition of his demonstrated excellence in teaching the art and skills of trial advocacy. In addition to directing the Criminal Defense Clinic, Professor Deise also teaches Evidence, Trial Evidence, Criminal Law, Comparative Professional Responsibility (Scotland), Trial Advocacy and Advanced Trial Advocacy. He is also the director of the School of Law's National Trial Team.

Last fall, Clinic student Jeffrey Tittsworth defended a postal employee charged with obstruction of mail. With hard work, dedication, and guidance from Professor Deise and the Office of the Federal Public Defender, he obtained a verdict of not guilty after a three-day bench trial in federal district court. During the trial, Jeffrey participated in evidentiary hearings, cross-examined several witnesses, including federal officers, made and responded to objections, and offered a very compelling closing argument. The judge, prosecutor, public defender and, most importantly, the client, had high praise for Jeffrey’s outstanding diligence, professionalism and zeal as an advocate.
Drug Policy and Public Health Strategies Clinic

Professor Ellen Weber created the Drug Policy and Public Health Strategies Clinic—one of the only clinics in the country with this singular focus—in 2002. Its mission is to expand access to addiction treatment and protect individuals with histories of addiction against discrimination in housing, employment, health benefits and other essentials of life. Drug Policy Clinic students represent individuals and treatment programs in disability discrimination matters; draft and comment on city and state legislation and regulations; advocate before legislative and agency decision makers; work in coalition with community partners to develop and advocate for policies that expand addiction treatment in the community and troubleshoot problems that arise from these initiatives. The practice covers a range of health law issues related to health care financing (primarily Medicaid), health privacy, women’s health issues associated with addiction, and disability rights.

Recently, a mother of two children who had been successfully participating in a methadone treatment program, sought legal assistance when she was excluded from a pharmacy technician training program when it learned that she was prescribed methadone. The student-attorney team informed the sponsors of the training program that its decision to exclude the client, solely based on her participation in a methadone treatment program, violated her rights under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The program immediately reenrolled the client in its training program and provided assurances that it would not disclose her treatment history to potential employers. The team is now working to ensure that her past criminal history, which was related to her addiction history, will not interfere with state registration as a pharmacy technician upon completion of her training program. This client matter provided an excellent opportunity to protect other future enrollees in the program.

Professor Weber researches and writes in the areas of disability rights, health privacy, the development of state and national drug policy particularly related to women’s health, and the integration of addiction treatment into mainstream medical practice.

Environmental Law Clinic

The Environmental Law Clinic is the only public interest environmental law firm in the State of Maryland devoted to providing free legal services to support environmental litigation, advocacy, and law reform. Established in 1987, the Clinic’s goals have always been to improve the environment in the state, region, and nation; improve the system of law and policy that protects it; and develop future environmental lawyers. The Clinic is staffed by the Director, an Environmental Law Fellow, and ten second- and third-year law students, who are involved in environmental advocacy and enforcement for a broad range of clients across the region.

Jane F. Barrett, the Director of the Environmental Law Clinic, is one of the country’s leading environmental litigators, bringing more than thirty years of experience to her work in the Clinic. Prior to joining the School of Law, she was a partner in a national law firm, served as Assistant United States Attorney and Chief of Environmental Litigation within the District of Maryland, an Assistant Attorney General for Maryland, and an attorney for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
The Environmental Law Clinic was instrumental in the researching and drafting of a Maryland bill which broadened the ability of citizens, including organizations, to challenge environmental permits. This standing legislation was critical to provide citizens input into a wide variety of environmental permits. Also, on December 7, 2009, on behalf of its clients, Waterkeepers Chesapeake of Maryland and Waterkeeper Alliance, the Clinic filed a petition asking the Environmental Protection Agency to require the Maryland Department of the Environment to de-delegate enforcement of water pollution laws under the federal Clean Water Act.

Examples of enforcement actions taken on behalf of clients include the Clinic’s recent filing of a notice of intent to file a citizen suit for violations of the Clean Water Act at the Brandywine Coal Combustion Waste Landfill in Prince George’s County, Maryland as well as the filing of a notice of intent for violations of the federal Clean Water Act against Hudson Farms and Perdue in Worcester County Maryland.

Health Care Delivery and Child Welfare Legal Issues Clinic: The Challenge of the AIDS Epidemic

Students in the Health Care Delivery and Child Welfare Legal Issues Clinic advocate for children/families in child welfare or custody cases, public benefits appeals, and in schools. They work in an interdisciplinary practice with medical providers and social workers in representing clients. Students are given instruction to assist them in taking a problem-solving approach to the issues identified in practice. The coursework examines the delivery of health care services and barriers to that delivery, including race, poverty and drug use. It considers the related failure of the child welfare system to meet the needs of families impacted by AIDS and drug use. It examines the difficulties involved in delivering effective medical care to at-risk adolescents. The course also addresses the practical advocacy skills that students will need in representing clients.

Professor Deborah Weimer joined the School of Law faculty in 1988 after practicing public interest law. She has played a vital role in the success of the School of Law’s HIV/AIDS Clinic, one of the first clinical law programs in the United States to address the legal issues faced by people living with HIV/AIDS. She has taught at Brooklyn Law School, where she created the bankruptcy component of the Federal Litigation clinic, and at Temple University School of Law. Previously, she practiced employment and labor law with a small civil rights firm in Takoma Park, Maryland and with Palmetto Legal Services in Columbia, South Carolina. Professor Weimer received the 2009 Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award from Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) for her work with Clinic students and clients, and demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to providing civil legal services to the poor.

Professor Weimer’s students have represented individuals with HIV/AIDS on various matters including employment discrimination or Family Medical Leave Act claims, CINA (child welfare) cases, cases related to custody or guardianship of children, and more. They have also worked on policy advocacy, and with medical providers and social workers to find solutions to client concerns.
Immigration Clinic

Student attorneys in the Immigration Clinic represent clients who are in deportation proceedings. Some seek protection from persecution in the form of asylum; as the victims of domestic violence; and some face losing their permanent residence because of a criminal conviction. In recent years, clinic students have taken on ground-breaking litigation, filing motions to suppress and challenge unconstitutional enforcement practices by ICE and local police officers. Students are responsible for every aspect of representing their clients in a collaborative, cross-cultural litigation setting. Students are also involved in the clinic’s pro bono consultation project, which provides free consultations to individuals in deportation proceedings.

Maureen Sweeney has represented immigrants and immigrant workers for more than twenty years in employment and immigration legal settings. She represented migrant agricultural workers with Farmworkers Legal Services of NC and the Migrant Legal Action Program, and fifteen years ago came to Baltimore and began working with Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services, where she specialized in deportation defense, asylum and immigration relief for victims of domestic violence. Professor Sweeney conducts research, consults and trains Maryland attorneys in the immigration consequences of convictions, and is the principal author of the Abbreviated Chart of Immigration Consequences of Maryland Criminal Convictions, a tool for criminal defense practitioners to improve the advice they are able to give their non-citizen clients. She recently published an article on the directness of immigration consequences in the *Yale Journal on Regulation*. She serves on the boards of directors of the Maryland Immigrant Rights Coalition and Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma.

One of the Immigration Clinic’s first clients in 2004 came to the U.S. fleeing from her home country where she had been arrested and beaten by the military government for running as an opposition political candidate. The Clinic represented her in Immigration Court where she was granted asylum. Unfortunately, the government appealed that decision, and we represented her before the Board of Immigration Appeals, where she was again successful. The Clinic assisted her in filing asylee relative petitions for her husband and five children, who were finally reunited with her this January after almost six years of separation.

Intellectual Property Law Clinic

Student attorneys in the Intellectual Property Law Clinic gain practical experience by providing a broad range of legal services to Maryland’s high tech startup companies. Students perform prior art searches to determine whether inventions may be entitled to patent protection, and they prepare detailed invention disclosures that could form the basis of provisional patent applications. In addition, students conduct trademark clearance searches and assist companies with filing trademark applications; draft a variety of agreements designed to protect intellectual property; and provide counseling on how companies can make effective use of outside counsel. Headquartered in the Technology Advancement Program Incubator on the campus of the University of Maryland at College Park, the Clinic also provides educational offerings designed to highlight legal and public policy issues of interest to entrepreneurs.
Patricia Campbell is the Director of the Maryland Intellectual Property Legal Resource Center. Prior to joining the law school in 2007, Professor Campbell was a litigator and transactional attorney in the Fish & Neave IP Group at Ropes & Gray in Palo Alto, California, and Washington, D.C. Professor Campbell has also worked at law firms in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and she served as Associate General Counsel to a telecommunications startup in Bethesda, Maryland.

Since the Clinic was established in 2002, over 370 entrepreneurs and emerging companies have received legal services from 96 student attorneys in the clinic. In the current economic climate, when many people are struggling to establish small businesses, the clinic continues to experience an unprecedented demand for its services.

**International and Comparative Law Clinic**

The newest Maryland Law offering, the International and Comparative Law Clinic, is shared between the Clinical Law Program and the International and Comparative Law Program. It is offered for thirteen credits—eleven credits for the clinic and two credits for an integrated writing component. The students spend the first half of the semester in an intensive educational program that introduces them to International Law and basic practice skills; the laws, cultural norms and histories of the countries in which they will be working; the legal issues they would be addressing; and other relevant skills and information. During the second half of the semester, the students have a choice of working in Namibia, where they are working on water, compelled sterilization, economic development, and access to justice projects in partnership with DLA Piper’s New Perimeter Program; Mexico, where they are partnering with Centro de los Derechos del Migrante based in Zacatecas, helping lawyers advise migrant workers before they travel to the U.S., prepare and file litigation, and prepare petitions and studies that document abuses and illegal practices in Mexico and the United States; and China, where students are helping to develop a regulatory framework for and expand micro-business and microlending programs that will benefit China’s working poor.

Professor Michael Millemann, the coordinator of the various components of the clinic, began his legal career as a legal services attorney. He served as a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow in the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau from 1969 to 1971. For the next two years he was chief attorney in Legal Aid East, Baltimore City and supervisor of the law school’s Legal Aid Clinic. During this time, Professor Millemann founded the Legal Aid Bureau’s Prisoner Assistance Project and worked as a staff attorney for the National Prison Project. During 1973 he was deputy director of the Multnomah County, Oregon Legal Aid Service. He returned to Maryland to teach full-time at the University of Maryland School of Law in 1974.

Visiting Professor Barbara Olshansky, who is coordinating the Namibia component, was one of the lead attorneys who brought the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that resulted in a decision allowing the nearly 600 detainees held at the Guantánamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba to challenge their unlawful indefinite detentions. She has written several articles on environmental racism, immigrants’ rights, public access to radio programming and ownership, and a chapter on occupational exposures for the 2000 ABA treatise on environmental justice. Most recently, she was the Leah Kaplan Distinguished Visiting Professor in Human Rights at Stanford Law
School. Previously, she was deputy legal director for the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and director counsel of the Guantánamo Global Justice Initiative there. Professor Olshansky clerked for two years for Rose E. Bird, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court after graduating from Stanford Law School.

Professor Shruti Rana, who is co-teaching the China component, has researched, published, and presented on issues involving corporate accountability, business and technology, administrative law, and international human rights. She has also been extensively involved in policy and advocacy efforts in the areas of gender equity, welfare reform and immigration law. Prior to joining the School of Law, Professor Rana was a Social Affairs Officer at the United Nations, where she worked for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women during the Committee's 38th and 39th sessions. Before that, she was in private practice, focusing primarily on commercial and administrative law.

Professor Daniel Mitterhoff is the Founding Director of Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE) in Beijing China’s Research Center for Government Procurement and Public Construction, and Director of the CUFE/Maryland Collaborative Student Exchange. Professor Mitterhoff teaches Introduction to the Chinese Legal System at CUFE, and coordinates collaborative research among the participating students.

Rachel Micah-Jones, the coordinator of the Mexico component, founded and serves as Executive Director of CDM, the first transnational workers’ rights law center in central Mexico. CDM overcomes the geographic and legal barriers that typically prevent migrant workers from exercising their employment and labor rights in the United States. Prior to founding CDM, Rachel worked with the Migrant Farmworker Unit of Florida Rural Legal Services where she represented some of Florida’s 250,000 migrant workers. In 2005, Rachel was awarded an Echoing Green Fellowship; and in 2006, the Peter M. Cicchino Award for Outstanding Advocacy in the Public Interest.

Juvenile Law, Children’s Issues and Legislative Advocacy Clinic

The Juvenile Law Clinic at the School of Law has worked with children in crisis by trying to get them better educational programs, nurturing homes after they have been abused or neglected, and appropriate services once they become involved in the juvenile justice system for the past twenty-five years. After many years of having law students work with children in crisis, the Clinic began a discussion of how we could do our work better. We realized that it would be an exciting experience if we could work with youngsters in a school setting before they got in trouble—to help them see that they could use language to negotiate for themselves and others and to resolve many of the problems within their communities.

Beginning in 2003, the clinic began to operate and work with the Baltimore Freedom Academy, a small, innovative charter school where middle and high school students would learn about law, leadership, social justice, and problem solving. Clinical law students have a unique opportunity to explore educational policy and school reform up close, as well as the opportunity to work with Baltimore’s youth to try to make an impact on a child’s life before the child is broken or too entrenched in the system. After six years and many challenges, the outcomes are beginning to
show that the law students and BFA students are on the road to becoming future leaders of our community. This model, therefore, has become a beacon of hope that we can begin to provide the necessary opportunities for all youngsters to participate in our ever-changing economy.

Susan Leviton is a Law School Professor and Director of the Juvenile and Children’s Law Clinic. For the past 30 years, she has represented children in special education proceedings and trained hearing officers, parents and school officials in the law. She is the Founder and Honorary Chair of Advocates for Children and Youth, a statewide child advocacy organization, and is the past chairperson of the Maryland Human Relations Commission. Presently, she serves on the Board of the Open Society Institute and on the Operations Board of the Baltimore Freedom Academy. Her areas of expertise include special education, child abuse and neglect, and juvenile delinquency.

**Low Income Taxpayer Clinic**

The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) represents individuals and non-profit organizations before the Internal Revenue Service and the Comptroller of Maryland. While most client cases focus on return substantiation issues and collection disputes, the Clinic also represents clients with non-filer compliance and employee classification issues, and requests for innocent spouse and identity theft relief.

To learn the integral role tax law plays in other areas of legal practice, LITC students frequently collaborate with students of the Community Justice, Persons with Disabilities, and Immigration Clinics by providing tax legal support on corporate governance, real estate transaction, civil litigation settlement, and other compliance issues. To enhance the stability of our university community, the Clinic maintains a partnership with nearby Paul’s Place, where students provide tax legal advice to our low income neighbors each tax season. Finally, LITC students participate in the U.S. Tax Court Pro Se Representation program, providing pre-trial legal advice to the Court’s pro se litigants.

The LITC program is under the direction of Visiting Assistant Professor Pamela Chaney, who joined the Clinical Program in 2007 after serving as the Legal Advisor for the Baltimore CASH Campaign. Professor Chaney is viewed as a leader in personal income tax reform, frequently testifying on refundable tax credit reform and the regulation of paid income tax preparers, and currently serves on the Maryland State Bar Association Tax Section Council.

LITC students regularly see the positive financial impact of their efforts on our clients’ lives. In a recent typical week, one student successfully argued for the reclassification of a taxpayer from an independent contractor to an employee, and another obtained innocent spouse relief for a client, protecting these taxpayers from $21,000 in inappropriate tax assessments. This semester, student attorneys successfully negotiated favorable settlements in all four of the Clinic’s docketed cases, saving clients both valuable assets and the stress of litigation. As a testament to our client advocacy, the LITC program was awarded the Maryland Volunteer Lawyer’s Service 2009 Partnership Award for excellence in pro bono representation.
Law and Social Work Services Program

The Law and Social Work Services Program is a “clinic within a clinic” based within the School of Law’s Clinical Law Offices. It functions as part of an integrated service model, providing social work services to Clinic clients referred by student attorneys and Clinic faculty members. A licensed clinical social worker manages the program, providing some direct services to clients and supervising social work students who are placed at the Clinic for their field practicum/internships. Services such as case management and counseling are available and in some circumstances, reports and/or in-court testimony are provided.

Rebecca Bowman-Rivas, LCSW-C is a clinical social worker and mitigation specialist. She earned a BA from Johns Hopkins University, and spent several years working in organizations serving homeless people with mental illness before attending the University of Maryland School of Social Work. There, she specialized in mental health and received clinical training at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital, a forensic psychiatric hospital, and Patuxent Institution, a maximum-security prison, which houses a number of therapeutic programs. After completing her MSW, she worked in the Felony Division of the Maryland Public Defender’s Baltimore office. She has been the social work supervisor and program manager of the Law and Social Work Services program since 2002. She also has a part-time forensic social work consulting practice, specializing in capital mitigation and offering alternative sentencing and community services planning for people involved with the criminal justice and mental health systems.

As an example of the cases handled in the program, Mr. Doe was referred by the Reentry of Ex-Offenders Clinic shortly after his release from prison where he served several years for repeated drug offenses. His overall health was poor at release, and worsened due to unstable living conditions. His social worker provided ongoing counseling, assisted with applications for disability and other services, and referred him to transitional housing. At last contact, he was receiving disability benefits, had completed parole and was living in an apartment within a transitional housing program. His health had stabilized, he was attending college classes, and he was actively involved with AA/NA and his church.

Legal Theory & Practice: Reparations, Reconciliation & Restorative Justice

This course explores the 20th and 21st century efforts of individuals, groups, communities and countries to rebuild and repair after systematic racial/ethnic discrimination, terrorism or genocide. We draw on a number of instances of racial and ethnic terrorism both in the U.S. and abroad, and on national and international responses to these acts. In exploring these instances, we focus on how formal international and state-based legal systems address, or fail to address, the complex questions of justice, punishment, truth-telling, forgiveness and reparation. The central focus of the course is to examine the limitations of formal international and state legal systems to address these important issues. In doing so, we study emerging quasi-legal and non-legal techniques that have been, and are increasingly being, utilized to address conflicts of this sort in communities throughout the world. These mechanisms focus principally on truth-telling, reconciliation, and reparation. Captured under the heading “restorative justice,” the techniques we examine
include truth commissions, legislative resolutions, community conferencing and gacaca tribunals, among others.

Professor Sherrilyn Ifill teaches Civil Procedure, Legal Writing and an array of civil rights courses, including classes in Environmental Justice, Equal Protection, and Voting Rights. Prior to joining the faculty at Maryland, she served as an assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., where she litigated voting rights cases. Her areas of scholarship have focused on the due process implications of racial and gender diversity on the bench, and the history of racial violence. Her book, *On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the 21st Century* was published in 2007. Ifill is a regular contributor to the online magazine, The Root (www.theroot.com).

In the past, students in this LTP have: represented individual Baltimore-area Holocaust survivors applying for reparations through the German Ghetto Reparations Program; provided research assistance for the team of lawyers representing victims of apartheid in the Alien Tort Claims Act case filed against multi-national corporations filed in federal district court in New York; provided a comprehensive review and analysis of state law provisions governing the provision of health care for survivors of torture for a state-based NGO that assists torture survivors; provided state-by-state research on slavery disclosure laws and testified before the Maryland General Assembly about pending legislation requiring insurance companies doing business in the state to disclose past involvement with the slave trade.

**Mediation Clinic**

The Mediation Clinic is a year-long course favored by students wishing to learn a marketable skill as much as by students interested in experiential exploration of alternative dispute resolution theory and practice. Last fall, fourteen Mediation Clinic students took part in intensive mediation training and have since been learning mediator values, ethics, and skills through classwork, simulation, and observation. The students then began co-mediating cases in the community and the courts. Through agency partnerships, the students provide mediation services to litigants in Baltimore City small claims and landlord-tenant cases, to federal employees with cases pending before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and to homeowners and contractors engaged in disputes referred to the Maryland Home Improvement Commission. Collaborating closely with the Law School’s Center for Dispute Resolution (C-DRUM), students are also engaged in conflict resolution initiatives impacting vulnerable young people. As liaisons to public schools participating in C-DRUM’s conflict resolution education grant program, students assist in the implementation of programs such as peer mediation and bullying prevention. As mediators with the BSMART program, students help Baltimore City Public School students and their families find collaborative solutions to disputes arising out of truancy referrals.

The Mediation Clinic began in 1993 and is currently taught by Visiting Assistant Professor Wendy M. Seiden and Clinical Law Instructor Toby Treem Guerin. Between them, they have 24 years experience in alternative dispute resolution practice. They are complemented by C-DRUM’s Barbara Grochal, supervising students in the conflict resolution education program, and Anastasia Watson Smith, supervising the BSMART truancy mediation program.
This year, students also had the opportunity to mediate child custody cases for low-income Baltimore City residents and, through a pilot collaboration with the University of Baltimore School of Law, provide limited representation to low-income family law litigants during child custody mediation. Through the Clinic, students learn essential interview and mediation skills, develop greater perspective on the ways in which alternative dispute resolution plays out within the broader legal arena, gain insight into the mediation process from all sides of the table, and provide Baltimore City and Maryland residents with sorely needed legal and mediation services.

**Summer General Practice Clinic**

The Summer General Practice Clinic offers unique opportunities for students to acquire a variety of clinical experiences. Unlike the typical clinical experience in which students concentrate in one area of clinical practice for one or two semesters, summer clinic students have the opportunity to practice in several areas. A primary goal of the summer clinic is to maintain continuity of service to current clients. In addition, students also assume responsibility for new cases. Summer Clinic is offered to second and third year day, and third and fourth year evening students. The faculty for the General Practice Clinic includes Professors Brenda Bratton Blom and Michael Pinard, as well as Clinical Instructors Leigh Maddox and A.J. Bellido de Luna.

As Managing Director of the School of Law’s Clinical Law Program, A.J. Bellido de Luna is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the program, as well as for long-range planning and administrative functioning of the clinic. Since receiving his J.D. from the School of Law in 2004, A.J. has remained active in the law school community, serving as a teaching fellow in the Program’s Community Justice Clinic, working as a Senior Law and Policy Analyst in the Center for Health and Homeland Security, and heading the coaching staff of the National Trial Team. A.J. is a retired police lieutenant from the Howard County Maryland Department of Police, and is a member of the American Bar Association, the Howard County Inns of Court, Phi Delta Phi, the American Association for Justice, and a Section Member of Legal Education & Admission to the Bar in the State of Maryland.

**Tobacco Control Clinic**

The Tobacco Control Clinic provides students the opportunity to work with State and local health officials, legislators, and public health advocates to develop and implement public policy designed to reduce tobacco use, particularly among young people and vulnerable populations. Students learn about the dynamics of tobacco use initiation and cessation, draft legislation and advocate for its passage, and prepare amicus briefs in support of challenged laws in Maryland and across the country. Students develop an understanding of the role that public health lawyers play in the development and implementation of public health policy, including the ethics of public health practice and of legislative advocacy.

The Tobacco Control Clinic is directed by Professor Kathleen Dachille, a 1992 graduate of the School of Law. She began her career as a litigator with the Attorney General of Maryland, handling a variety of cases for the State, and later served as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General, developing a youth tobacco prevention program.
program and other public health and safety programs. In that capacity, Professor Dachille helped create the Center for Tobacco and in 2002 became the Director of the Center. She provides advice and support to the State and local health departments and is a member of the National Tobacco Control Legal Consortium and the global Framework Convention Alliance.

Clinic students have successfully advocated for legislation that would require minimum packaging for small cigars, making Prince George's County the first jurisdiction in the country to take such action. Students are currently providing support to Prince George's County in defending a challenge to that legislation. Clinic students also successfully advocated for the Department of Human Resources to adopt regulations protecting foster children from exposure to secondhand smoke. And students worked to secure statewide legislation mandating that cigarettes sold in Maryland meet certain fire safety standards. In 2008, Clinic students assisted in drafting an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of a Maine law regulating the sale of tobacco via the Internet. Although Maine lost the case, the students’ brief was favorably quoted in a concurring opinion by Justice Ginsburg.

**Workers’ Rights Clinic**

The Workers’ Rights Clinic is a one-semester litigation specialty clinic. This clinic aims to develop students’ understanding about the rights and needs of workers, and about the power and limits of our roles as attorneys trying to solve individual problems and effectuate broader social change. Students in this clinic receive practice experience and are exposed to legal problems facing workers in several ways. Students represent claimants in unemployment insurance appeals cases before administrative hearing examiners, learning how to conduct client intake and build client relationships, identify key legal issues, develop a theory of the case, prepare and conduct direct and cross-examination, and deliver closing statements. Students also help to educate the public about unemployment insurance law and the appeals process at “Know Your Rights” training sessions. In addition, students are preparing a video in collaboration with a Visual Advocacy class at the Law School to educate claimants about how to represent themselves at contest appeals hearings, and are engaging in public policy advocacy on employment issues.

The Workers’ Rights Clinic is taught by Visiting Assistant Professor of Law Deborah Thompson Eisenberg, who has taught at the School of Law since 2007. In addition to the Workers’ Rights Clinic, she has taught Civil Procedure, Employment Discrimination, and Legal Writing and Analysis. Prior to teaching, Eisenberg practiced complex civil litigation and employment law for fifteen years, serving as counsel in many ground-breaking cases. Her scholarship interests include employment law, civil procedure, and civil rights.

The Workers’ Rights Clinic is a timely and important public service, especially during the recent recession. Through their representation, students in the Workers’ Rights Clinic have helped many people overturn erroneous denials of benefits and defeat appeals by employers. These successful cases have helped people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own to access a critical safety net while they search for new employment.
The Clinical Law Program
at the University of Maryland School of Law

Publications & Presentations
Fall 2009

Jane Barrett
Moderator, Panel on Global Environmental Law Multilateralism and Global Law Conference University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland (October 23, 2009).
Panelist, “Supreme Court Preview,” University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland (October 12, 2009).

Barbara Bezdek
“Putting Community Equity in Community Development: Resident Equity Participation in Urban Redevelopment,” Chapter 7, in Affordable Housing and Public-Private Partnerships (Robin Paul Malloy & Nestor Davidson eds.) (Ashgate Publishing Ltd., 2009).

Brenda Bratton Blom
“Problem Solving Courts: A Conversation with the Experts,” Moderator of Panel “What Does the Future Hold for Problem Solving Courts?” Sponsored by the Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class, University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland (November 6, 2009).

Douglas Colbert
Interview, “The Firing of Maryland’s Public Defender: Just Cause or A Step Toward Assembly Line Justice?,” The Marc Steiner Show (September 1, 2009).
“Loss for Poor Defendants, Maryland’s Public Defender Forced Out,” Baltimore Sun (August 26, 2009).

Kathleen Dachille
“Maryland Legislative Process and the Role of Young Advocates,” TRASH Youth Advocacy Training, Baltimore, Maryland (November 7, 2009).
Moderator, “Maryland Democratic Legislators Panel,” University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland (October 15, 2009).
Panelist, “Supreme Court Preview: Salazar v. Buono,” University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland (October 12, 2009).
Panelist, “Supreme Court Preview: Stop the Beach Renourishment v. Florida Department of Environmental Protection,” University of Maryland School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland (October 12, 2009).

Susan Leviton
“Who Is Disabled: Differences in Educational Classification and Medical Systems,” Pediatric Topics in Growth and Development Seminar Series, University of Maryland Medical School, Baltimore, Maryland (December 15, 2009).
“Race, Class and the Quest for Educational Reform,” Sergeants Inn, Hamilton Street Club, Baltimore, Maryland (November 4, 2009).

Shruti Rana
“Chevron Without the Courts?,” William & Mary Law School, Faculty Workshop, Williamsburg, Virginia (November 10, 2009).

Wendy Seiden

Maureen Sweeney

Deborah Weimer
“Advocacy and Policy Change,” Interdisciplinary Collaborative Education Conference: Partnerships Between Law Schools and Health Professions, Georgia State University Law School, Atlanta, Georgia (September 24-25, 2009).

Deborah Eisenberg
“Wages: From Full to Fair to Equal,” Maryland Employment Lawyers Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland (December 4, 2009).

Peter Holland
“Fraud is Fun or: How a Foreclosure Rescue Scam Changed My Life” Trial Reporter: Journal of the Maryland Association for Justice, Inc. (Fall 2009).
Our Special Thanks...

(from l to r standing) – Themis Chryssostomides, Adam Coleman, Emily Levenson, Christine Myers, Nina Wu, Irvin Brooms, and Lydia Nussbaum.

(from l to r sitting) – Linda Whaley Johnson, Loris Moore, and Teresa Barrett.


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2009-2010 Faculty and Staff

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Comments and Letters should be forwarded to the attention of the Managing Director.