Clinic Ushers in Era of Unprecedented Growth

by Nancy M. Dennis

The new school year marks a period of unprecedented and exciting growth and transformation in the clinical law program. Six new clinical professors joined the faculty, and there is an unmatched breadth and depth of clinical offerings. Adding to the excitement is the opening of a brand new, state of the art building that substantially enhances the clinic’s capacity for teaching and community service.

New Faculty and Expanded Offerings

The six new clinical faculty members bring a wide range of experiences, and have substantially expanded the clinic’s capacity to offer more courses, and address additional unmet need in the community. The new clinical faculty hires are: Sameer Ashar, JD, Kathleen Hoke-Duchille, JD, Helen Norton, JD, Michael Pinard, JD, Ellen Weber, JD, and Mary Webster, JD (Biographical sketches can be found in the New Faculty section of this newsletter.) The Clinic’s social work component is now under the supervision of Rebecca Bowman-Rivas, LCSW-C, who replaces Professor Andrew Reese. Under Professor Bowman-Rivas’ tutelage, law students and social work students interact in a variety of clinical settings, address client issues collaboratively, and develop a better appreciation of the inter-disciplinary nature of our clients’ challenges.

As a result of this expansion, there are 24 experiential learning offerings this year—more than any year in the school’s history. Over 350 students are enrolled in experiential learning this year, twice as many as last year.

The new offerings are wide ranging, and include: (1) an Intellectual Property clinic, one of only a handful nationally; (2) a civil rights clinic, which addresses a range of civil rights issues, including post September 11th civil liberties matters; (3) drug policy and public health strategy, which addresses a range of legal needs for people with substance abuse challenges; (4) a tobacco clinic, in which students work on a range of legal and policy issues relating to tobacco control; and (5) a criminal...
A Word From Our Director

I am now in the middle of my second year on the job, and I am very privileged to be at the helm during one of the most exciting periods in the history of both the law school and the clinic. My six new clinical colleagues bring a wealth of experience to an already talent-laden clinical faculty. One student told me that she “felt like a kid in a candy store” as she reviewed the menu of clinical options. Our new building, with its state of the art technology, dramatically expands our teaching and learning opportunities. Change is indeed wonderful.

The communities that we serve are also changing. According to recent census data, the state of Maryland is now more diverse than ever. This diversity is a wonderful development, and it also presents a challenge for clinical instructors. The majority of our clients in the clinic are people of color, while the majority of our students are not. It is incumbent upon clinical faculty to train a cadre of students that understand how to work effectively with diverse communities. Law Schools lag far behind medical schools in appreciating the importance of developing a culturally competent work force, and integrating cultural competence into the curriculum.

We are trying to change this here at the clinic. Last year, the clinic began conducting “bridge” classes in which students from all clinics came together from time to time to discuss issues of common concern. Cultural competence is critical for a litigator, mediator, or transactional lawyer, and provides an ideal focus of a “bridge” session. Using readings from Professor Sue Bryant at CUNY Law School, interactive exercises, and materials used by medical schools, the session probed the challenge of how to become a culturally proficient lawyer.

A number of my colleagues and I facilitated the class, which frequently evolved into a discussion of the delicate issue of race in America. A goal of the class was to challenge students to develop a better capacity to step into the shoes of clients, and appreciate the cultural differences that all too frequently inhibit the establishment of an effective attorney-client relationship.

The reaction to the class and the ensuing classes has been illuminating. The vast majority of students commented that it was very meaningful because it was one of the first times in law school that the issue of race was so squarely placed on the table. Some commented that these discussions were the best discussions in which they had participated as a law student, while a few students noted in evaluations that the class was a waste of time. I suspect that the latter are the students who would stand to benefit most from the discussion.

Overall, it is critically important for law schools in general, and clinical programs in particular, to build discussions of cultural competence into our curriculum. Having a single class on the topic is clearly not enough. As a result, we are using this class as a springboard for additional discussion.

Tom Pérez
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justice course addressing re-integration of ex-felons.

New Facilities
The Nathan Patz Law Center opened in July, 2002, and provides outstanding facilities for the Clinical Law Program. There are six student practice rooms, and approximately 90 individual workstations. Each student practice office is equipped with a dedicated printer and a networked personal computer. The interview rooms also serve as meeting rooms for small groups. Some of the interview rooms feature a one-way window. This feature enables clients to keep an eye on their children playing in the Clinic’s Waiting Area while keeping minors from hearing sensitive subject matter during client/attorney conferences. The window also helps faculty to provide substantive feedback to students based upon unobtrusive observations. The interview rooms are wired to a control room enabling technicians to broadcast small discussion groups and other activities into classrooms in the Nathan Patz Law Center and to other locations via satellite.

Building Bridges
Under the direction of Clinic Director Tom Pérez, the clinical program is continuing its effort to build bridges between the various clinical offerings. There are a host of “bridge” classes in which students from various clinics come together to discuss cross-cutting issues of mutual interest. (See Directors Corner- page two). These “bridge” sessions are designed to teach students that while clinics may be separate, a client’s problems are not so neatly compartmentalized. The clinical program continues to build interdisciplinary bridges with the Medical School and the School of Social Work, and students have learned first hand that effective problem solving frequently involves reaching out to other professionals. These are indeed exciting times within the clinical law program.

About Our New Faculty . . .

SAMEER ASHAR
Sameer Ashar comes to Maryland from the New York University School of Law, where he taught and served as a fellow with the Immigrant Rights Clinic. His areas of focus include immigrant workers’ rights and post-9/11 detention and deportation. Ashar intends to employ the legal resources offered by Maryland’s Law Clinics to support community-based organizing in those areas.

Prior to his work at NYU, Ashar served as a law clerk to U.S. District Judge Deborah Batts of the Southern District of New York, an associate with the firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton, & Garrison in New York, and a Skadden Fellow with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1996. Ashar graduated from Swarthmore College with High Honors in 1991.

KATHLEEN HOKE-DACHILLE
Kathleen Hoke-Dachille is a 1992 graduate of the School of Law. She is Director of the School’s Center for Tobacco Regulation, Litigation and Advocacy. After graduation, Dachille clerked for Judge Lawrence Rodowsky of the Maryland Court of Appeals and was an associate at Piper Rudnick LLP. Dachille then worked for eight years in the Civil Litigation Unit of the Office of the Maryland Attorney General. There, she worked on public health issues including gun control, tobacco regulation and control, and the proposed conversion of Blue Cross/Blue Shield to a Maryland for-profit entity.

While an assistant attorney general, Dachille developed a sting program to identify retailers who were unlawfully selling cigarettes to minors. Dachille created an educational brochure for retailers outlining “best practices” that they could adopt in order to comply with current laws. She also worked with local governments to establish enforcement programs.

HELEN NORTON
Helen Norton was most recently the 2001 E. George Rudolph Distinguished Visiting Chair in Law at the University of Wyoming College of Law, where she taught constitutional and employment law. Earlier, she served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, where her responsibilities included supervising the Civil Rights Division’s employment and education litigation, as well as the Attorney General’s clinic violence task force.

Prior to joining the Justice Department, she served as Director of Legal and Public Policy at the National Partnership for Women & Families. She is a graduate of Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley and of Stanford University.

Clinical Law Program Administrator, Nancy M. Dennis

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MICHAEL PINARD
Michael Pinard earned his Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law. After graduation, Pinard was a public defender with the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, and at the Office of the Appellate Defender, where he represented clients convicted of felony offenses through all phases of the appellate process, including federal habeas corpus proceedings.

Pinard was a Robert M. Cover Clinical Teaching Fellow at Yale Law School. Pinard taught at St. John’s University School of Law and, most recently, was a Visiting Associate Professor of Law at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. Pinard is on the Board of Editors of the Clinical Law Review. He is the Co-Chair of the Clinical Legal Education Association Connect Committee and the Co-Chair Elect of the AALS Section on Litigation.

ELLEN WEBER
Ellen Weber joined the law school after a distinguished career with the Legal Action Center. Weber worked as staff counsel and later started the Center’s National Policy Office in Washington, D.C. Most recently, Weber served as the Senior Vice President for Law. During her seventeen-year tenure with the Center, Weber developed and ran precedent-setting litigation protecting the civil rights and privacy of people with addiction and criminal justice histories and HIV disease and the agencies that serve them.

Weber advised the Clinton Administration on drug, alcohol and AIDS policy, worked closely with congressional staff to shape legislation on appropriations, civil rights protections for individuals with disabilities, health care reform, confidentiality and other issues, and testified extensively before Congress. Prior to joining the Legal Action Center, Weber was a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where she conducted voting rights litigation. She received her JD from New York University School of Law.

MARY WEBSTER
Mary S. Webster joins the law school as an Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Maryland Intellectual Property Legal Resource Center. Webster is a patent attorney with 18 years experience in microbiology and biotech patent law. She received her law degree from the Washington College of Law at the American University, Stetson University College of Law and an MS in microbiology from the University of South Florida. Webster previously served as general counsel for the Research Institute for Genetic and Human Therapy (RIGHT); and intellectual property counsel for North American Vaccine, Inc.

REBECCA BOWMAN-RIVAS
Rebecca Bowman-Rivas is a forensic social worker who has several years of experience working with homeless adults suffering from severe and persistent mental illness. After completing clinical training at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital and the Patuxent Institution, she worked in the Baltimore Office of the Public Defender, doing mitigation work and alternative sentencing/treatment planning with felony defendants.

Bowman-Rivas earned her Bachelor’s Degree at The Johns Hopkins University, and her MSW from The University of Maryland School of Social Work.
Reflections of a Recent Graduate

by Tonya Nicole Kelly ’02

To sum up my clinic experience in the Criminal Defense Clinic in one article, or even one book, is simply not possible. It sets itself apart from any other year of my education, or my life for that matter.

After initial training, I received my first client. The trial was rapidly approaching, so I immediately tried to reach her, to no avail. She was never home and she would never call me back. Her mother insisted that she was “out on the streets and nobody can help her.” When I went to the courthouse to review the file, I learned that she had multiple cases pending. They all arose out of her drug addiction.

When I finally met her I didn’t expect her to be five months pregnant with her fourth child. We discussed her past. She had been addicted to cocaine and heroine for almost 10 years. Did she want treatment? Yes. Could we find her treatment? That was a different story.

The challenge was to find a facility that (1) would take a pregnant women, (2) would allow her to continue on methadone, and (3) was one she hadn’t already been kicked out of. At this point, the first trial was roughly three days away. There was no time to consider legal theories, practice up on evidence, or consider plea negotiations. There was only time to find her a treatment facility. I spent countless hours trying to find her a place. I finally found one that would take her.

We were able to get the first case dismissed on the day of trial. Victory, or so I thought. I learned what real victory was much later.

We sat down to discuss drug treatment. As we discussed this at the courthouse, a police officer approached us. “Please stand up, I have a warrant for your arrest.” He arrested her right there. He didn’t say why, he just said he had a warrant. There she was, my client, being dragged away, screaming and crying that whatever it was, she didn’t do it. “Please Ty, believe me, I didn’t do it.” It strikes me now that one week after I met her, she already cared what I thought. This was the beginning of our relationship. This was the precise time that she began to trust me.

Our next hurdle was getting her out of jail and into drug treatment. Because of the charges, and her lengthy record, the state recommended $30,000 bail. I was able to persuade the judge to release her on her own recognizance on the condition that she go straight to in-patient treatment. The judge said: “Ms. Kelly, you are responsible for her getting there, and I am trusting your word.”

She was released at 10 p.m. that evening. We found a treatment facility, but it would not accept her until the following morning. We were afraid to allow her to go home, so a colleague and I stayed up with her all night. We went to a diner and got to know each other very well. All of this occurred within the first two weeks of our meeting. The last time I personally represented her was the following May.

The months flew by. My time was spent trying to keep her in a program, massaging my new relationship with pre-trial services who needed to know her whereabouts daily, and creating a relationship with her probation officer who was threatening to report her on five violations. She was asked to leave three different facilities, so there were obviously times that we were scrounging to get her in someplace so that she wouldn’t go back to jail. During this time period, she was consistently clean. She did not use drugs ever. To the best of my knowledge as well, she had not used drugs when I last spoke to her in July.

We prepared for two trials. We avoided trial both times by being well-prepared. She was never found guilty of any charges brought against her during that time period. We eventually faced four violation of probation hearings, where some were dismissed, some continued. I believed in her, and the judges began to as well. This may have been the first time in her life that someone believed in her.

What resonates with me now is a telephone message she left me this summer. “Ty, you are my guardian angel, and you changed my life.” I wanted to tell her how she was the one who changed her life and mine. I have a very different outlook on drug addiction than I had one year ago. I believe that treatment is the best way to overcome an addiction. She was incarcerated for one full year before we met, and she was still an addict. She received treatment for eight months after we met, and she stays clean. That’s a testament. That’s what I can believe in.

I don’t know what the future brings to me in my legal career. I am currently clerking for a federal district court judge. Whatever I do, I will constantly be reminded of this story, which will make me a more zealous advocate and a more compassionate person—two things this profession could always use.

Ty Kelly is the 2002 recipient of the Hoffberger Clinical Award which recognizes excellence in clinical practice by a student.
Like many other states, Maryland is at a crossroads politically. After eight years under the leadership of Democrat Parris Glendening, the state will elect a new governor this November.

Deepening the implications of a regime change in the governor’s office is a deficit estimated to be at least $1 billion. Clearly, Maryland’s new governor and General Assembly will have to do more with less to fulfill their campaign promises.

The Environmental Law Clinic has served as special legislative counsel to state Senator Brian Frosh for many years, supporting his efforts to craft legislation on a wide range of topics, including the cleanup of urban brownfields; the prevention and remediation of nutrient loading in the Chesapeake Bay; expansion of community right-to-know laws; environmental enforcement; and citizen standing to sue in environmental cases. Senator Frosh chairs the Environment Subcommittee of the Senate Economic Affairs Committee and is among the most influential elected officials in the state.

Viewing the shift in leadership as a golden opportunity to take stock and determine priorities, Senator Frosh has asked the Clinic to investigate the status of efforts to address the three central environmental problems that confront the state: (1) bad air quality, as exemplified by the categorization of the Baltimore/Washington metropolis as a “severe” non-attainment area under the Clean Air Act; (2) water pollution, especially nutrient loading, threatening one of the world’s greatest natural resources, the Chesapeake Bay; and (3) land use in a state that can barely keep up with its rapidly growing population, especially in the Washington suburbs.

The Clinic will begin by compiling an inventory of available data regarding the quality of Maryland’s environment and identifying which programs are designed to address those problems. Student attorneys will then develop objective criteria for evaluating those programs. With the help of crucial stakeholders (regulated industries and environmental and neighborhood groups), the Clinic will assess the effectiveness of those programs. In the last phase of the project, students attorneys will write a report for the General Assembly’s consideration explaining the results of the audit and making recommendations for future action.

For example, the Maryland Department of the Environment believes with considerable justification that air emissions from mid-western power plants is a primary cause of the Baltimore/Washington region’s poor air quality. The Clinic will evaluate the extent of this problem; the likely success of the lawsuits filed by East Coast states to pressure mid-western states into controlling such “transboundary” pollution and the steps we can take closer to home to improve these conditions.

Similarly, several years ago, the Maryland legislature enacted a program to control non-point runoff from farming on the Delmarva Peninsula, which Maryland shares with Delaware and Virginia. The Maryland courts just overturned an effort to hold such large producers as Perdue and Tyson financially responsible for the costs of those remedial efforts. The Clinic will consider both how well the original program is working and whether the impact of the court’s decision might demand more extensive legislation.

Despite his traditional focus on legislative solutions to environmental problems, Senator Frosh has instructed the Clinic to make recommendations across the broadest possible spectrum of available options. Where legislation is warranted, he has asked the Clinic to explain its substantive content, and where administrative reforms are adequate to correct poor performance, he has encouraged the Clinic to place those approaches on the table.
during my sabbatical year inside-the-Washington-Beltway, one thing became quite clear. This is an Administration willing to push the envelope of government secrecy, a mindset that has powerful appeal in the wake of September 11, 2001. The implications of these policies for environmental law are only dimly understood by the environmental bar and other environmental professionals.

The most visible, and delicate, manifestation of this conservative trend in information policy was a revisiting of the decision to post on the Internet certain aspects of Risk Management Plans (RMPs) prepared by chemical companies to manage and prevent accidents involving acutely toxic substances. In 1999, with the active involvement of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the most sensitive aspect of these plans so-called “worst case scenarios” had been removed from the web and placed in reading rooms maintained by the Department of Justice. Nevertheless, in the face of determined resistance by environmentalists and open government advocates, information about the quantities of chemicals were stored and the possible implications of an explosion were maintained on the EPA web site.

Within days after “9/11,” law enforcement officials concluded that these pieces of information would provide a “roadmap to terrorists,” and EPA pulled them “off the air,” so to speak. The action had the characteristics of trying to stuff the genie back in the bottle, however, because public interest groups, including an outfit called “RTK [for right-to-know] Net,” continued to post the information withdrawn by the government. Frustrated, but not deterred, the White House ordered government agencies, including EPA, to continue to scour their sites for possibly harmful information. The results of that review are still pending.

But it would be a mistake to conclude that terrorism either prompted, or is driving, the trend toward secrecy. Months before 9/11, the Bush White House refused to turn over records of its meetings with lobbyists and officials representing virtually every power company in the country, citing Executive privilege, and insisting that grave issues of presidential authority were at stake. The records were sought both by a coalition of public interest groups led by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and by the General Accounting Office (GAO). This resistance, which has been soundly rebuked by the federal courts hearing those cases, is a symptom of what could ultimately prove a far more significant trend than the relatively narrow question of what materials we must protect from terrorist masterminds.

It is worth noting here that in addition to the argument that President Bush has a constitutionally-protected right to receive confidential advice from any interest groups he or his staff select, conservatives have defended the decision to withhold the documents on the basis that it is the ideas that are important, and not their source. For example, David Brooks, the conservative commentator paired with Mark Shields on the acclaimed PBS program, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, explained in a show several months back that anyone who wants to examine and evaluate the President’s energy policy has only to read the hundreds of pages of policy analysis released by the White House. The source of these concepts is irrelevant. Or in other words, government is only obliged to be transparent about its policy proposals, not the fact that these policies were advocated by certain interest groups nor, presumably, that those interest groups have also provided large portions of the campaign funds that supported the President’s election.

The attack on the Freedom of Information Act and other open government policies is also in full throttle on Capitol Hill, where Congress is debating proposals to protect “critical infrastructure information” from disclosure or from use by any party (not just the government) in a civil action if it is provided to the government “voluntarily.” On the House side, the definitions of these crucial terms are so broad that virtually any information pertaining to physical or cyber systems and facilities would be covered, in effect making it possible for companies to conduct self-audits, discover violations, and immunize themselves from prosecution. The Senate has a far narrower proposal, and the issue is likely to be addressed in the homeland security legislation considered a “must pass” before the November elections.

The implications for environmental law are frightening. Whether or not they would have sought such protection on their own, businesses will be put at a competitive disadvantage if they do not try to game the system by rushing to turn over incriminating documents. The resulting confusion could take years to litigate through the courts, defeating an already down-and-out EPA, not to mention its state partners, in their efforts to bring routine enforcement actions.

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Broadway Overlook Breaks Ground

Tenants Look Forward to New Housing and Improved Lives

On August 15, 2002, Broadway Overlook, the latest HOPE VI Project in Baltimore City, broke ground. Professor Brenda Bratton Blom, and students from the Economic, Housing and Community Development Clinic have been representing the tenants in this deal since January of 2000. While difficult to detail the complexity of this deal, and the twists and turns that have awaited the tenants of the former Broadway Home public housing project, suffice it to say that eight semesters of students have learned hard and good lessons about a transactional law practice, and working with corporate clients.

The Broadway Overlook is a mixed finance, mixed use replacement project for public housing. HOPE VI, a type of public housing initiative, takes decrepit high-rise public housing projects and replaces them with mixed income, low rise housing. In this instance, there will be townhouses for public housing residents, market rate townhouses, market rate rental apartments, a community center, and parking.

Harry Karas, the President of the Tenant Council, has led fellow tenants through a complex and ever-changing and challenging series of transactions. Initially, this renewal project was to be a Cooperative project – financed totally by Low Income Housing Tax Credits. The old project would be demolished, and in its place would be constructed low rise townhouses, and apartments that would, at the end of the 15 year tax credit compliance period, belong to the tenants as a Cooperative. Tenants would be learning to maintain the units, the building, and the organization needed for this during the 15 years, and would be building equity for themselves, as well.

In late 1999, then Housing Commissioner Daniel Henson, approached the Tenant Council about applying for a HOPE VI grant to increase the funding was funded for $21 million dollars. Because HOPE VI requires mixed financing as a basis of the project, the other sources of funding were, at that time, assumed to be Low Income Housing Tax Credits. By the groundbreaking on August 15th, the financing included Tax Exempt Bonds (two series) issued by the State, Partnership Rental Housing money, also from the State of Maryland, HOME funds from Baltimore City, and a line of credit, of up to $3 million from Johns Hopkins. Each source of funding (a total of over $58 million) brings with it a set of regulations, review requirements, and limitations on use. Each set of funding is paid out at different times during the development, and each requires specific ownership requirements. To put it mildly, the residents...
of the Broadway Homes public housing projected needed legal assistance.

Since the demolition of the old Broadway Homes, the average income of the former Broadway residents has increased from $4,000 per year to $12,000 per year. This is because the Tenants have worked tirelessly to transform themselves as well as their surroundings. Students have worked with the Tenants to create the mechanisms to make this transformation possible.

Students from the clinic have drafted complex documents, and sat in negotiations on financing, corporate structure and leasing documents. Our clients have yelled at us and with us, teaching students about the complexity of lawyering in a manner that includes the clients. They have witnessed the brilliance of negotiations by clients with little formal education, and have patiently (and sometimes not so patiently) learned and explained the law of housing, finance, tax and real estate. Students have spent many evenings and weekends with and for our clients. And the product is impressive.

Breaking ground for the development is the start of the next stage. We look forward to at least two more years of representation with this client as the buildings rise from the ground, holding the developers feet to the fire on the details of development and financial decisions to be made. Each semester, students of the EHCD Clinic will be there through every stage to assist in contracting service providers, audits, and board transitions as the organization grows and matures. But, in the end, this place of dreams will be reality for the residents who were willing to dream of something more. And we will be there.
Civil Justice, Inc. Receives Louis Brown Access to Justice Award

Civil Justice, Inc., a non-profit created by the University of Maryland Law School Clinical Law Program, recently received the ABA’s prestigious Louis Brown Access to Justice Award. The award recognizes innovative programs across the country that enhance access to justice for working families and similarly situated people whose income level prevents them from qualifying for a legal aid lawyer, but who frequently cannot afford a lawyer as a practical matter.

The brainchild of Professor Michael Millemann, Civil Justice was launched with funding from the Open Society Institute (OSI). In funding this program, OSI sought to increase access to justice for low and moderate income client populations by encouraging law schools to extend their outreach to recent graduates working in neighborhood communities either with a non profit organization or in solo or small firm practices. The concept was to help fledgling practitioners, with a commitment to “doing well by doing good,” by providing mentoring and other services that would help these committed lawyers in their practice.

Civil Justice was launched in September 1998 with 10 lawyer participants. These practitioners envisioned a network tied together by a listserv through which they would exchange practice ideas and air common questions faced by each of them in the struggle to sustain their small firm practices.

Today, under the direction of Adjunct Professor Denis Murphy, an attorney with over 30 years of practice experience, there are over 40 lawyer member participants in the program. Civil Justice provides direct client services to clients with consumer law problems, and co-counsels some of these cases with network members. It operates a referral service for the benefit of its members with subject matter panels for Bankruptcy, Family Law and Domestic, Wills and Estate Planning, Elder Law, Criminal Law and Plaintiff’s Personal Injury and Property Damage. In Baltimore, Civil Justice is recognized by local housing advocates as a major player in the fight to eliminate predatory lending practices stemming from illegal flipping of properties in the City.

This year, Civil Justice has become even more integrated into the Clinical Programs as ten members are partnering with Professors Michael Millemann and Helen Norton, who are co-teaching a general practice clinic that is focusing on a variety of issues, including predatory lending and other consumer law matters. Professor Murphy also teaches a course to students on Law Office Management that has become quite popular, and in which he makes use of lawyers from the network in guest speaking and other capacities.

Civil Justice reflects the law school’s continuing commitment to assisting small and solo practitioners, and enhancing access to justice for scores of people who all too frequently fall between the cracks.

Dispute Resolution Center Ramps Up

by Professor Roger Wolf

The Center for Dispute Resolution at the University of Maryland School of Law (C-DRUM) continues to take shape. As a result of a grant from the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO), a recent law school graduate, Connie Beals, was hired as Deputy Director of the Center.

By the end of this year C-DRUM will have in place an online Directory of Dispute Resolution Practitioners within the State of Maryland. A consumer will be able to search the directory for a practitioner by location, area of expertise, training, and credentials. In addition, the directory will be a part of a larger website with information about alternative dispute resolution processes, hints on what to look for in selecting a person and questions to ask, as well as links to other relevant websites.

C-DRUM has a grant to work with MACRO and the Maryland State
Department of Education to encourage innovative conflict resolution programs in the Maryland Public Schools through grants and collaboration between the law school’s mediation clinic and its, Community Law In Action clinic (CLIA).

Last year C-Drum co-sponsored with the Law and Health Care Program a conference—Medispute —focusing on the use of zoning laws to exclude certain individuals from the community. Students will continue to examine how zoning standards affect the delivery of health services by examining whether Baltimore City’s standards for siting alcohol and drug treatment services comply with federal anti-discrimination statutes (e.g., the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act) and crafting recommendations to correct any practice or standard that violates those laws.

Students in the Clinic will also work on a City-wide legal needs assessment of individuals who are participating in alcohol and drug treatment programs in Baltimore City. This project will provide the context for learning about and applying the federal rules which protect the confidentiality of information regarding persons who are treated in a qualifying substance abuse treatment program (42 C.F.R. Part 2). These regulations were intended to attract people to treatment and ensure that they were not placed in a more vulnerable legal, economic or social position by coming forward for treatment and acknowledging their status as an alcohol or drug user. Although the housing, child care and other similar needs of persons in treatment have been studied, these individuals may also have specific legal needs that the Clinic students will study. After determining the gaps in legal services available to persons receiving alcohol and drug treatment, the students may provide educational programs or make referrals. Future Clinics may provide direct legal services to these individuals.

One project Weber believes students will find particularly appealing is the direct representation of individuals who, on account of their history of alcoholism or drug dependence, have faced employment, licensure, housing or another form of disability-based discrimination. In order to represent these clients, “students must look across many different systems and regulations with which these persons come into contact.” In addition, students must look at their clients’ needs from a health perspective rather than the historical punitive or criminal justice perspective.

Weber joined the School of Law faculty in June 2002 after 17 years at the Legal Action Center where she examined the panoply of issues that arise from alcohol and drug abuse. She served as an advocate on Capitol Hill and on behalf of her clients before agencies that are responsible for providing services to individuals with substance abuse problems. She has studied various options to address issues related to substance abuse, including the expansion of Medicaid and stand alone programs. Weber will continue the Drug Policy and Public Health Strategy Clinic in the spring semester. She will also co-teach the Mental Disability Law course with Professor Boldt.

**In the Health Law Clinic**

The Drug Policy and Public Health Strategy Clinic is a new offering at the School of Law that explores drug and alcohol dependence—a significant national, state and local issue—from a public health perspective. According to Ellen Weber, who recently joined the law school faculty and who co-teaches the Clinic with Associate Dean and Professor of Law, Richard Boldt, the course will provide both a theoretical and practical understanding of alcoholism and drug dependence, the individuals who suffer from these complex diseases, and the rationale and value of pursuing a public health approach to address the substantial human, health, social and economic costs of these diseases.

The Clinic will provide students with a combination of policy projects and direct representation of clients who have suffered discrimination because of their history of drug dependency. Although the Clinic is brand new this semester, the students have already jumped into their first project, attending a federal court hearing in which a substance abuse treatment center faced opposition to its request to open a program that would serve more of Baltimore County’s large population of substance abusers. According to Weber, this case is an excellent example of the tension between two governmental policies: the need to expand resources to better treat Baltimore County residents with drug and alcohol dependence problems and conflict resolution in the field of health care. We have been building on that conference, working collaboratively with faculty from the schools of nursing and medicine to create a conflict resolution course open to all of the professional schools on the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus. We are also exploring the implementation of a pilot, pre-litigation medical malpractice mediation program.

There is much more in the planning stages, including a potential concentration in conflict resolution for law students as well as other conferences.

Overall, the clinical Program generally, and C-DRUM in particular, remain at the center of statewide activity on the mediation front.
This year, there is an unprecedented breadth and depth of clinical offerings. Some of the offerings are the traditional clinical models, while others are classes or seminars with a strong experiential component.

**NEW OFFERINGS**

**Civil Rights Advocacy: Combating Racial and Ethnic Discrimination (2 semesters)**
The clinic is designed to introduce, immerse and hopefully inspire students interested in learning more about being an effective civil rights lawyer. The clinic will respond to legal needs of immigrants and people of color in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, police misconduct, and/or immigration enforcement and detention.

The Clinic, through both its clinical and classroom components, will focus on experiential learning in the following contexts: litigation, legislative advocacy, administrative advocacy, and legal support for organizing. Students will work on both litigation and non-litigation advocacy for individuals and organizations.

**Community Development**

This seminar is an opportunity for students to integrat legal theory with their fieldwork as they develop technical legal assistance that supports community-directed revitalization efforts. The focus will be Community Capture of Redevelopment Benefits. Students will work with representatives of Baltimore communities interested in the development and application of ‘capture’ strategies in conjunction with large-scale redevelopment projects in greater Baltimore.

**Criminal Justice: Re-Integration of Ex-Felons**

A central focus of this seminar is a critical look at the law’s role in hindering or promoting the ability of ex-felons to become productive members of society. Ex-felons (many of them women) and the communities to which they will return will face enormous obstacles in integrating ex-felons as productive members of the community (e.g., barriers to legitimate employment, disenfranchisement, and child custody). The class will explore judge vs. jury sentencing, mandatory sentencing, sentencing guidelines, the “victim impact” movement, capital punishment, community service sentences, restitution, the emerging transformative justice movement, “Megan’s law” community notification laws, prison reform, the use of “Super-Max” and other similar facilities, juvenile “boot camps,” drug treatment and other alternatives to incarceration for non-violent criminals. In all of these areas students will discuss the principles of deterrence, punishment, restitution and reform.

**Drug Policy and Public Health Strategies**

The clinic will examine a range of public health and civil rights strategies for assisting persons with histories of drug and alcohol dependence. At the heart of many legal problems lies the client’s untreated drug or alcohol dependence or inability to obtain employment, housing, insurance or public benefits because of a history of this disability. This course will focus on the public health strategies that would address the underlying health problem and to the civil rights protections that would help those with addiction histories achieve self-sufficiency.

**General Practice**

In this clinic, students will represent clients in a variety of practice areas, among others, consumer and contract, criminal, domestic and housing. This clinic introduces students to practice specialties that are common to small private practices and public interest/legal services programs, with the goals of: 1) exploring how lawyers can establish and maintain such practices in economically sustainable ways; 2) introducing students to public-interest practice specialties; and 3) analyzing how public and private lawyers, working together, can provide enhanced legal services to poor and moderate-income people and communities. Selected lawyers, including private practitioners participating in Civil Justice, Inc., will help supervise the students’ legal work.

**Intellectual Property**

In the IP Clinic, students will work with high tech start-up clients facing a variety of IP issues. Students may explore IP needs with clients and build aspects of an IP portfolio, including, for example, patents, trade secrets, trademarks, service marks, copyrights, and domain names. Students may also assist in the preparation and filing of copyright registrations, trademark and service mark applications, and assist in the preparation of agreements such as confidentiality and material transfer agreements.

**Legal Theory and Practice-Labor Law**

This seminar builds upon the base of the regular Labor Law course, integrating theory with practice through student field work with Casa of Maryland, the largest non-profit in Maryland serving the Latino community. A major focus of the theory/practice class sessions will be centered
on the choices of organizational form for organizing workers and vindicating their economic and social interests, and the role of law in shaping or constraining these choices. The majority of litigation-related work will involve recovering unpaid and underpaid wages for workers whose employers fail to pay them at all, pay them less than the amount promised, or pay them less than the minimum amounts required by federal, state or local law.

**Law and Education Reform**

Students in this LTP seminar will explore the constitutional, statutory and policy issues involved in school reform. Viewing schools through the often conflicting aspirations of enhancing equality and quality, students will explore such topics as: (1) educational governance, (2) state takeovers of failing schools, (3) charter schools, (4) the disparity between schools in cities and suburbs, (5) funding reform, (6) school choice and the use of vouchers, (7) instructional and tenure reform, (8) educating children with differences, and (9) tracking. For each of these topics we will analyze whether the reform does advance the goals of enhancing quality while ensuring equity.

**Legal Issues in Health Care Delivery and Child Welfare: The Challenge of the AIDS Epidemic (Clinic and LTP Seminar)**

This experience will involve advocating for persons and families impacted by HIV. Students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with medical providers and social workers in addressing challenging new issues raised in part by advances in treatment for HIV illness. In addition to the opportunity to participate in policy advocacy or impact litigation, students will have a caseload which may include: employment discrimination or Family Medical Leave Act claims, CINA (child welfare) cases, custody or guardianship of children.

**Real Estate Transactions**

The seminar will focus on the interests and perspectives of the various players: real estate brokers, purchasers, sellers, lenders, landlords, and tenants; and considers the evolving legal duties among them. Students will examine typical transactions and their related documents and key features, including: broker and seller disclosure requirements, residential and commercial purchases, purchase and sale agreements; mortgage qualification and loans, including community impacts of sub-prime lending; title protection and insurance; remedies upon default including foreclosure, bankruptcy and work-out agreements. The course will introduce the real estate development process and investment, and attend to cross-cutting social policies including fair housing, community reinvestment, and credit regulation.

The student practice area in the Clinical Law Office.

**Sentencing and Post-Conviction**

Topics covered in the seminar include cruel and unusual punishment (especially the constitutionality of the death penalty), theories of punishment, the distinction between elements of the offense and sentencing factors, the shift in non-capital cases from indeterminate sentencing to Sentencing Guidelines, capital sentencing under guided discretion statutes, the problem of arbitrariness in both capital and non-capital cases, state post-conviction review, federal habeas corpus review, and the finality of criminal convictions (with particular attention to claims of actual innocence). Students may earn a placement with the Federal Public Defender in Baltimore. At the placement students will work on a sentencing proceeding under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines or on a capital case on federal habeas corpus.

**Social Welfare Policy and Law**

Social Welfare Policy and Law is an upper-level, multi-disciplinary seminar that brings together aspects of legislative and administrative welfare policy and several areas of the law as they relate to welfare policy. Students are provided with an overview of the theoretical and the practical aspects of contemporary social welfare policy and poverty law in the United States. The course may also be characterized as a poverty “policy and problem-solving” course.

It is roughly divided into two parts: an examination of poverty, the history of poverty, and policy responses to poverty; and a critical examination of social welfare policy, specifically the legislative, administrative, and judicial responses to poverty and poverty programs.

**Tobacco Control**

This new clinic, established in conjunction with the Center for Regulation, Litigation and Advocacy, will provide an experiential learning opportunity for law students in the representation of local governments and as advocates for tobacco control through such activities as: 1) litigation support; 2) drafting and legal analysis of ordinances; 3) meetings with local government officials and community advocates; 4) meetings with state officials working in this area; 5) research on effective tobacco control initiatives in Maryland and other states; 6) identifying potential opponent groups to a proposed ordinance and preparing to negotiate or respond to those groups; 7) testifying and assisting advocates testify at local and state
Clinic Offerings
Cont. from page 13

legislative hearings; 8) speaking publicly to groups for the purpose of educating them about legal issues relevant to tobacco control efforts; 9) drafting informational materials for tobacco control advocates for publication in the Center newsletter or on the Center website. The clinic will work collaboratively with the Office of the Attorney General as well as with the Community Law in Action Clinic.

CONTINUING CLINICAL OFFERINGS

Access To Justice Clinic
Students represent clients at the critical bail stage to prevent the loss of an accused’s liberty (and job, home, and family) and to provide immediate representation toward preparing a defense against the charge. Students also have an opportunity to participate in legislative advocacy designed to ensure that Maryland passes guaranteeing the right to counsel at bail hearings.

Appellate Advocacy Clinic
Students represent convicted defendants on appeal in the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, the state’s intermediate appellate court.

Civil Justice, Inc.
Civil Justice is an award winning demonstration law office that connects individuals ordinarily unable to afford legal services with attorneys who provide counsel on civil matters at discounted fees. Civil Justice provides law students with the opportunity to participate in the investigative phases of cases handled by network attorneys.

Civil Rights of Persons With Disabilities
In this clinic, students represent clients with mental and/or physical disabilities on issues including federal rights, statutory entitlements, special education, and other child-related disability law and major public policy issues.

Community Law in Action (CLIA) Clinic
CLIA is an advocacy-oriented youth leadership development organization. CLIA is based at the clinical offices of the law school, and was established to help urban youth become self-empowered, problem-solving leaders and advocates for positive social change. CLIA has pursued its mission through the creation, delivery, and operation of hands-on community and school-based programs, advocacy-based service projects, and an innovative leadership training methodology. Law students enrolled in this clinic participate in all facets of CLIA’s programs.

CLIA has developed a “Law, Leadership, and Public Service Academy” at Northwestern High School in Baltimore. Law students work at the Academy on community-based legal projects, such as a campaign to remove alcohol and tobacco-related billboards from low-income communities, and teach basic courses such as juvenile law, criminal law, and constitutional law.

Criminal Defense Clinic
Students interview clients charged with crimes, conduct factual investigations, prepare and file pretrial motions, conduct formal and informal discovery, negotiate cases with prosecutors, and when cases are not resolved by agreement, try cases before the Maryland District Court, the juvenile courts, and in the circuit courts.

Economic, Housing & Community Development Clinic
This clinic combines the previously offered community transactions clinic and community development clinic. Students will represent nonprofit and community based organizations. Representation includes work in corporate formation, structuring and governance; tax issues of both compliance and exemption; employment law and work force development issues; contract negotiation and drafting; and community based environmental problem solving linked to sustainable development as well as enterprise development.

Development activities will include representing organizations engaged in affordable housing development and other real estate development activities, as well as enterprise development. Students engage in intensive client counseling, instrumental drafting and problem-solving.

Elder Law Clinic
Law students in the Elder Law Clinic represent the elderly, those with disabilities, and those who have health related problems, in a variety of civil cases involving health care and elder law. The work is similar to that in a general/civil law practice, and may involve both litigation and transactional cases.

A unique aspect of the Elder Law Clinic is student participation in the geriatric interdisciplinary team project at the Baltimore Veteran’s Administration Medical Center, adjacent to the law school. Students attend social and psychological testing of geriatric patients and participate, with their supervisor, in team meetings in which health care professionals and students develop a plan of care for each patient.

Environmental Law Clinic
Students advocate on behalf of clients in virtually every legal context, including litigation, legislation, rule making, counseling, and negotiation, focusing on environmental problems within Maryland, which may also have national implications.

Juvenile Law, Children’s Issues & Legislative Advocacy Clinic
Students represent children in special education cases (proceedings which handicapped children assert a right to specialized educational help), juvenile delinquency proceedings (quasi-criminal trials in the Baltimore City Circuit Court), child abuse cases, and cases involving Medicaid for children. In the spring semester, students will have the opportunity to work with the Maryland General Assembly on legislation that affects children’s health, education, economic support or right to safety.
**Faculty Notes**

**Awards**


Charmatz, Marc - The *Stanley S. Herr Award* for Advocacy Leadership, the Association of Retarded Citizens of Baltimore, May 2002.

Leviton, Susan - *Child Advocate of the Year Award* from the Baltimore Court Appointed Special Advocate Program for 2002.

Weimer, Deborah - University of Maryland Baltimore Community Service Award 2001-2002, HIV Legal Representation Project

**Publications**


Leviton, Susan. “Children of Color with Mental Health Problems: Stuck in All the Wrong Places,” 2 Margins 13 (Spring 2002).


O’Sullivan, Joan


**Appointments**

Leviton, Susan – Baltimore Board of the Open Society Institute.

Murphy, Denis - American Bar Association Task Force Sub-Committee on Solo and Small Practitioners, September 2002.

**Presentations**


The following notation was made in the Brief of the Plaintiff-Appellant in this case. “Plaintiff-Appellant wishes to express his appreciation to law student Dismas Locaria of the University of Maryland Law School for his contribution.”

One of the many issues in this case is whether a State is entitled to Eleventh Amendment immunity from monetary damages with respect to claims brought pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

O’Sullivan, Joan


**Oral Argument**


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Government Secrecy
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In the post-9/11 environment, the entire question of whether to release industry assessments of plant vulnerabilities to emergencies, whether resulting from equipment malfunction, human error, or terrorist attack, is complex and difficult. Disclosure could strengthen terrorists, but without disclosure, many businesses may drag their feet in preparing adequately to prevent the attacks. But the question of whether routine data should be kept secret on the off-chance that assembling it in a certain manner could also help terrorists arguably crosses the line, destroying the integrity of environmental enforcement programs.

Professor Steinzor just returned from a sabbatical spent as the first academic fellow at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Clinic Offerings
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Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
In the Federal Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, students will represent low-income individuals who have disputes with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Students participating in this clinic address basic substantive tax issues (e.g., the filing status of the taxpayer; and the qualification of dependents and the application of the earned income credit), and procedural issues (e.g., filing tax court petitions and requests for various examination, appeals and collections hearings).

Mediation Clinic
Students explore mediation as an appropriate method of resolving disputes and as a tool for dealing with conflict. Students first train as mediators, then act as co-mediators in cases referred by the civil and criminal courts, community organizations, local and state agencies, and private attorneys.

Faculty Notes
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