



Dominique Markland '10 (left) and Sarah Weese '10

Looking at the System from the Inside Out

GROWING UP IN CULTURALLY RICH NEW YORK CITY, Domonique Markland '10 initially thought about a career in entertainment law. That was before she and classmate Sarah Weese '10 began work at the Baltimore City Detention Center through the Community Justice Clinic.

Since 2008, the two have mentored juvenile boys, ages 14 to 17, who are awaiting trial on adult charges at the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center, an isolated unit within the detention center. The women's twice-weekly after-school program is aimed at equipping the teens with critical life skills such as self-advocacy, self-respect, and basic legal rights. In all, Markland and Weese spent as many as 700 hours with the young men.

In February their work earned them one of the School of Law's highest honors: The Martin Luther King Jr. Student

Award. The 2010 MLK student award, given this year at the Feb. 3 Commemoration of King's birthday, annually is bestowed upon students whose work embodies King's ideals of equality, justice, and opportunity for all people. But the pair gently deflects attention.

"Really, this is the work we all should be doing," says Markland, who studied economics as an undergraduate at Spelman College in Atlanta.

Coordinated through the non-profit Community Law In Action (CLIA) Youth Justice Initiatives, the mentoring program was credited with reducing violent incidents from 300 to 100 incidents a year. "We started working, and we just never stopped," Weese says. The program will carry on with new law students next year.

"We were seeing the kids more than their families [were]," adds Weese, who holds a MSED degree. "You get attached to them." Many of the young men are held on charges such as drug possession, armed robbery, or worse. If convicted, most of the teens will end up serving sentences in adult prisons.

For Markland, the work hit a nerve, and prompted a change in her career path. "For the first time, I was able to see the system from the inside ... and everyone looked like me," she says. "In turn, I could be a role model. The age difference wasn't that great. We liked the same music. These kids could have been my little brother."

One case, in particular, underscored the importance of their work. At the start of their rotation, they met a shy, respectful 15-year-old detainee who peppered them with questions about legal processes and his rights. "He knew the system wasn't working for him," Weese says. "He was very bright, a cool kid. But over time, you could just see him fading."

Like others, this teen was presented with a deal: The prosecutor offered him 10 to 15 years behind bars in exchange for an admission of his guilt. But also like others, this young man insisted he was innocent. "That's one of the toughest decisions our boys must make," Weese says, "whether or not to take the deal."

This teen opted for a jury trial. He was acquitted of all charges.

"So he went home," Weese says. "But he had been [detained] for 24 months. He came in at 15, he went home at 17. You can't give him those two years back—that's when he should have been going to high school, learning to drive a car, asking a girl out.

"That's what really gets to you."

Both Markland and Weese plan legal careers that will advance their work. Coincidentally, both plan to move to Atlanta. Weese wants to pursue a career in child advocacy. Markland hopes to combine her loves—music, performing arts, and child advocacy—by one day launching a non-profit performing arts center to provide opportunity and legal counsel for disadvantaged youth.

—Mary Beth Regan

Environmental Moot Court Team Is World's Best

A TEAM FROM UMDLaw established itself as the best in the world by topping 75 teams from five continents to win the 2010 International Environmental Moot Court Competition. After teams advanced from qualifying rounds at six locations around the globe, the Maryland team of Molly Knoll, April Morton, and William Tilburg proved victorious during the championship round at Stetson University in Florida in March.

In addition to winning the championship, Knoll was named best oralist of the final round and the team took home the award for Second Place Memorial.

"It is incredibly rewarding to have the opportunity to instruct students, assist them in developing their advocacy skills, and to watch them achieve success and win their competition," says David Mandell, who coaches the team with fellow 2007 graduate Karla Schaffer.

Maryland defeated six teams during the preliminary rounds before advancing as one of the top eight teams in the Quarterfinal Round.

The School of Law team then defeated the University of California Hastings College of Law and proceeded to win a semifinal rematch against China University of Political Science and Law.

The Chinese team, composed of students who were taught by Maryland Environmental Law Program Director Robert Percival when he was a J. William Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer in China during the Spring 2008 semester, was the only team to defeat Maryland in the preliminary rounds. Maryland then won the final round against the Law Society of Ireland, Cork.

In 2011, 20 teams from all over the world will travel to the School of Law, which will host the International Finals for the first time in the Law School's history.

—Carrie Oleynik



(from left) Coach Dave Mandell '07, team members April Morton 2L, Molly Knoll 2L, William Tilburg 2L, and Coach Karla Schaffer '07



ON FEB. 5-6, UMDLaw hosted a preliminary round of the International Environmental Moot Court Competition, despite the largest snowfall in Baltimore history. While most of the city shut down, the competition went on with alumni volunteering as judges and staying in nearby hotels. Professors Robert Percival and Shruti Rana flank the winning team from the University of Pennsylvania.

Students Devise A Winning Strategy

UMDLaw STUDENTS Dave Pantzer and Jake Lilien defeated 100 teams from 54 law schools across the nation to place first in the 2010 American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Dispute Resolution Representation in Mediation Competition. The championship round of the competition was held April 7-8 in San Francisco.

"The support that the School of Law provides creates the environment for students to participate in these competitions," says Clinical Law Instructor Toby Treem Guerin '02, Deputy Director of the Law School's Center for Dispute Resolution, who coaches the team with Nick Scull '10. "The judges said that the Maryland team had the foundation they needed to be flexible and effective at analyzing their strategy."

Pantzer and Lilien, members of the Class of 2011, are both Leadership Scholars. Pantzer is treasurer of the Maryland Public Interest Law Project. Lilien serves as program chair of the American Constitution Society.



Students Make Winning Arguments

ALL EYES AT THE LAW SCHOOL were on the Ceremonial Courtroom on March 10, as Rachel Simmons edged Carrie Scruhari to earn the nod for best oral argument in the final round of the 40th annual Morris Brown Myerowitz Moot Court Competition. Handing down the decision from the bench was the champion of the 1977 Myerowitz Competition, The Hon. Andre Davis '78 of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He was joined by fellow judges Joseph F. Murphy, Jr. '69 of the Maryland Court of Appeals, and Faith Hochberg, U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. Daniel Kobrin and Clara Shaw were the other oral finalists. Alex McGee won the award for Best Brief.



(clockwise) Moot Court Team members Carrie Scruhari 2L and Clara Shaw 2L react to comments from the judges; Moot Competition winner Rachel Simmons 2L with Moot Court Board President Dana Backlund '10; Judge Davis gives the competitors feedback.

Strengthening Relationships at the State House

ON JAN. 27, two weeks into the 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly, UMDLaw Dean Phoebe Haddon and 32 Maryland Law students, alumni, faculty and staff spent a day building relationships with legislators in Annapolis. Students met with more than 50 delegates to discuss the School of Law's capacity to serve the public, its role in stimulating economic growth and job development in Maryland, and the importance of loan assistance repayment programs for law students.

"We highly value the vital leadership that our representatives provide the State of Maryland and the relationship that we share with the General Assembly," said Dean Haddon. "It is a great privilege for the School of Law to be able to visit with the legislature in Annapolis."

Throughout the day, students personally thanked legislators for their support of higher education before sharing stories about how experiential opportunities at the Law School, including clinical work and participation in student organizations, have readied them to enter the legal profession.



Maryland Law students Leila Ashkeboussi '11 (left) and Chelsea Treadwell '13 share their educational and professional experiences with Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg after thanking him for the General Assembly's continued support of higher education.



2010 Commencement

THE SCHOOL OF LAW'S May 21 Hooding Ceremony was enough to stop traffic—literally. The faculty and 280 members of the Class of 2010 (including UMDLaw's first LLM student) gathered in Westminster Hall before the ceremony, then processed down a closed Fayette Street to the Hippodrome Theatre, where an overflow crowd of family and friends awaited.

Judge Andre Davis '78 of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (bottom right) delivered the keynote address, and Class of 2010 President Rama Taib announced that a record 108 graduates had contributed to the Class Gift. Later, graduates attended UMB's Commencement Ceremony, where the speaker was U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings '76.

