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ADVOCACY TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Lawyers, government and nonprofit leaders, CEOs, and judges all benefit from advocacy skills, including effective writing, persuasive and confident presentation, and the ability to anticipate the other side’s argument. At Maryland Carey Law, advocacy offerings include intensive coursework as well as several competitive team opportunities.

Supported by coaches, faculty, and alumni along the way, students put their advocacy skills to work during the 2018-2019 competition season. Here, we highlight some of their successes over the past year.

### Alternative Dispute Resolution Team

**First Place in Mediation Advocacy, First Place Advocate’s Choice Award, Second Place in Negotiation at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Securities Dispute Resolution Triathlon**
October 13-14, 2018
Pictured (from left to right): Ji Young Chung ’20, Behnam Parvinian ’18, Vishal Hemnani ’20

**Regional Champions at the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Representation in Mediation Competition**
February 23-24, 2019
Pictured (from left to right): Megan Sunderland ’20, Virginia Giannini ’19, Nicholas Vogt ’19, Collin Wojciechowski ’18

**First Place in the Overall Mediator Team Category at the International Academy of Dispute Resolution (INADR) Mediation Tournament**
January 31, 2019–February 3, 2019
Pictured: Rebecca Lineberry ’19, placed first in the overall mediator category

### Moot Court

**Region III Champions of the National Moot Court Competition**
November 17, 2018
Pictured (from left to right): Daniel Moore ’19, Sarah Samaha ’19, Rasheena Gordon ’19

**National Trial Team**
Semi-finalists at UC Davis’ Martin Luther King, Jr. National Civil Rights Trial Competition
October 12-14, 2018
Semi-finalists at Georgetown University’s White Collar Crime Competition
November 2-4, 2018
Semi-finalists at the Texas Young Lawyers Association’s National Trial Competition Regionals (Region 4)
February 8-10, 2019

**Transaction Law Competition**
Third Place and “Best Draft” Award at the Transactional Law Competition
March 23, 2019

**Thurgood Marshall National Trial Team**
Fourth Place, National Black Law Students Association’s Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention Mock Trial Competition
February 6-10, 2019

**International Moot Court**
Quarter-finalists at the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition
February 14-17, 2019
Each year, student attorneys in the Clinical Law Program log thousands of hours representing their clients in a variety of matters and advocating on behalf of the citizens of Maryland. Among many other successes, we celebrate the following clinic accomplishments from the 2018-2019 academic year:

**Immigration Clinic**
Won asylum for two families from Central America and assisted a green card holder with mental health issues to apply for citizenship.

**Gender Violence Clinic**
Represented six women in parole proceedings and three women in requests for presidential commutations of sentence.

**Public Health Law Clinic**
Advocated in front of the Maryland General Assembly for a bill raising the age of access to tobacco products to 21; the bill passed and was signed by the governor.

**Environmental Law Clinic**
Produced a toolkit for the NAACP’s environmental and climate justice program on financial tools in climate change adaptation, in partnership with the Small Business and Community Equity Development Clinic.

**Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic**
Helped five transgender clients petition for legal name changes and decrees of legal gender identity.

**Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic**
Helped a disabled client settle her $30,000 tax bill for $1,440 so she could qualify for a loan to make her home handicapped-accessible.

**Mediation Clinic**
Supported peer mediation programs in four Baltimore City public schools and helped pass a Maryland Law supporting restorative approaches to positive school climate.
IN ITS INAUGURAL YEAR, THE ERIN LEVITAS Initiative for Sexual Assault Prevention at Maryland Carey Law began fulfilling its promise to do the unfinished work of the program’s namesake who prematurely lost her life to cancer.

Established in 2018, thanks to funding from the Erin Levitas Foundation, the Levitas Initiative unites Maryland Carey Law’s Center for Dispute Resolution (C-DRUM) and Gender Violence Clinic in an effort to build a program through which law students work with middle school students on sexual harassment and assault prevention.

Already, the initiative is making remarkable progress.

With two semesters representing clients in the Gender Violence Clinic under their belts, Chelsea VanOrden ’19 and Jenna Balaban ’19, along with Emma Duncan ’20 (who continues Levitas Initiative work this year) and Tim VanCisin ’19 from the Mediation Clinic, were instrumental in positively impacting the lives of children in one of Baltimore’s neediest school communities.

Guided by the Initiative’s director C. Quince Hopkins ’89 and C-DRUM’s Schools Conflict Resolution Education Program director Barbara Grochal, who bring extensive experience in sexual violence prevention and restorative practices, respectively, VanOrden and Balaban helped develop a new curriculum for sexual assault prevention education with an emphasis on restorative justice. The duo then led Levitas Initiative peers Duncan and VanCisin in piloting the program with inner-city seventh-graders.

“Working with Levitas gave me a lot of hope for the future of law and what it means to be a lawyer,” says VanOrden. “So often we only think about lawyers as being reactive and fighting for someone in court, but with Levitas we have the opportunity to think about the future and how we can teach law, truly working to prevent sexual violence rather than respond to it after it has already happened.”

VanOrden and Balaban spent hundreds of hours researching, writing and practicing before implementing the evidence-based curriculum. The result was an effective model in which Maryland Carey Law students facilitated restorative dialogue circles where the youths could speak freely and feel safe. Discussions were designed to help the middle-schoolers identify, question, and reject the destructive ideas that give rise to sexual violence. Comments from circle participants provided evidence that the engaging curriculum gave them critical new ways of understanding sexual harassment behavior.

VanOrden and Balaban presented on this work at the ABA Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence Annual Meeting. They were awarded the Annie Gallagher Clinical Prize for Service to Children and Youth at the 2019 Maryland Carey Law Graduation Recognition Ceremony.
NEW LEADERSHIP INVIGORATES CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

Prominent public defender to guide students representing indigent clients in Baltimore City District and Circuit courts

At Maryland Carey Law, training lawyers to understand their role in serving others is a priority. That is why the unique Cardin Requirement mandates that students provide legal services to clients who can’t afford representation or otherwise lack access to justice.

This year, students will have a new opportunity to fulfill the Cardin Requirement through criminal defense work. Joining the faculty is well-known D.C. public defender Maneka Sinha who will head up Maryland Carey Law’s Criminal Defense Clinic.

Students, like Bradley Beard '20, are eager to participate in the clinic. "Upon graduation I will enter the Navy JAG Corps where I will be assigned during my first tour as either a defense or prosecution attorney," says Beard. “The Criminal Defense Clinic presents an amazing opportunity to improve litigation skills and gain experience interacting with real-life clients.”

Straight from the renowned D.C. Public Defender Service where she represented clients in high-profile homicide and sex crime cases, and managed the forensic science program, Sinha is an ideal person to train the next generation of litigators. And Maryland Carey Law is just the place to do it, she says, because of its “focus on public interest work and giving back to the local community.” A community in which, Sinha adds, “the injustices and disparate impact and disparate targeting of the criminal legal system are … especially palpable.”

Michael Pinard, professor and co-director of the Clinical Law Program, agrees. “The unfortunate reality is that the criminal legal system plays an outsized role in many Baltimore neighborhoods. The Criminal Defense Clinic will provide our students with rich experiences learning about these issues and representing clients from Baltimore whose liberty interests are at stake.”

While some clinics are a semester, the Criminal Defense Clinic is a yearlong commitment, enabling students to combine theory and practice through foundational classroom work and a deep dive into the process of representing real clients. The clinic provides “an introduction and historical background on how we got to … the system of mass incarceration that is unlike any other place in the world,” says Sinha. “We’re going all the way back to the legacy of slavery and then blending that with modern courtroom practice.”

Preparation also includes mock exercises and simulations covering client interviewing, investigation, defense theory development, negotiations, motions practice, and basic trial skills.

“Students will not practice ‘trial by fire,’” emphasizes Sinha, referring to the intense prep work they will do before actually representing clients, “because a person’s serious life consequences are on the line. Students will not set foot in court before they know what they’re doing.”

Once they do, student-attorneys, acting under Rule 19 status allowing them to practice law in Maryland, will represent clients charged with misdemeanor crimes through every phase of their cases. From the early stages just after an arrest through discovery, investigation and motions, negotiations with prosecutors and, for some, at trial in Baltimore City District and Circuit courts.

After a decade as a public defender, Sinha is thrilled to teach in order to increase her impact on a system she argues is deeply flawed.

“I am super-excited to be building a community of student lawyers,” she says, “who will go into Baltimore courts and attack the injustices of our criminal legal system head-on.”
STUDENTS IN PROFESSOR Larry Gibson’s seminar, Race and the Law: The Maryland Experience, spend the semester researching and discussing specific cases that impacted equal opportunity in education, employment, criminal justice, and political participation in Baltimore and beyond. On a sunny morning in February, the students boarded a coach bus outside the law school to embark on a journey that would bolster their in-class experience: Professor Gibson’s annual civil rights tour of Baltimore.

Professor Gibson, armed with a wealth of knowledge from his distinguished career of promoting civil rights and justice, takes his students around the city to visit the locations their assigned cases took place. The tour gives students a deeper understanding of what they learn in class and of the history of the community.

“Professor Gibson is an amazing guide, in part because he has an encyclopedic knowledge of seemingly every single block in Baltimore City and its relation to civil rights issues,” Galen Rende ’20 says. “However, he also lived through and was personally involved in many of the legal and historical issues covered in the class and on the tour, which makes for an incredibly powerful experience.”

The tour crisscrossed the city from the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus to Morgan State University, stopping along the way at key landmarks and institutions at the center of these cases. In between stops, Gibson explained the historical context surrounding each case and offered a detailed narrative of the social and political climate that existed at the time.

Although the cases the students would be researching were argued between 1898 and 1955, Gibson seamlessly tied the outcomes of those cases to current racial justice issues in Baltimore. In one instance, he noted that a 1918 housing segregation case in the Upton neighborhood involved a property just blocks from where Freddie Gray was picked up by police in 2015.

The tour concluded at the Pratt Library where Gibson took the students to the African American and Maryland departments. Here, he showed them the vertical files full of newspaper clippings, photographs, and other historical documents that would help them research their cases and understand the people and places impacted by the court’s decisions.

The experiential learning opportunity was highly regarded by students. “Professor Gibson forces you to go beyond Westlaw and the law library; he challenges his students to immerse themselves in the cases and get to know Baltimore in a more intimate way,” Taylor Nichols ’20 reflects. “[He] ensured we walked away from that tour and each class with new information; he’s truly a vessel of knowledge that Maryland Carey Law is immensely fortunate to have.”

Learn more about the cases on the next page . . .
James Jenkins was indicted for refusing to occupy the seat assigned to him by the conductor on a Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Electric Railway train car. Jenkins objected to the indictment, arguing that he was being denied equal protection of the law, and his objection was sustained by the lower court. The state appealed and the indictment was subsequently reversed.

Baltimore City passed an ordinance in 1913 that forbade a member of one race from occupying a house in a block where members of another race were the only residents. The Supreme Court deemed a similar ordinance in Louisville, Kentucky to be unconstitutional in 1917, setting the precedent for the Baltimore ordinance to be ruled unconstitutional.

The two cases focused on the refusal to admit African American students to Maryland Institute College of Art, with the school’s standing as a private institution as an argument for not having to admit students of color.

When Edmond D. Meade, a young African American pastor, contracted to purchase a home on an almost entirely white block, a group of neighbors filed suit to prevent the family from occupying the premises. The white neighbors prevailed and Meade was unable to complete the purchase, and the home owner was prevented from selling or leasing the property to anyone of African descent in perpetuity.
In 1943, the Enoch Pratt Free Library denied Louise Kerr, an African American woman, admission to its library training class. Kerr sued on the grounds that denying her entry to the program violated her Fourteenth Amendment right for equal protection of the laws. The District Court ruled in favor of the Library and Board; Kerr was successful in her appeal to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

On July 11, 1948, several black and white members of The Young Progressives of Maryland were arrested and subsequently prosecuted for playing interracial tennis matches in Druid Hill Park, an act that defied the Board of Recreation and Parks’ segregation policy.

The Maryland Court of Appeals ruled that the University of Maryland, School of Nursing unconstitutionally denied Esther McCready admission solely because she was African American. McCready won the case and began class on September 5, 1950.

These cases dealt with the application of Brown v. Board of Education beyond schools to recreational facilities such as public beaches, bathhouses, and swimming pools.