

Create Change

New Director Maintains Commitment to Law School's Low-Income Neighbors

Professor Juliet Brodie, the new director of the Stanford Community Law Clinic (SCLC), brings to her new post significant experience in both defending the legal rights and interests of the working poor and contributing to the expansion of clinical scholarship. Immediately prior to joining the SLS faculty, Brodie directed a community-based poverty law clinic at the University of Wisconsin for over five years.

Since its founding, the SCLC has maintained a storefront office in East Palo Alto, four miles from the law school. This location provides greater accessibility to clients and has enabled the SCLC to become an important resource for low-income residents of the mid-Peninsula area. As Brodie points out, the physical proximity to clients “means that we can respond on the ground to what’s happening in this neighborhood. We are part of the

overall social service network of this community, and are thus able to learn as we go about the legal needs of our client population.”

SCLC’s unique position as one of the few clinics located off campus provides students an opportunity to be immersed in the life, pace, and feel of the neighborhood. Students spend about 15-20 hours of their week in the office and they conduct intake interviews with numerous prospective clients over the course of the semester.

SCLC focuses on three priority areas: workers’ rights, with an emphasis on wage-and-hour enforcement; housing work, with an emphasis on habitability issues; and its newest practice area, criminal record clearance.

Brodie explains her method of setting priorities: “We are always looking for matters that engage our two core values: delivering excellent legal services to the



Clinical student Margaret Cohen '08 (left) consults with Professor Juliet Brodie, the clinic director, and Supervising Attorney Danielle Jones.

low-income neighborhoods that surround the law school and working on matters that are pedagogically suitable to the clinical method, where you give substantial, driver-seat responsibility to the law students. I don’t see those values as competing, but as entirely compatible – one of the proudest traditions of clinical education is practicing law at just that intersection.”

Taking wage and hour cases as an example, Brodie says, “Whatever you may think about (*Continued on page 7*)

Director's Note

"Be the change you wish to see in the world . . ." —Gandhi

This is one of the times of the year when I am most impressed by the resilience of our public interest students. The pressure to take the private sector path and the temptation of substantial financial remuneration can make it difficult to maintain the vision and goals that brought you to law school, and will ultimately sustain you.

You celebrate with and congratulate your classmates who have selected the traditional paths. And, you quietly (or sometimes not so quietly) and patiently (or perhaps not so patiently) wait as the public interest and government worlds move forward in their hiring, in their individual ways and along their uncoordinated timelines.

We know that you must assert greater patience and perseverance while gathering support from friends and family as well as Center staff and faculty mentors. We hope that reading the inspiring words of alumna Christa Gannon may help at this time. And please know that you can always turn to us when you need a friendly shoulder or word of encouragement.

We hope you have a restful break. We look forward to an energized and energizing spring term exploring public interest, pro bono, and social justice with you all.

Best,
Diane

News Briefs

SLS Students, Alumni Selected for Postgraduate Fellowships, DOJ Honors

Several students and alumni have been selected for highly selective and prestigious national postgraduate programs.

Brian Blalock '07 and Marc TafollaYoung '07 were selected as Skadden Fellows for the 2007-2009 term.

Blalock will focus on an interfaith youth project at Bay Area Legal Aid. Marc TafollaYoung will work on further implementation of the *Williams* education consent decree at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights in San Francisco.

As an Equal Justice Works Fellow, Jef Pearlman '06 will work on First Amendment issues at Public Knowledge in Washington, D.C.

Eric Beckenhauer '04, Angie Cha '07, Adair Ford '07, and Chris Walker '06 accepted offers from the U.S. Department of Justice's Attorney Honors Program. Beckenhauer will

be in the Civil Division's Federal Programs Branch; Cha will be in the Civil Rights Division; Ford will be in the Tax Division; and Walker will be in the Civil Division's Appellate section.

Spring Symposium to Focus on Immigrants and Immigration Law

Our annual Spring Symposium will take place at the Law School on February 10, 2007. It is co-sponsored by the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Stanford's Immigrants' Rights Clinic.

"Immigrants' Rights and Critical Perspectives on Immigration Reform" will feature prominent practitioners and scholars discussing immigrants' rights and immigration reform as they relate to workplace rights, border enforcement, criminal justice, and national security. Congressman Xavier Becerra '84 (BA '80) will provide the keynote address.

Registration is free and will be available online at <http://publicinterestlaw.stanford.edu>. MCLE credit will be offered.

Pro Bono Reflection Sessions to Feature Public Interest Faculty Members

The Center will host a new round of Pro Bono Reflection sessions for students in February. Professors Juliet Brodie, Larry Marshall, and Jayashri Srikantiah will each lead two sessions focused on contextualizing students' pro bono experiences. Each session will be limited to ten students. Please contact Jennifer Fan at jfan@law.stanford.edu for more information.

New Book Written by SLS Students, Alumni, and Faculty Coming This Spring

Written by SLS students, alumni, and faculty, the forthcoming book *Beyond the Big Law Firm: Profiles of Lawyers Who Want Something More* will be published in the spring.

Edited by Professor Alan Morrison and Diane Chin, the book features profiles on over thirty public interest attorneys working in a range of fields including criminal defense, personal injury, environmental, labor, and civil rights.

SLS Honors First Recipients of National, Alumni Public Service Awards

On Wednesday, October 25, 2006, the SLS community gathered for a dinner reception to celebrate the creation of the Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law and to honor the recipients of two new awards recognizing outstanding public service lawyers.

The first National Public Service Award was conferred upon Loyola law professor William Quigley for his work on behalf of more than 4,000 low-income, Mississippi Delta tenants who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

The first Alumni Public Service Award was granted to Christa Gannon '97, Founder and Executive Director of Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY), for her work on behalf of underserved California youth.

"Exposing students to experience first-hand how public interest lawyers represent minority interests is central to the mission of the Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law," said Diane Chin, a Lecturer in Law and Director of the Center.

The awards were established by the new Center to highlight the increased attention, resources and commitment the Law School is bringing to nurturing public service practice for its students and graduates. The National Public Service Award is to be given annually to a lawyer whose work on behalf of the public has had national impact. The Alumni Public Service Award is to be given annually to a Law School alumnus or alumna who has similarly engaged in public service and had a significant impact on the nation or community.



Professor William P. Quigley, Dean Larry Kramer, and Christa Gannon '97



Clockwise starting with Quigley (foreground), Debbie Dupre Quigley, Professor Pamela Karlan, Kramer, Sarah Delson, Professor Jayashri Srikantiah, Professor George Fisher, and Diane T. Chin, Director of the CPSPIL



Left, Scott Thomas Alexander, Christa Gannon '97, and Public Interest Fellow Erica Blachman '07 listen attentively.



Public Interest Fellows Michael Roney '08, Caitlin Weisberg '08, and Kavita Narayan '08 were among the 150 guests celebrating with the honorees.

Alumna Inspires Passion, Urges Students to Heed Call to Public Service

Editor's Note: This is an edited version of Christa Gannon's acceptance speech as the first recipient of the Alumni Public Service Award.

Wow—this is an overwhelming honor. I can't thank you enough for recognizing me for what I consider a privilege—doing work that I love.

In my mind I am a representative of a team of people who deserve to take credit for this award. So many of you are in the room and you have helped mold me, shape me, and support me in ways I can never thank you enough for: This award is a reflection of you as much as it is of me.

I will never forget the day I was a third year law student and dragged my now husband to a women's law conference. I remember an attorney from a civil rights group in San Francisco was speaking, and she said that she was holding the torch of hope and she was tired. She had been running a long time and needed someone to join her in the relay and take a lap.

For me, it clicked. I turned to Scott and said: "I want the torch. I want to run the lap. Will you support me?" He said yes without hesitation.

Little did he know what he really signed up for: celebrating with me the day I turned down a law firm offer to make \$32,500 a year to follow a pipe dream, supporting me financially those first two years when somehow all my fellowship money got spent on program expenses and never quite made it into the family cash flow, and the pep talks he gives me to remind me why I am a lucky one, as I found my passion. Thank you, Scott.

I understand that part of the purpose of the Law School recognizing me, a young alumna, is so the public interest students that are here can maybe glean some insights or lessons learned so you can avoid some of the pitfalls that recent graduates like myself have made.

When people enter the Peace Corps or a religious order, we don't question their sacrifices and reasons for commitment. We take it on faith that this is what they were called to do and we are grateful for their devotion. I want to encourage family and friends to think of our careers in the same way.

The first message: Listen to your inner voice.



Christa Gannon '97

I know all of us have passions, and I hope that my experience will encourage us to listen to those voices we all have in our heads, whispering ideas. They are a lot more powerful than I think we give them credit. I am still a student of the experience, the experience of service, and what I've learned so far is that a passion or a calling can be found in the most unexpected places.

I found it because I volunteered in law school, and went to Juvenile Hall, a place I never thought I would go. And I only went because I was curious and wanted to see what it was like inside. There I got the shock of my life when I met 14, 15, and 16 year olds who were doing 10, 20, and some life in prison; life as they knew it was over.

Over and over again, their statements to me would start with: "If only. . . . If only I had known how much trouble I would get into. If only someone had cared about me, I wouldn't be here."

Their faces and their voices began haunting me, and I wondered what their lives would be like if only someone had helped.

Growing up I was known as a pretty tough kid, one who kept her emotions in check at all times. But, when I met with the coordinator of this juvenile hall program, I lost it. I couldn't stop crying. I felt like I knew too much to stand by and do nothing. *(Continued on page 9)*

On September 11, 2001, Daniel Silverberg '03 found himself on the second day of his second year of law school, three weeks removed from an internship at the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Defense (DoD) in the Pentagon.

Fortunately, Silverberg didn't know anyone who was killed in the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks. Yet the experiences of that day left him wanting to be involved in the numerous policies he knew were unfolding.

Four years after that internship, Silverberg accepted a permanent position with DoD and is now the Associate Deputy General Counsel in the Office of International Affairs within the DoD's Office of General Counsel.

Silverberg works most closely with the Pentagon's directorate that handles special operations and humanitarian missions.

The government is currently undergoing substantial changes and lawyers play a key role in this overhaul, because “we know authorities, we interpret legislation, and we understand our agencies’ missions and responsibilities.”

Much of his work is classified, but what he can reveal is that he provides legal counsel on a wide range of policy issues, such as reconfiguring the government approach to counter terrorism and defining the military's



Daniel Silverberg '03

Alumni Spotlight

Lawyer Influences National Security

By Jennifer Chang

authorities and responsibilities in the war on terror.

His duties arose in light of the bureaucratic shortcomings identified after 9/11. The government is currently undergoing substantial changes and lawyers play a key role in this overhaul, because “we know authorities, we interpret legislation, and we understand our agencies’ missions and responsibilities.”

This places Silverberg on the frontlines at this key point in history.

Prior to law school, Silverberg had an interest in international affairs and non-profits, but did not have an outlet for it. He found himself looking at business schools and International Affairs schools. Law school arose as a compromise between the two.

While at Stanford, he was a public

interest fellow and co-chair of the Stanford Jewish Law Society, but it was his international law classes with Judge Abraham D. Sofaer that sparked his interest in government.

Hearing Sofaer's stories about being a legal advisor to the State Department in the '80s made him think, “This kind of work seems rare and amazing.” These stories are what led Silverberg to an internship at the DoD's Office of General Counsel following his first year at law school. He loved his experience there, praising the people as “first rate, smart, and driven. The issues were fascinating.”

After graduation, Silverberg headed off to Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe to “activate” his law degree. Although he knew he wanted to work for the government, he saw value in gaining firm experience and enjoyed his time in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, he kept in touch with the contacts he had made as an intern at the DoD and when he heard of an opening he jumped at the rare opportunity.

While he jokes that “[he is] a lawyer in the largest bureaucracy in the world,” he truly feels the weight of his work and believes that “it is an honor to be here and to be working for the U.S. Department of Defense at an extraordinary and unique point in history.”

Having had the opportunity to work at the Pentagon before 9/11 and after, he notes that the operations tempo is now ten times higher than it was before. Most of the military personnel at the Pentagon is either on their way to Iraq or has just returned, bringing with them an inspiring sense of duty and commitment.

Silverberg explains, “I never served in the military, I have no desire to serve in the military, but I'm really struck by the sense of service that permeates those that did serve and I really think it permeates the Pentagon and this office in particular.” *(Continued on page 8)*

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL SILVERBERG

Interest in Pro Bono Program Expands

First-Year Class Has Record Participation, New Pro Bono Opportunities Are on the Horizon

CLASS OF 2009 ENTHUSIASTICALLY EMBRACES PRO BONO SERVICE

The Class of 2009 has made a remarkable commitment to pro bono work. Approximately 65% of the class is participating in one of the following programs:

- Domestic Violence Pro Bono Project
- Guardianship Pro Bono Program
- Housing Pro Bono Program
- Immigration Pro Bono Program
- StreetLaw
- Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Volunteer Attorney Program

Even more impressive is the fact that 16% of the class is participating in two or more pro bono programs.

SLS-SPONSORED ALTERNATIVE WINTER BREAK/ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, the Pro Bono Program will designate an organization which students can work with during spring break and winter break as well.

In winter 2005 and spring 2006, Stanford Law School students traveled to the Gulf Coast to assist communities affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In light of the continued state of crisis in the Gulf Coast, we will continue to work with the Student Hurricane Network (SHN) to place students in various local organizations over winter and spring breaks.

To date, approximately 30 students have expressed an interest in being involved for winter break 2006 and spring break 2007. The Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law, the Center on Ethics, and the Stanford Public Interest Law Foundation have contributed generously to help with travel expenses.

If students would like to get involved with SHN in other ways, there are several different opportunities:

• Matchmakers for Justice – Students are paired with a displaced resident for a 10-week period under the supervision of an attorney and social worker to help him or her address legal issues.

• Lobbying Initiative – The ABA Law Student Division and SHN have partnered with Law Students for Governmental Accountability to call for a comprehensive Congressional response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to ensure that similar disasters do not happen again. This initiative contemplates the meeting of at least two law students from every congressional district with every House Representative and Senator.

• Disaster Preparedness – Help to draft disaster preparedness manuals for legal professionals.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PRO BONO PROGRAM ARE ON THE HORIZON

There have also been several new exciting developments in the pro bono program. Recently, Jessa Barnard '08 and Sabrina Adler '08 helped to create a Medical-Legal Collaborative in partnership with the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County (LAS-SMC).

Students will assist the Peninsula Family Advocacy Program by making follow-up phone calls to clients whose cases have been closed for two months.

When asked why she felt it was important to start such a collaborative, Jessa replied, "I wanted to start a medical-legal pro bono program for two main reasons. First, the families who use Stanford's medical services have unmet legal needs in areas such as housing, immigration, family law and public benefits. Second, there are a lot of students who are interested in health law but they have not had a pro bono opportunity in that area—I wanted to help fill that niche for students."

Two new programs will focus on helping the immigrant community. Under the supervision of naturalization experts at the International Institute, students will offer help with naturalization paperwork. In addition, together with Bay Area Legal Aid, students will conduct intakes with victims of crime and domestic violence survivors in the immigrant community; the current plan is to offer such intake sessions on a monthly basis at the San Mateo office of Bay Area Legal Aid.

Two other programs will serve senior citizens and the homeless. In partnership with LAS-SMC, students will assist the elderly in various legal matters, including consumer fraud and, potentially, elder abuse. The Opportunity Center, a mixed-used facility located minutes from Stanford's campus that provides coordinated services and housing to the homeless, would give students the chance to help clients complete SSI disability forms and represent them in administrative law hearings.

Yet another program will help the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. Working together with the National Center for Lesbian Rights, students will have the opportunity to assist with issues ranging from child custody to same-sex marriages.

Finally, the Pro Bono Program will continue to offer pro bono assistance to various non-profits that request our help to the extent that it is appropriate. This past semester, second and third year students helped to do research for the ACLU on First Amendment and intellectual property matters. Students also volunteered to help summarize depositions for Equal Rights Advocates to help prepare for a pending Title IX case.

Community Law Clinic Continues to Innovate, Adapts to Changing Local Needs

(Continued from page 1)

immigration issues, California law is plain that immigration status is irrelevant to a worker's right to be paid for work performed. And the facts are equally plain that low-wage workers, both immigrant and citizen, are exploited on the job, often in the most basic way: with employers failing or refusing to pay wages, in part relying on their belief that the workers will be too afraid to assert their rights, and have no resources to enforce those rights. These are great clinical cases, giving students the chance to engage in lawyering fundamentals: client interviewing, fact investigation, legal research, and client counseling. Students contact employers, request wage records, and try to resolve the workers' claims through negotiation. Ultimately, if that doesn't work, students can litigate these claims before either a state court or the state labor commission."

Brodie notes, "We're always looking for innovative ways to reach our clients, to leverage our services to have the biggest impact, and to provide the broadest range of lawyering experiences for our students. This may mean doing, in addition to our core litigation matters, community legal education projects and producing more client-centered outreach materials. [In addition,] we are constantly modifying and crafting our priorities to respond to local needs. A good example is how we came to create our criminal record clearance practice: when a local community group that works with formerly incarcerated people came to us and said, 'This is really important to our members, and we wonder if you can help,' we were in a position to launch a project and study the feasibility of playing a role in light of our other values and commitments. We now in fact represent dozens of people in court

seeking to clear their records."

SCLC student Erik Christensen '08 states, "Although the Community Law Clinic's primary focus is on expungement cases, wage and hour disputes, and housing law, clinic students should expect the unexpected. In my first semester at the clinic, in addition to everything else, I have been researching worker's compensation law and laws concerning the closure of mobile home parks for our clients."

“[D]on't view law as an activity or an enterprise unto itself, but rather see law as an important part of a network of professions and disciplines that are trying to solve justice problems.”

Brodie observes, "My clinic experience was without a doubt the best part of law school for me, and I'm hoping to create an environment like it for my students: a place to engage in the highest quality law practice under scrutinizing supervision while at the same time reflecting on the role of law in solving pressing and complex social problems."

She continues, "That's not to say that clinics are only for 'public interest' students. First, as for the subject area of our clinic, I do believe that all citizens, and especially all lawyers, have the duty to become at least somewhat fluent in

issues of income inequality and the low-wage workers that help make our service economy run. I think the perennial gap between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' remains a core problem about the condition of our democratic society. Second, and more generally, the lawyering tasks that SCLC students engage in are fundamental to any law practice: not only the technical research, writing, and litigation skills, but also the competent development of an attorney-client relationship and experience with a more broad-based problem-solving approach to practicing law."

SCLC student Salena Copeland '07 asserts, "The Stanford Community Law Clinic taught me how to be a lawyer. Nothing feels as good as getting a good settlement for my client or getting a client's criminal record expunged in court. I can talk about law all day in class, but actually practicing law in the clinic reminds me of why I'm here and what I want to do a year from now."

For those students who want to pursue a career in poverty law, Brodie advises, "Get as much on-the-ground, real world exposure as you can possibly get, always with an eye toward the challenge of respectfully participating in a low-income neighborhood's life from a position of privilege. And read, read, read. . . about labor market economics, the history of lawyering in low-income neighborhoods, immigration patterns in whatever local community you end up living and practicing in. All of this is to say, don't view law as an activity or an enterprise unto itself, but rather see law as an important part of a network of professions and disciplines that are trying to solve justice problems. Talk to social workers, probation officers, public health nurses, and teachers to learn how to serve your clients. There's plenty on the internet, but it's not all there. You have to hit the streets a bit, too."

Clinical News Updates

Editor's note: This is a summary of e-mail announcements sent by Professor Larry Marshall, Associate Dean of Public Interest and Clinical Education.

Immigrants' Rights Clinic

In late November, Immigrants' Rights Clinic students Hilary Ley '06 and Liz Morris '07 successfully prevented the deportation of their client, a 29-year-old man who came to the United States from the Philippines over twenty years ago.

The government sought to remove the client from the United States based on minor criminal offenses that he had committed as a young man. Through diligent research and creative legal strategizing, Hilary and Liz discovered that their client was in fact a United States citizen! They convinced the immigration judge that the U.S. government was prohibited from removing their client, and successfully proved to the judge that their client is a citizen. Now the client can safely remain in the U.S. with his wife and U.S. citizen son.

Earlier in November, a client represented by recent graduates John Crawford '06 and Carol Li '06 was granted a U-visa under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2006. The woman was the victim of an assault with a deadly weapon and assisted law enforcement with the investigation and prosecution of the crime. John and Carol's advocacy will allow her to remain safely in the United States with her five young children who received derivative immigration relief.

Environmental Law Clinic

The Environmental Law Clinic won a major victory in early November on behalf of its clients in their long-term struggle to protect the Medicine Lake area Indian sacred site in Northeastern California from energy development. ELC represents the Pit River Tribe, the Native Coalition for Medicine Lake Highlands Defense, and the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

reversed an adverse decision from the district court and ordered the lower court to enter summary judgment in our clients' favor on all issues on appeal.

The case involves the unlawful failure of the federal Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to consult with the Pit River Tribe and undertake appropriate environmental review for before deciding to execute energy leases to a private company on this 10,000-year-old sacred landscape.

The Ninth Circuit appeal was argued by Justin Pidot '06. Selena Kyle '05 and Leah Vickers '05 assisted in drafting the briefs. The Clinic has been working on this matter since February 1998.

International Legal Clinic in Ghana

This spring, the newly revamped International Legal Clinic in Ghana will be directed by Maude Pervere and Tehila Sagy. Maude is an extraordinarily talented woman who stepped down last year as Director of the Gould Center after serving as a Senior Lecturer at SLS for many years. Tehila is writing her doctoral thesis here at SLS on issues pertaining to Ghana and was part of our clinical program there last year.

For the first ten weeks of the semester, students will take a course that will prepare them for their work in Ghana. They will then travel to Ghana for the month of April for the clinical fieldwork.

While plans are not yet finalized, we hope to be working in a refugee camp near Accra, conducting interviews and analysis aimed at identifying and making recommendations regarding the dispute resolution systems for the refugees there. The work will involve extensive cross-cultural interviewing, analysis of options, and development of a plan for the future that reflects the culture and wishes of the refugee population and support personnel.

Lawyer Influences National Security

(Continued from page 5)

He adds that the issues have completely changed. Before, no one knew what national security law was and now "anyone who reads the New York Times knows what it is. The level of understanding and engagement in national security law issues is a welcomed development."

When asked about the biggest challenges he faces in his work, he remarks that everyday he does something different. While this may keep his job from ever feeling routine, it also prevents him from gaining expertise on one issue.

High stakes are not a stranger to the legal profession, but Silverberg's actions can impact people's lives and the department's ability to operate. For instance, he recently advised the DoD on whether the Department had authority to engage in a particular operation, and whether U.S. legal protections would apply to armed forces personnel if arrested while engaged in the operation.

"There is nothing better than being engaged in public service and actually having a voice in what the government is doing. Every time the U.S. government takes a position on an issue, strip it down and it's people like me, action officers on the bottom level who examine an issue, evaluate it and float it up the chain for senior officials to make a decision."

For those interested in pursuing a career in public service, Silverberg encourages them to persevere and explore the possibilities within the government.

"We are at a critical time in the world right now, [and students should] see public interest not just as local service opportunities...but also consider how you can get involved at the national level in national security issues where the government can use the skills and determination of a Stanford lawyer."

Christa Gannon '97 Urges Students to Heed Call to Public Service and Persevere

(Continued from page 4)

Underneath it all these were just kids, and there weren't very many people or organizations that cared. But I didn't know what to do . . . The coordinator's advice to me was, "You'll figure it out."

So I transferred from Northwestern Law School to Stanford.

I missed the kids so much that I randomly called juvenile hall and asked if I could come talk to their students about the law. I connected with two other law students who were interested in the same issue, Richard and Laura, and that was the beginning of Street Law. As graduation neared, the thought of closing out my volunteer work didn't sit well with me, so I put the kids in focus groups and said: "I'm lucky I have my law degree from Stanford and I can do anything I want. What can I do to prevent other kids from ending up where you are?"

They told me: "Teach kids in trouble about the law and the consequences of crime before it is too late. Give them someone who is a good role model and cares about them, and give them a chance to give back to the communities they've been taking from all their lives."

Their ideas worked and are FLY's core services: legal education, mentoring, and leadership training. What began as a focus group in plastic chairs in B-9, turned into a paper concept that helped me pass my Education and Law Seminar. It then turned into a fellowship proposal that ultimately became a nonprofit organization that this year has a budget of \$1.5 million and is serving three thousand kids.

But there will be days when all of us here will wish that this passion and sense of purpose would just go away. . . .It is okay to have these thoughts. It is normal to doubt yourself and your choices. It is normal to question your decisions and sacrifices. It will happen.

The second message: we all have callings to help to serve in some way, maybe it is to devote our lives to public service. Perhaps it is to support someone who is devoting their lives to public service, or it could be doing pro bono and volunteer

work. No one calling is more important than the other. They are all equally important, and I hope that we can encourage and support each other in pursuing those passions in whatever way or form makes sense for each of us.

There are some of us who are called to devote our careers to public service, and I invite us all of us to think about being a public interest lawyer like a vocation. When people enter the Peace Corps, or a religious order, we don't question their sacrifices and reasons for commitment. We take it on faith that this is what they were called to do and we are grateful for their devotion.

I want to encourage family and friends to think of our careers in the same way. It is a calling; a calling that requires great sacrifice and struggle. And to ignore this calling would be to ignore the greatest gift we could have possibly been given: the gift of passion, the gift of a sense of purpose.

But there will be days when all of us here will wish that this passion and sense of purpose would just go away. It might be the day you spend hours trying to get an old decrepit copy machine to stop jamming, the day your front row seat to all the world's injustices makes you want to simply curl up and cry, or the day your very well-intentioned spouse, partner, friend or family member says something like, "I hate seeing you go through all this pain and have to constantly worry about money—maybe you should do something else." It is okay to have these thoughts. It is normal to doubt yourself and your choices. It is normal to question your decisions and sacrifices. It will happen.

There are days when I wish I could trade in my passion and the responsibility it brings and be the UPS driver. I am always happy when she brings me my packages. She gets to go home at 5:00 every day. She doesn't take work with her and she gets to wear shorts all day.

But then, a client will walk in like Rudolf, and I remember why I do this work. Rudolf's first memories are of finding a sawed-off shot gun in the yard, waking up from nightmares, running for his parents only finding empty beds because they were out dealing drugs. His first memories are of being bounced from relative to relative, turning to violence and drugs to ease his pain because that was how he saw his parents solve their problems. Rudolf became a statistic in juvenile hall, going in and out time and time again. But now, after FLY, Rudolf is a high school and probation graduate, and in fact works at UPS.

When I think about Rudolf, I know I am in the right place.

Spring 2007 Public Interest Events

January

10 Wed.	Stanford Equality Pro Bono Pilot Project Training at National Center for Lesbian Rights' office	5 - 7 p.m.
17 Wed.	Medical-Legal Collaborative Pro Bono Program Training Orientation	12:30 p.m.
18 Thurs.	PI Speaker Series: Maria Blanco, Executive Director of Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area	12:45 p.m.

February

5 Mon.	Pro Bono Reflection Session	12:30 p.m.
8 Wed.	Domestic Violence Pro Bono Project Lunch (Sponsored by the Stanford Center on Ethics)	12:30 p.m.
10 Sat.	"Immigrants' Rights and Critical Perspectives on Immigration Reform" Symposium	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
10 Sat	Public Interest/Public Sector Day Career Fair at the University of San Francisco	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
26 Mon.	Pro Bono Reflection Session	12:30 p.m.

March

3 Sat.	SPILF Bid for Justice Auction	5 p.m.
5 Mon.	Pro Bono Reflection Session	12:30 p.m.
7 Wed.	Pro Bono Reflection Session	12:30 p.m.
8 Thurs.	Pro Bono Reflection Session	12:30 p.m.
12 Mon.	Pro Bono Reflection Session	12:30 p.m.
19 Mon.	A PI Students' Approach to OCI	12:45 p.m.
20 Tues.	Strategizing for 2L Summer PI Jobs	12:45 p.m.
21 Wed.	Externship Informational Workshop	12:45 p.m.

April

11 Wed.	Reception for Pro Bono Distinction Recipients	6 p.m.
17 Tues.	Annual Public Interest Award Celebration	5:30 p.m.
23 Mon.	Public Interest Lawyering Book Launch Party	5:30 p.m.

Unless otherwise indicated, all events will be held at Stanford Law School, Crown Quadrangle, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, California. For more information, write to public.interest@law.stanford.edu or call (650) 723-2519.

About *Create Change*

Create Change is designed and produced by the staff of the Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law. Unless specifically noted, all articles are written by staff:

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