

EDITORIAL NOTE

The University of Maryland School of Law has built its clinical program over a thirty year period, under the leadership of three deans, and with the strong support and encouragement of the faculty. The Law School's first clinic, established in 1973, was concerned with issues of juvenile justice. Since then, the Law School developed one of the first clinics in the country to help individuals with HIV/AIDS, as well as one of the early Health and Elder Law clinics. In 1987, the Maryland General Assembly funded what would later become the Environmental Law Clinic. Last semester, clinic students, under the supervision of Steven Schwinn and Michael Millemann, earned clemency for Walter Arvinger, a man wrongfully imprisoned for more than 36 years for a murder he did not commit.

Currently under the direction of Dr. Brenda Bratton Blom, the Clinical Law Program currently boasts 25 faculty members and 220 students during the academic year, resulting in over 110,000 hours of free legal services to Maryland residents annually. Each student graduating from the Law School must fulfill the Cardin Requirement, which requires participation in one of the semester or year-long clinics or LTP (Learning Through Practice) programs. During their time in the program, each student is permitted to practice law under a supervising professor, pursuant to Rule 16 of Maryland Rules Governing Admission to the Bar. As a result, our clinical law program is the largest nonprofit law firm in Maryland.

The following remarks were delivered at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the University of Maryland School of Law's Clinical Law Program, held on April 2, 2004. Professors Steven Wizner of Yale University and Jane Aiken of Washington University in St. Louis were keynote speakers at the event. Professors Wizner and Aiken spoke about the tension between teaching the theory of law, and the realities of actual practice. Often times, and specifically in the context of race, religion, gender, and class, there is a tremendous difference between what lawmakers may consider in the abstract realm of legislation or decision-making, and how those laws or judicial opinions impact the populations served by our clinical law program.

The University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class is pleased to present these informal essays and appreciates the continued collaboration and support between the clinic and the journal.

