

Create Change

Olshansky to Share Expertise in International Human Rights

Twenty two years after she graduated from Stanford Law School, Barbara Olshansky '85 will return for a year as a visiting associate professor of law (teaching) and the Leah Kaplan Visiting Professor in Human Rights to help introduce students to the laws governing international human rights.

She will teach a seminar on international humanitarian law, Guantanamo Bay, and the U.S. government's "war on terror" in the fall, and direct a clinic on international human rights in the spring.

In the years since she left California, Olshansky became an internationally-recognized human rights advocate. Prior to accepting this teaching position, she spent 11 years at the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City.

There, Olshansky filed a landmark case on behalf of Guantanamo Bay detainees, *Rasul v. Bush*, which made headlines after the U.S. Supreme Court decided that the executive branch had exceeded its powers in asserting that

Guantanamo Bay was outside the jurisdiction of any court. But even after the much celebrated ruling allowed the detainees access to the judicial system, Olshansky found that the impact was insufficient as the detainees encountered new and different challenges that limited their access to the courts.

She explains, "I'm not giving up on these cases, as I'm still working on them, but I decided that at some point, especially after having talked to [people] and seeing things in Iraq, that I needed to be doing work that made a positive change in the world."

Olshansky continues, "If I could find a way to bring resources to the developing world, then I would be offering something positive instead of just suing, which I think is necessary, but I needed to see that there was still hope and room for hope in the world and positive change."

Olshansky will bring an infusion of energy and personality when she lands on campus. She paints vivid images of



MISHA BRUK

the highlights of her public interest career and shared one story from the beginning of her career that confirms her unique and highly personalized approach to practicing law.

In her third year of law school, she had accepted a poverty law fellowship but learned that the program was discontinued right before graduation.

Olshansky wasn't sure what to do. Mark Kelman, who is now the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law and Vice Dean, told her about a last-minute opportunity for a clerkship with then Chief Justice Rose Bird on the California Supreme Court.

Olshansky did not think she would be considered for the (*Continued on page 7*)

Associate Dean's Note

As the class of 2007 goes out into the world, it is an appropriate time to reflect upon the past three years and how the public interest community at Stanford has grown even stronger.

I, too, first came to Stanford in the Fall of 2004. Since then, we have witnessed an influx of resources that have helped transform the public interest landscape at Stanford and encourage more students to join the ranks of those providing legal services to the underserved. For example, 111 members of the class of 2009 contributed pro bono service this past year. In addition, we have 32 rising third-year students who are committed to beginning their careers in the public sector.

Moreover, the recently established John and Terry Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law continues to expand and we now have more breadth and depth in our programs than ever before. Developed under the guidance of our former director, Diane Chin, the Center's robust programming provides every law student an opportunity to engage in public service while at the same time ensuring that those who choose to dedicate their full-time careers receive the support and resources to do so.

Looking forward, we have ambitious plans to increase

Stanford's visibility in the larger public interest community by taking on a greater leadership role. For instance, we hope to utilize our strengths and resources by providing training to new public interest lawyers and creating a forum for practitioners to explore important issues related to public service lawyering.

Still, our primary responsibility remains inspiring law students to experience the rewards of using their legal training to serve their communities and society. In this issue, you can read about two alumnae who do just that: Barbara Olshansky '85, who will share her expertise in international human rights with students this upcoming year as a visiting professor, and Michele McKenzie '00, who has spent her career since graduation representing the accused at the Federal Defenders of San Diego. These are but two of the outstanding examples of Stanford Law School alumni serving the public interest.

It has been a privilege for me to be part of this exciting chapter in Stanford history and I eagerly anticipate the addition of new programs over the next few years.

Larry Marshall

Associate Dean for Public Service and Clinical Education

News Briefs

32 New Public Interest Fellows for 2007

The Public Interest Fellows program was restructured for 2007-2008. All rising third-year students who work at least 1.5 summers in public service and plan to work in public service after graduation or immediately after a judicial clerkship are accepted. A record 32 students applied to the program and will receive tuition grants and assume leadership roles in the public interest community. A full list of Fellows and their profiles will be on our website later this summer.

Spring Public Interest Awards Presented to Graduating Students, 1L Student

On April 17, the public interest community gathered in the Law Lounge to celebrate the end of the year and present awards to outstanding public interest students.

Salena G. Copeland '07 and Craig Holt Segall '07 were named the 2007 Deborah L. Rhode Public Interest Awards winners. They will share a \$3,000 scholarship. Larisa Bowman '09 was selected by a committee of students to be the 2007 Lisa M. Schnitzer Memorial

Scholarship recipient. The scholarship was established by the friends and family of Lisa Schnitzer, a first-year law student who was very committed to public interest law and died in a car accident in 1987.

"Beyond Big Firm" Book Now on Sale

The Levin Center hosted a reception on Monday, April 23 to celebrate the publication of "Beyond the Big Firm, Profiles of Lawyers Who Want Something More," a book written by 28 Stanford law students and alumni and co-edited by Alan B. Morrison, former senior lecturer in law, and Diane T. Chin, former director of the Levin Center.

"Beyond the Big Firm" profiles 33 lawyers working in different practice areas, hailing from 14 states and the District of Columbia, and representing 19 law schools.

Copies are available for sale at retail outlets and all proceeds go to the Levin Center to support public interest law students.

Transactional Clinic Director Appointed, Two Clinical Teaching Fellowships Named

Stanford Law School has appointed Jay A. Mitchell (BA '90) as lecturer in law and director of its new Nonprofit and General Counsel Clinic. Previously, he was a member of the legal and finance senior management teams at Levi Strauss and Co. for 20 years.

The clinic will provide students with opportunities to work with not-for-profit entities and micro-businesses. It is the first to focus on transactional law and will be our 10th clinic.

Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe has committed \$250,000 to support a teaching fellowship for five years with the Nonprofit and General Counsel Clinic. The Orrick Fellow is expected to be named before Spring 2008.

Also, Cooley Godward Kronish LLP committed \$250,000 to support a teaching fellowship for five years with the Immigrants' Rights Clinic (IRC), which enables law students to get practical training by representing individual immigrants and immigrants' rights organizations. Attorney Jennifer H. Lee has been named the inaugural Cooley Godward Kronish Fellow for the 2007-2008 year.

Immigrants' Rights Draws Record Crowd

Over 250 lawyers, advocates, and students gathered at the law school on Saturday, Feb. 10 for the “Immigrants’ Rights and Critical Perspectives on Immigration Reform” symposium.

The symposium was co-sponsored by the John and Terry Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law, the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, and the Stanford Immigrants’ Rights Clinic.

The schedule included a variety of hot-topic immigration-related panels with some of the biggest names in civil rights and immigrants’ rights leading the discussion. The keynote lunch featured Congressman Xavier Becerra ’84 (BA ’80), who represents California’s 31st Congressional district in Los Angeles.

The panels stirred debate and thoughtful discussion about immigration reform, undocumented migration, and the humanitarian crisis at the border. Many of the conversations involved an intersection of immigration issues with other current issues, such as criminal justice, workers’ rights, and post 9/11 national security measures.

The urgency of the subject matter and the undeniable draw of the speakers were evident; the largest classrooms at the law school were at full capacity.

Larry D. Kramer, Dean and Richard E. Lang Professor of Law, stated, “The symposium included a group of compelling speakers that attracted one of the largest crowds I’ve seen at the law school. We are delighted that Stanford can offer symposia on critical issues like this one that simultaneously addresses academics, policy advocates, students, and community members.”

While many students attended the symposium, including those from other law schools and other disciplines, practitioners in the field of immigration and the general public represented the majority of the very engaged audience.

The symposium panelists spoke about immigrants’ rights and immigration reform from both practical and academic perspectives. Most importantly, the speakers shared a common passion and goal: understanding and addressing the social injustices that plague many immigrant populations. Through inspirational speeches, educational presentations, candid dialogue, and poignant films, the symposium imbued participants with a greater understanding of immigration issues and empowered those seeking



Top: Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Symposium Co-editors Neesa Sethi '08 (left) and Laura Terlouw '08 join Congressman Xavier Becerra '84 (BA '80) after his keynote speech.

Bottom: Attendees filled room 290, the largest classroom at the Law School.

PHOTOS BY GEOFFREY KING '09

social change. By the end of the day, there was an obvious renewal of energy and optimism for the fight for immigrants’ rights and immigration reform.

The Journal’s Symposium co-editors Neesa Sethi '08 and Laura Terlouw '08 concluded, “The symposium was a tremendous accomplishment for our law school’s youngest journal—the *Stanford Journal of Civil Rights & Civil Liberties*. The event brought together some of the nation’s leading immigration experts for timely debate and discussion, including several authors from the journal’s upcoming immigration-themed issue. We hope that audience members left the symposium feeling informed, inspired, and energized to create change in the areas of immigrants’ rights and immigration reform.”

SLS Students Travel East for Rebellious Lawyering Conference at Yale Law

With travel scholarships from the John and Terry Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law, three students represented Stanford Law School at Yale Law School's Rebellious Lawyering ("RebLaw") Conference on February 23-25 this year.

RebLaw is the East Coast counterpart to Stanford's Shaking the Foundations ("Shakings") Conference. Both conferences convene practitioners, law students, and advocates to discuss creative strategies to advance social justice and help develop relationships among the groups.

Andrew Canter '08 (2006 Shakings co-chair), Michael Montaña '09, and Amy Morgenstern '09 journeyed east and came back with a renewed sense of purpose.

Morgenstern observes, "I learned that the work we do as lawyers cannot stand on its own. [U.S. District Court] Judge Thelton Henderson [of the Northern District of California] explained to us that he does not finish writing an opinion and put a case from his mind. When tuna fishing boats tried to leave his jurisdiction rather than obey his orders, he had authorities bring them back. And when prisoner abuse continued at Pelican Bay, he took control of the health care system himself."

"More than that, though, each panel in its own way drove home the idea that we need to work inside of a political movement—one that we identify and support, or one that we create ourselves through community organizing. By doing work that keeps channels of activism open—supporting voting rights, union rights, access to justice for the poor—we remove obstacles that may prevent the community from empowering itself. And by focusing on improving the lives of our clients, we again make it

possible for the people affected by injustice to educate themselves and contribute to the community-based movement for equality and justice."

"[Each] panel in its own way drove home the idea that we need to work inside of a political movement—one that we identify and support, or one that we create ourselves through community organizing."

She adds, "I got to meet amazing people from all over the country and to learn more about Yale's public interest program. We were given the opportunity to meet with some progressive organizations at Yale Law School, and I am in contact with Universities Allied for Essential Medicines to see if we can start a group here at Stanford dedicated to providing AIDS medicine to developing countries."

Montaña also found the conference to be an excellent resource to connect with others with similar interests. He shares, "My area of interest—progressive banking—has recently gained wider attention within the public interest community, and I was excited to attend a RebLaw panel on the subject."

"The speakers did a good job of communicating a balanced view of the problems of predatory home lending and access to capital. While the villains in this story are sophisticated and deeply entwined with the mainstream securities market, the antidotes—education and alternative lending—are fairly straight forward. The challenge is actualization."

Montaña continues, "Chatting with Yale Law School Professor Bob Solomon and Sarah Ludwig, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project, after the panel definitely rekindled my energy for this work, and I look forward to taking my new knowledge back with me to Texas this summer."

After attending Shakings each of the past two years, Canter found the trip helpful in understanding how Stanford could improve its own progressive conference.

"I was impressed that RebLaw provided structured opportunities for students with similar interests to meet and chat. During Saturday lunch, for example, I was fortunate to have lunch with other law students from around the country interested in the American Constitution Society and the intersection of law and politics."

Canter also came away from the conference with a renewed appreciation for bringing other stakeholders into the discussion.

"Too often legal conferences limit the conversation to academics and lawyers. Reblaw and Shakings, though, have recognized the importance of including journalists, nonprofit leaders, and other community members with a stake in these crucial issues. Students are better prepared when they learn about law and its impact on society from all types of practitioners."

SLS Inspires Career in Criminal Defense

StreetLaw, Summer Internship, D.C. Externship, and Loan Repayment Program Prove Critical to Alumna's Decision

After Michele McKenzie '00 heard the “not guilty” verdicts in her last drug smuggling trial in federal court, her co-counsel went out with most of their fellow attorneys from Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. to celebrate.

McKenzie, a mother of two, went grocery shopping instead. It was the end of April, and the milk in her almost-empty fridge had expired on April 6th.

She and her husband and fellow SLS classmate, Timothy Scott '00, who has his own criminal defense firm, have also found themselves in trial at the same time. Juggling both trials and both kids can prove exhausting, and at times hilarious—but only in retrospect.

One morning, for example, the family minivan was towed when Scott dropped the kids off at preschool before a day in court. He had to take a cab to get it back right before his opening statement.

Despite some of the challenges, McKenzie continues to be passionate about the important work of representing the accused.

Yet she did not know that she wanted to pursue public defense before coming to Stanford. Interested in working with children, she volunteered with StreetLaw, a pro bono program in which students teach at-risk and incarcerated youth about the criminal justice system.

StreetLaw proved instrumental in shaping McKenzie's career. She found working with kids invigorating, and developed an interest in people in custody. She states, “I became really interested in the plight of people who are incarcerated.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELE MCKENZIE '00

Michele McKenzie '00 (right) with her husband, Timothy Scott '00, their daughter, Akemi (age 1) and their son, Joshua (age 3). The family was in Yosemite last November for a training held by the state public defender's association.

This interest led her to intern for the Santa Clara County Public Defender's Office during one summer. McKenzie shadowed an attorney who worked with sexually violent predators, many of whom were homeless or mentally ill. She describes the clients as “the people you think will be the worst of the worst.”

McKenzie grew to care deeply for the people she worked with—both clients and attorneys. She explains, “When you meet [criminal suspects], they really are people. It's a different world—they're going through things that we cannot comprehend. No one's made an effort to help them.”

She found her colleagues inspiring and motivating. While extremely passionate about social justice, they were down-to-earth and fun to be around.

“It was really refreshing working with people like that—people who are funny and laugh at themselves. They're smart and dedicated and don't take themselves too seriously.”

McKenzie spent the first semester of

her third year of law school externing in Washington, D.C. with the Department of Justice, in a small section of the Civil Rights Division. She worked on the conditions of confinement of people who are institutionalized, monitoring compliance with a consent decree at a juvenile detention facility and exploring the constitutionality of the use of restraint chairs in jail.

She enjoyed the city and the people she met. She laughs, “Everyone in D.C. thinks they're changing the world.”

Back on campus in the spring, McKenzie interviewed with the Federal Defenders of San Diego (FD) on Public Interest/Public Sector Career Day, which Stanford co-sponsors with other Northern California law schools.

McKenzie accepted an offer from FD to begin her career there. Scott joined FD a year later. He stayed there for three years before starting his own criminal defense firm while she remained, now a supervisor after seven years. *(Continued on page 11)*

Pro Bono Program News Corner

SLS CELEBRATES PRO BONO DISTINCTION RECIPIENTS

Almost 1/3 of the Class of 2007 was honored at the annual pro bono distinction reception for providing 50 or more pro bono hours of service during their three years at Stanford. In addition, 23 faculty members joined this prestigious grouping due to their pro bono contributions during the past year. Faculty and student pro bono distinction recipients were joined by alumna Maya Harris '92, Executive Director of the ACLU of Northern California, who was the featured speaker. Please see our website for a complete list of Pro Bono Distinction recipients.



NOAH BERGER

Associate Dean for Public Service and Clinical Education Larry Marshall (left), Dean Larry Kramer, and ACLU of Northern California Executive Director Maya Harris '92 celebrated with graduating students and faculty who earned Pro Bono Distinction.

NEW PRO BONO PROGRAMS FOR SPRING

Due to the addition of several new programs, over 50 new volunteer slots were created compared to last semester. Four of the new projects are profiled below. The student response to the new programs was very enthusiastic.

Alternative Spring Break

During spring break 2007, a band of SLS students journeyed to the Gulf Coast to help existing organizations rebuild their local communities.

Brad Chernin '09, recounted his experience working with Moving Forward Gulf Coast (www.movingforwardgulfcoast.org) in Slidell, Louisiana. "I witnessed how a staff of three (who had only recently moved out of their location in a FEMA trailer to actual office space) could do the unrelenting and, in certain respects, unrewarding (none of them took a salary) work of three dozen. Through my work on their 'Recover & Restore' video advocacy series I became aware of how the situation in the Gulf Coast post-Katrina is much more dire than I ever imagined it could be in this country."

Classmate Ross Chanin '09, volunteered for the Mississippi Center for Justice, primarily

interviewing residents of Pearlinton, a small, rural town. He relayed, "I was tasked with uncovering their experiences with Hurricane Katrina and recording their understandings of available state and federal relief programs. Sure, my responsibilities were simple enough, but they served as an essential guide to the real reason I chose to work in Mississippi on Alternative Spring Break; I headed south for the people."

The participation rate in the Pro Bono Program among the Class of 2009 remained at an impressive 65% for the spring semester, with over 20% of the class participating in two or more programs.

Domestic Violence Immigration Advice Project

Supervised by Bay Area Legal Aid, the Domestic Violence Immigration Advice Project provides free legal assistance to individuals seeking relief or protection under U.S. immigration law who have been victims of crime or domestic violence. A previous immigrants' rights organizer and volunteer for a Korean women's domestic violence project, Eunice Cho '09, drew from her prior experiences and connected it to her current studies. "One of the clients I worked with . . . had been facing numerous challenges finding legal services. When she walked into the office during our pro bono hours, I realized what a concrete impact that the pro bono work of SLS students have on the lives of people in our community. Law school can be a difficult experience, where it is easy to lose touch with why you wanted to become a lawyer in the first place. These experiences help to keep our heart, head, and feet connected, and remind us of how our legal skills can truly help the world."

Elder Law Pro Bono Program

Under the supervision of Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County attorneys, Tyler Pool '09 and Brad Hansen '09 conducted intake interviews and performed legal research related to assisting seniors with consumer law and government (*Continued on page 10*)

Olshansky Will Bring Trademark Passion and Zeal to Teaching International Service

(Continued from page 1)

position but was encouraged to apply by Professors Bill Simon and Bill Gould, the Charles A. Beardsley Professor of Law, Emeritus.

To her surprise, she was invited to an interview and Olshansky went out and bought a blue suit. On the day of the interview, Olshansky put on her blue suit and accessorized it with “gigantic angelfish earrings, the size of drink coasters!”

Her boyfriend at the time drove her to the interview and said to her, “You’ll give me your earrings before you go in there, right?”

Olshansky responded indignantly, “No! They match perfectly with my suit. I have to be able to be me when I practice law. I have to be honest.”

He replied, “You can be honest without angelfish earrings” and the two argued during the entire drive.

When they arrived at the office, with its giant oak doors, Olshansky still wore the angelfish earrings. The two continued to argue until the doors opened and a tall elegant woman appeared.

With blonde hair that was elegantly coiffed and wearing a pair of distinctive purple suede boots, the woman’s appearance led Olshansky to think to herself, “Wow, the judge has an amazing assistant.” But then the woman spoke, “Barb, it’s nice to meet you, I’m Rose. Great f—ing earrings. Come on in.”

Olshansky recalls floating in as if she was walking on air and didn’t even turn around to gloat.

This humorous story captures Barbara’s approach in pursuing a meaningful legal career with her trademark passion and a stubborn determination to prove the naysayers wrong. It is also just one of many stories showing how mentors helped point her in the right direction to find satisfying work.

The two years spent clerking for Chief

Justice Bird had a huge impact on Olshansky and her approach to the law.

“It was truly an amazing experience working for her. She made me understand that the law could really be a force for positive social change in a very concrete way. I’ll never forget the day that she pulled out her chair at the head of the [judges’ conference room] table and said, ‘Sit down. You could sit here one day and make a difference in the world. And I expect you to.’”

Olshansky was inspired by Justice Bird’s confidence in her. “She gave me the idea that I could really do something. At that time Stanford didn’t have staff doing public interest work, the [Levin] Center didn’t exist, and it was really hard to understand how I was going to find this work.”

After Justice Bird was not confirmed for a second term due to her strong opposition to the death penalty, she and Professor Gould helped Olshansky find her next job at a plaintiff’s employment and labor law litigation boutique in New York City.

Of her time there, Olshansky says, “I will remember for the rest of my life the day 900 nursing home workers were locked out on 3rd Ave in New York City, with no one caring for the patients except for a few managers.”

“The union sends me up there, and as I get out of the cab, I hear, ‘It’s Olshansky, it’s our lawyer.’ As 900 people cheer, I think ‘Oh s—.’ But I ended up negotiating the re-opening of the home.”

She adds, “They tried to fire the ringleaders and everyone in my office bet against me. But I won the arbitration and I remember thinking, ‘How did Rose Bird and Bill Gould know that’s who I was?’”

Olshansky’s career has taken her on other interesting paths after she left the plaintiff’s side firm, including directing

one of the first environmental justice programs at Environmental Defense Fund and then moving to the Center for Constitutional Rights where she protected consumer rights by preventing bank mergers, fought the privatization of public hospitals, and advocated for Native American rights to land in New York.

Her zealous advocacy has certainly led to some colorful memories. Olshansky fondly recalls that during her fight to prevent the sale of the city’s three best public hospitals, she was called a crackpot in the *New York Times* and that former Mayor Rudy Giuliani called her a punk on the steps of City Hall.

Olshansky continued to juggle these cases when she began her caseload of post-9/11 issues. She filed national class actions on behalf of thousands of immigrants and foreign visitors who were seized after 9/11. Olshansky’s Guantanamo cases represented 700 detainees and she worked on getting lawyers for all of them.

She exclaims, “They turned out to be 700 of the most ferocious commercial litigators in the world, and I couldn’t have picked a better team to advocate for the clients. They didn’t really need me.”

Yet Olshansky was nervous before deciding to leave CCR after 11 years. “I knew I had to take a leap of faith. Otherwise, I would have been there forever, never growing more in my career and never trying to make this positive difference.”

Olshansky believes that teaching and providing legal assistance will proactively address some of the challenges the United States currently faces abroad. “[This is] the way to win the hearts and minds of the rest of the world and perhaps win over the people who seek the more radical ends. If we’re giving, it’s hard to find fault with giving. So that’s what I decided to do.”

Clinical News Updates

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

Stanford Community Law Clinic

Juliana Chereji '07 and Matthew Rubin '08 represented a single mother with three children, previously homeless, in a Section 8 housing matter. The client was at risk of losing her housing voucher and thus her housing, but prevailed with dedicated student advocacy. After conducting research into the facts and relevant administrative law provisions, the students met with Housing Authority staff and convinced them that the client family should maintain their invaluable voucher to bring some stability to this family's life.

Andrew Canter '08 represented a local worker who had been routinely underpaid overtime, denied meal and rest breaks, and withheld wages for her final weeks worked at a local retail establishment. In swift order, Andrew met with the client, mastered and explained her rights under California labor standards, negotiated with the employer, and drafted and executed a settlement agreement between the parties.

Erik Christensen '08 successfully argued a motion before Santa Clara Superior Court Judge Thomas Hastings seeking that the court dismiss a seventeen-year-old criminal misdemeanor battery conviction from a client's record. The conviction had created difficulties as she sought to maintain her current employment and pursued new employment. Erik pointed out to the judge that the California Penal Code gave the court discretion to grant the record clearance in the interests of justice. As a certified nursing assistant, training to be a Practical Nurse, her conviction had been a bar to such licensure. Additional thanks to Jamie Lawrence '08 and Michael Angelo '07, previous SLS students who worked on behalf of the client to attain this much awaited result.

Jessa Barnard '08 and Tom Zimpleman '08 represented a client before the Housing Authority (HA) of Santa Clara County after he lost his Section 8 assistance primarily because he was out of his apartment for over sixty days. The students' research revealed that this was because the client had been incarcerated for a parole violation related to his history of depression and anxiety. Jessa and Tom represented the client at his administrative hearing and argued that the client had complied with HA requirements to the best of his abilities and that the HA needed to accommodate his disabilities which prevented him from working full-time. After extensive factual and legal research, and intensive client counseling and negotiation when the client's disabilities prevented him from effectively collaborating with the students, the client was extremely happy with the outcome of the case and with his representation.

Alexis Rickher '08 recovered \$1,600 for a local worker in a wage and hour dispute. The client had been promoted and given a raise by her supervisor, but the corporate office of the employer (a large, multi-state corporation) refused to process the raise until six months into her new position, while she performed the added responsibilities. Alexis represented the client at a settlement conference at the California Labor Commission, where she met and successfully negotiated with the representatives of the corporation.

Katie Burghardt '08 and Perry Grossman '08 successfully represented a client before the California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board. Their client, a 78-year-old wounded veteran, had been denied unemployment insurance benefits on the grounds that his termination from his most recent job

was for misconduct, rendering him ineligible for unemployment benefits. Katie and Perry's careful legal research into the applicable standards established that their client's actions fell within several exceptions, and they argued effectively at a hearing that their client was entitled to benefits. Their client will now receive much-needed replacement income while he searches for a new job.

Environmental Law Clinic

The Clinic filed amicus briefs on behalf of several former EPA Administrators in both cases, supporting what proved to be the winning arguments in each case.

In *Massachusetts v. EPA*, a 5-justice majority reversed a D.C. Circuit decision and held that (1) petitioners had standing to bring the case, (2) greenhouse gases that cause global warming are "air pollutants" regulated by the Clean Air Act, and (3) EPA improperly denied a petition to regulate such greenhouse pollutants on impermissible grounds that strayed from the statutory criteria. The Clinic's amicus brief focused on EPA's history of other successful pollutant regulations, such as leaded gasoline and ozone-depleting substances, even in the face of some residual uncertainty.

In *Environmental Defense v. Duke Energy Corp.*, a unanimous Supreme Court reversed a Fourth Circuit decision in favor of Duke Energy, which argued that Clean Air Act permits are not required for certain facility expansions, even if they resulted in an overall increase in air pollutants. The Clinic's brief focused on EPA's previous, long-time, consistent interpretation of the statute as requiring permits for such expansions. The new ruling has significant nationwide implications for the Clean Air Act's "New Source Review" program.

Summer Public Interest Scholars Named

Each year, over 80 Stanford students receive significant financial assistance to pursue summer public interest jobs. In addition to Stanford's guaranteed \$5,000 grant for all students with financial need, there are also additional scholarships funded by external sources that are dedicated for Stanford law students.

Sidley Austin Scholars

Since 2005, Sidley Austin LLP has funded a special program providing summer grants to Stanford law students who volunteer at least 10 weeks for public interest employers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Six second-year students will be supported this summer.



Jessa Barnard '08

Jessa will be working at Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) in Berkeley. DRA is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to protecting

and advancing the civil rights of people with disabilities through high-impact litigation, as well as research and education. Jessa will assist on cases related to access to health care, insurance and benefits. She will also likely assist with the range of cases in DRA's litigation docket, which address additional issues such as access to employment, education and testing, private business, and public entities and services.



Justin Barnard '08

Justin will spend his summer in the San Francisco office of the Natural Resources Defense Council. He has not yet

confirmed which specific issues he will be working on during his internship, but states, "Given the changing tide of support for environmental concerns at the Supreme Court and across the country, now is a great time to be interning with an organization like NRDC."



Edwin Dietrich '08

Ed will be working at the Center on Race Poverty, and the Environment (CRPE), a San Francisco-based

nonprofit that provides legal and technical assistance to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color fighting environmental hazards. In his free time, he will be riding bicycles, playing ultimate

frisbee, and wandering the City in search of the most delicious burrito in town.



Elizabeth Morris '08

Liz will be a law clerk at the nonprofit civil rights law firm Public Advocates in San Francisco. In 2004, it

settled a historic civil rights lawsuit against the State (*Williams v. California*) for its failure to provide tens of thousands of low-income students with equal access to basic educational resources. Liz will help monitor the statewide implementation of the *Williams* settlement, including conducting factual research on school district compliance with legal requirements and performing legal and policy research on various educational equity topics, including teacher quality, and the California High School Exit Exam.



Kristin Burford '08

Kristin will split her summer between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Regional Counsel for

Region IX and the Office of the City Attorney in San Francisco. She will assist the attorneys at EPA as they develop cases for administrative proceedings and civil litigation. In the City Attorney's Office, Kristin will work with both the Land Use & Environmental Protection and Energy & Telecommunications teams.



Jessica Townsend '08

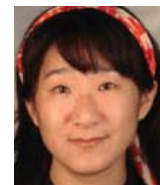
Jessica will work as a legal clerk at the Sierra Club Environmental Law Program in San Francisco this

summer, helping to advance the Club's grassroots litigation efforts. She'll be working closely with Club attorneys on their in-house litigation in the areas of energy, environmental health, and protecting America's natural heritage. Jessica will also be spending the first 6 weeks of her summer

at Lowerre & Frederick, a small private public interest law firm in Austin, Texas working on litigation to protect Texas' air and water resources.

Sonnenschein Scholars

Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP created its Sonnenschein Scholars program in 2006 to celebrate its Centennial Year. The firm will provide \$4,000 scholarships to two Stanford Law School first-year students each year for five years. Students are selected based on academic performance, demonstrated qualities of leadership, and commitment to public service. They also must spend their first summer at a public interest internship.



Eunice Cho '09

Eunice will be working at the Immigrants' Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in San Francisco. At the

ACLU, Eunice will assist attorneys as they develop and pursue cases around issues including due process, rights for undocumented immigrants, and suits against Immigration and Customs Enforcement under Temporary Protected Status. In addition, she will assist the education department in developing tools, outreach, and workshops accessible to immigrant community groups.



Jessica Oats '09

Jess will be spending her summer at Legal Services for Children in San Francisco, where she will assist with intake and legal

case work, aiding LSC in its mission to serve youth who have suffered violence, abuse, or neglect and are at risk of entering the foster care or juvenile justice systems. Jess will have the opportunity to aid attorneys in representing clients in matters of dependency, legal guardianship, education, immigration, and juvenile delinquency prevention. Jess will also assist staff with outreach projects targeting certain youth groups such as: queer, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gay and questioning youth; immigrant youth; and at-risk young women. (*Continued on page 10*)

Pro Bono News Corner

(Continued from page 6)

benefits as a part of the Elder Law Pro Bono Program.

Pool elaborates, “The opportunity to complete these tasks with close supervision and feedback, as well as to learn about the challenges and rewards of working in direct services, has greatly complemented my first year of law school. Seeing the law in this context motivates me in the classroom and inspires me to continue seeking out opportunities for pro bono work.”

Hansen echoes Pool’s point and states, “We’ve gotten a chance to take what we’ve learned in the classroom and apply it to help a population that needs it. I plan on continuing with the program next year.”

Equality Pro Bono Project

Students passionate about providing legal services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community across the country found an outlet by participating in the Equality Pro Bono Project. They worked closely with the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) to address discrimination issues based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to provide urgently needed accurate legal information.

Participants like Spencer Jones ’07, said, “People contact NCLR from all over the country, and—for many of them—we are their only source of help for extremely heartbreaking problems: incidents of discrimination at work, families breaking apart, the inability to visit a partner in the hospital, etc. The Equality Pro Bono Project, under the direction of the NCLR attorneys, really allowed us to make a difference for this underserved population.”

STANFORD LAW SCHOOL SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY PROJECT

The Levin Center recently announced the launch of a unique, in-house pro bono opportunity, led by Lisa Douglass (BA ’93, MA ’94), Director of the Social Security Disability Project.

Douglass began her career by serving as a public defender in Seattle for four years, initially representing juveniles in criminal proceedings and later, adults in felony cases.



Lisa Douglass

Towards the end of her career, her cases included representing many felony defendants who were mentally ill and she fought diligently to obtain alternatives to incarceration.

Motivated by the determination to

secure adequate mental health treatment for clients who wanted it, she partnered with a social worker to initiate a program that guaranteed those important services, one that judges could opt to include in their sentencing.

When she left the public defender’s office, Douglass joined a small plaintiffs/public interest law firm and represented indigent clients in Social Security Disability hearings and appeals, ensuring that basic needs such as living stipends and medical benefits could be covered for the rest of her clients’ lives.

The SLS Social Security Disability Project will give students the chance to represent indigent clients who have applied for social security disability benefits. The project will operate directly with clients from the Opportunity Center of the Midpeninsula—a nearby facility that offers coordinated services and housing to homeless men, women and children in the local community.

Under Douglass’ supervision, students and volunteer attorneys will conduct detailed intake interviews and represent clients at review hearings before an administrative law judge. In addition, participants may also draft appeals letters and conduct outreach and education in the community.

She observes, “If students participate in the project they will experience what it means to stand up and really advocate for a needy client. The project is designed to free the students to learn about their client’s mental and physical disabilities and limitations and present the client’s story to the judge.”

Public Interest Students Honored

(Continued from page 9)

Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellows

The Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship Program was established by Skip Paul, head of IFILM Network and former chairman and CEO of Sega Gameworks. Mr. Paul served as Justice Stevens’ law clerk first at the United State Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and then at the United States Supreme Court.

Stevens Fellowships annually recognize the achievement of two Stanford Law students who have exhibited exceptional commitments to public interest lawyering and who will spend their summer volunteering at a public interest organization.



Jesse Hahnel ’08

Jesse will intern at the National Center for Youth Law this summer, working with Senior Attorney Leecia Welch to better the

educational opportunities offered to children in California’s child welfare and foster care systems. He will also participate in an intensive Child Welfare Law training at the University of Michigan Law School as a Bergstrom Child Welfare Summer Fellow. In addition, Jesse will participate in the the Education Pioneer Program, an interdisciplinary research and reform project focused on issues in education policy.



Thomas Nosewicz ’08

Thomas will work at the Federal Defenders of New York this summer. He will assist in investigations, legal research and writing for

indigent defendants being prosecuted in the Southern District of New York. Thomas will also be busy with his duties as a member of the National Advisory Board of the Student Hurricane Network, an organization of law students that provides assistance to communities in the Gulf Coast impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Alumna Credits LRAP, Inspiration from Clients for Thriving Career

(Continued from page 5)

The hard work began quickly in San Diego. McKenzie states, “I think that we were in trial probably two months after we passed the bar.”

In her first year of practice, McKenzie had about 45 cases and a lot of client interaction. She also wrote her own appeals and appeared in front of the 9th Circuit more than once.

Because of San Diego’s proximity to the Mexican border, most of McKenzie’s clients remained in jail before trial. Otherwise, they would be held in custody by INS.

“I was in jail every day and in court almost every day... When you’re a PD, you’re in jail quite a lot.”

“I’m sure my mom never dreamed that I would be representing criminals, people smuggling drugs... that those would be the people I care about.”

In addition to the hands-on experience, new attorneys at the FD attend workshops on Saturdays to supplement their educations.

“When I first started, [the training program] was absolutely instrumental. In law school I didn’t take any classes that focused on the practical elements of being an attorney... At FD, every Saturday we’re here all day training. They really put a spotlight on the types of cases we see in federal criminal law, statutes, sentencing guidelines, practical

trial skills...”

As a supervisor, McKenzie coordinates the ongoing training program. She also has a less volatile schedule, allowing her to spend more time with her family.

Both McKenzie and Scott participated in SLS’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), which ultimately paid nearly \$100,000 in loans for them.

She and her family are able to provide a real-life example countering the stereotype of the public interest lawyer who cannot afford to own a home, start a family, or live in a major city.

Thanks to LRAP, the couple is able to pay off their educational debt, support their children, and remain in their fields. McKenzie adds, “We were able to get our minivan, buy a house, live in Southern California...”

McKenzie offers advice to students who are interested in public defense: “Get exposed to it early and often and see if the people move you.”

For students pursuing public interest law more generally, she warns that the experience may be discouraging at times. “It’s hard sometimes because you feel like you lack support, but you need to know that there’s a community of people out there like you, who share your passion.”

It’s also a different lifestyle, she cautioned, one in which a program like LRAP can be absolutely instrumental. “There’s no doubt working at a firm, it’s a different world... but there’s no doubt we’re doing what we believe in.”

She laughs, “I’m sure my mom never dreamed that I would be representing criminals, people smuggling drugs... that those would be the people I care about.”

It is these very people who fuel her passion and provide her motivation from one day to the next. “I really am driven by the people—the people that you represent, the people that you get to know.”

About *Create Change*

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

Associate Dean for Public Service and Clinical Education: Larry Marshall

Associate Director: Anna Wang

Pro Bono Program Director: Jennifer Fan (BA '95)

Events Manager: NaSun Cho (BA '98)

Legal Assistant: Lynda Johnston

Program Assistant: Beth Thompson (BA '08)

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Please send them to:

Create Change

c/o Levin Center

Stanford Law School

559 Nathan Abbott Way

Stanford, CA 94305-8610

<http://publicinterestlaw.stanford.edu>
