

Create Change

Alumnus Fights to Advance Low-Income Immigrants' Rights After Welfare Reform

In the summer of 1987, after Jonathan Blazer '97 had just finished his freshman year in college, he arranged to live and work at a refugee camp located on the U.S. side of the Rio Grande Valley. Central Americans were fleeing violence and economic dislocation caused by wars to which the U.S. was inextricably linked.

Blazer spent the summer listening to the harrowing stories of the residents, most of whom were stuck in the Valley because they could not make it past border patrol checkpoints leading northward. Political asylum wasn't an option even for those fleeing persecution because the process of gaining asylum had become so politicized. As a result, these people were living with the ever present risk of being picked up and deported.

Blazer's shock at the U.S. refusal to recognize victims of wars it supported changed his worldview, as he thought his country would safeguard refugees and welcome newcomers seeking a better

life. It was a powerful political awakening for Blazer, and one that connected to the Jewish experience of immigration as he had come to understand it from his grandparents. This life-changing experience forged a commitment to social justice that has defined his career.

Blazer's decision to pursue his law degree at Stanford was largely due to Stanford's generous Miles and Nancy Rubin Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). He needed the assurance that he would be able to support himself in a social justice career with moderate earnings, and this would not have been feasible had he been saddled with fully repaying his law school student loans.

Blazer recently completed his tenth and final year in the program, and says, "I received a wonderful letter from Stanford notifying me that my remaining debt had been cancelled... as a clincher, my final correspondence was a \$55 check, refunding money I had overpaid!"



During law school, Blazer lived in East Palo Alto and volunteered at the East Palo Alto Community Law Project, an experience that fostered his interest in community lawyering. He did an externship with Michael Wald, the Jackson Eli Reynolds Professor of Law, Emeritus, after Wald had been appointed by newly elected San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown as Director of Human Services. Blazer assisted Wald as he attempted to transform the welfare department's approach to its work, which proved to be an uphill battle. *Continued on page 4*

Executive Director's Note



We have enjoyed a fruitful and productive spring complete with workshops, trainings, and funding initiatives.

The Center continues to coordinate trainings, programs, and symposia to educate students about emerging issues in pro bono and public interest practice. The Spring Distinguished Practitioner Speaker Series featured a host of inspiring lectures by national and global public interest leaders: Kate

Kendall, Executive Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights; Dr. Alejandro Toledo, former President of Peru; Nico Horn, Dean, University of Namibia Law School; and James Lyon, former Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Ireland.

In February, we sponsored the Education as a Civil Right Symposium with the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Youth and Education Law Project at Mills Legal Clinic. We then followed up with another symposium, "The American Legal Profession: Current Controversies, Future Challenges" that was co-sponsored with the Stanford Law Review and the Stanford Center on Ethics.

Under the guidance of new pro bono coordinator, Danielle Cover, we facilitated law-related service placements for 210 law students who collectively performed 4,008 hours of service. In addition, our in-house Social Security Disability Project continues to thrive and provide a myriad of opportunities including providing drop-in counseling to homeless individuals whose social security benefits have been interrupted or terminated; and working with Stanford psychiatrists and internists to develop evidence of disability for indigent clients.

Our funding programs have also grown by leaps and bounds. This spring, Dean Kramer announced a dramatic expansion of the Miles and Nancy Rubin Loan Assistance Repayment Program which will effectively increase the amount recipients receive by 30%, making SLS's program the most generous of its kind. Moreover, summer funding for students pursuing public interest was dramatically expanded, enabling a record 103 SLS law students to pursue public interest internships at a broad array of national and international public sector organizations including the Brennan Center for Justice, Public Advocates, and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights. And in March, SLS announced the creation of a new post-graduate public interest fellowship designed to fund a recent SLS graduate to pursue full-time work in public interest. This year's recipient, Thomas Nosewicz '08, will use the fellowship to pursue impact litigation to address deeply entrenched injustices in the New Orleans criminal defense system.

We are proud of our SLS students, who lead the way in making public service an important part of their professional lives, and grateful to our community partners for their ongoing support of our programs.

Susan J. Feathers

News Briefs

Save the date for Alumni Receptions on LRAP

Levin Center staff will join alumni for special receptions featuring our Loan Repayment Assistance Program recipients in Los Angeles on June 12 and New York City on July 16. More are planned in Chicago, DC, and San Francisco. Local alumni should look for the e-mail invitations.

29 Public Interest Fellows in 2008-2009

Through the Public Interest Fellows Program, 29 SLS students 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.

SLS Celebrates Public Interest Awards

On April 15, the SLS community gathered in Crocker Garden to celebrate the end of the year and present awards to students who have made an outstanding contribution to the public interest community. Andrew Bruck '08, was named the Deborah L. Rhode Public Service Award winner and Rachel Marshall '10 was named the Lisa M Schnitzer Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Pro Bono Distinction Recipients Honored

Almost 1/3 of the Class of 2008 was honored at the annual pro bono distinction reception for providing 50 or more hours of service during their three years at SLS. Featured speaker, Irma Herrera, Executive Director of Equal Rights Advocates, gave the keynote address, highlighting the critical role of lawyers in promoting public interest.

PI Fellows, Staff Hold Leadership Retreat

Levin Center staff and Public Interest Fellows participated in a leadership retreat led by the Benchmark Institute on February 15, 2008. The day-long retreat, 'Caring and Compassionate Leadership,' featured a series of discussions and interactive exercises on a wide range of topics related to this theme, including, 'Listening as Healing,' 'Personal Vision and Quality Services,' and 'Leadership and the Inner Journey.'

Training on Freeing Political Prisoners

Jared Gesner, the President of Freedom Now and an attorney in the government relations group of DLA Piper gave a three-hour training to students on how to advocate in prisoner-of-conscience cases. Participants learned the basics of human rights law, how cases are litigated before the United Nations, and various approaches to applying pressure on offending governments.

Pro Bono Is More Than Bottom Line Benefit

Editor's note: On April 24th and 25th, Susan J. Feathers, the Executive Director of the Levin Center, and Deborah L. Rhode, the Ernest W. McFarland Professor of Law, participated in a symposium sponsored by the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy at the University at Buffalo Law School of the State University of New York. "Private Lawyers and the Public Interest: The Evolving Role of Pro Bono in the Legal Profession" explored the relationship between pro bono ideals and pro bono in practice and the opportunities and limitations of pro bono in expanding access to justice. Professor Rhode delivered the keynote speech. This is an excerpt from her talk entitled, "Where is the Public in Lawyers' Public Service? Pro Bono and the Bottom Line."

In principle, the bar's commitment to provide unpaid service "pro bono publico" implies concern for the public good. But in practice, pro bono has never been only about what is good for the public; it has also been about what is good for lawyers.

What will enhance their reputation, experience, contacts, and relationships? While pure altruism is unrealistic to expect, this keynote argues that recent tendencies to view public service as a bottom line issue are troubling on both moral and pragmatic grounds.

As a matter of principle, an action taken because benefiting others feels intrinsically rewarding stands on different ethical footing than an action taken because it will bring extrinsic rewards.

Part of what individuals find rewarding about volunteer work is a sense that they are expressing moral values and serving broader social objectives. A wide array of evidence suggests that selfless action is good for the self; it enhances satisfaction, health, and self-esteem.

Moreover, as a practical matter, encouraging individuals to engage in public service for intrinsic reasons rather than extrinsic rewards serves

societal objectives. It is generally less expensive and more effective to rely on internal motivations than on external incentives and sanctions to ensure quality assistance.

That is particularly true in contexts like pro bono legal work, where most clients are not in a position to evaluate or challenge the adequacy of aid, and where lawyers motivated by internalized commitments are the most likely to engage in substantial and sustained service.

An altruistic orientation also encourages the selection of public service opportunities that will most benefit the public. Pure selflessness is an unrealistic ideal, but some measure of altruism is what makes the pro bono tradition so important to sustain.

When attorneys talk about pro bono, they generally speak in shorthand. "Publico" has dropped out of the discourse. We can afford to lose the Latin, but not the concept.

Clinic Brings Fresh Produce to EPA, Protects Harry Potter Fans

The Mills Legal Clinic continues to have a tremendous impact on the clients and communities it serves, as well as provide students with valuable practical training. We highlight here two of the matters from this past year. More details on other clinical accomplishments are available upon request as Professor Larry Marshall, Associate Dean of Public Service and Clinical Education, regularly sends out e-mail bulletins.

In its first semester of operation, the Organizations and Transactions Clinic assisted with the establishment of the farmers' market in East Palo Alto. Brent Harris '09 and Melissa Wagner '08 worked intensively with an East Palo Alto nonprofit in designing and drafting the contract documents establishing the new farmers' market.

The market, which opened on June 1, provides access to affordable nutritious food that is otherwise unavailable in the community, as the last two local supermarkets closed in the 1980s. Harris and Wagner were supervised by O & T Clinic Director Jay Mitchell and Legal Assistant Irma Perez.

In other news, Cyberlaw Clinic students played a key role in defending RDR Books, the small book publisher being sued by author J.K. Rowling and Warner Brothers for copyright infringement for planning to publish "The Harry Potter Lexicon," a fan-written reference guide to the Harry Potter world. The publisher argued that material used in the Lexicon is fair use, and that the ability to create reference guides to works of literature is a critical right that must be protected.

The Cyberlaw Clinic partnered with lead counsel, the Stanford Fair Use Project, to help on the case. Leslie Liang '09 and Casey McCracken '09 jumped into the project with work on the pleading documents, then traveled to New York as part of the trial team. At trial, the students conducted on-the-fly research; prepped witnesses, including RDR's academic expert and the author of the Lexicon, Steve Vander Ark; helped prepare witness examinations; and gave feedback on Fair Use Project Director Tony Falzone's opening and closing statements.

Liang and McCracken were supervised by Professor Jennifer Urban and the Fair Use Project's Falzone and Julie Ahrens, with extensive support from administrative assistant Amanda Smith.

Alumnus Ensures Immigrants' Access to Benefits, Services

Continued from page 1

Upon graduation, Blazer continued his work on welfare reform, receiving an Independence Foundation fellowship that allowed him to return home to Philadelphia to work for an organization providing direct legal services to low income people. He worked with poor people and organizations that served them, helping them understand how people could survive welfare reform and more vigorously exercise the fewer rights that remained. Blazer organized over a hundred community education workshops in the two years immediately following welfare reform.

Blazer developed a focus on how welfare reform impacted immigrants and other communities with limited English proficiency. He built on his experiences by founding Community Legal Services' Language Access Project, which is now regarded as a national model within legal services programs.

A set of civil rights complaints he filed led to systematic improvements in the way Pennsylvania's welfare department interacted with limited English proficient clients. But, despite the admiration he has for colleagues working in legal services, Blazer himself found it "emotionally draining to so directly and so constantly confront the intense hardship my clients experienced, while doubting whether much of my work was doing anything to change the system."

After working as one of the founding national coordinators of Project Voice, a new immigrant rights organizing project of the American Friends Service Committee, Blazer joined the National Immigration Law Center, where he continues to fight anti-immigrant laws and policies. Although his work defending the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants is rewarding, it is also extremely challenging.

Blazer explains, "The area in which I specialize—immigrants and public benefits—involves the intersection of two areas that, even taken alone, face significant attack. When you put the two together, you have a very tough issue, politically. The work feels particularly challenging right now because it is very clear that we are in the midst of a historic wave of anti-immigrant sentiment. Immigrants, and in some ways, Latinos more generally, are being scapegoated for all of our country's ills—our healthcare crisis, unemployment, terrorism, crime."

"We urgently need new ideas, new energy, new talent, a new generation that can find ways to do the work more effectively than we have succeeded in doing so far."

He adds, "Our country makes it almost impossible for people to come here legally to work, knowing they will come nevertheless but will be much more likely to be exploited, mistreated and underpaid as undocumented workers. Rather than holding employers accountable for violations of labor laws, the government is engaged in a campaign of raiding workplaces, arresting workers with fanfare, shipping them off to hidden locations unknown to family members and lawyers, trying them in mass hearings and finally deporting them, tearing loved ones apart as though the ties that bind immigrant families are of no concern."

Blazer explains, "In this kind of emergency environment, it is tremendously difficult to get ahead of the curve and work proactively. You have to fight not to become dispirited."

What makes it all worth it for Blazer are the opportunities his work affords him to make a difference in people's lives. "The moments I remember as perhaps most rewarding have involved using my legal skills to offer some contribution to a movement for social change; sometimes this work has been on my own time rather than as part of my paid job."

He continues, "I will always remember serving as the lawyer to a welfare rights organization protesting the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign's tent city and massive unpermitted march down the city's main thoroughfare is documented in the film 'Battle for Broad.'" Blazer also developed a know-your-rights training curriculum that empowered immigrants participating in the 2003 Immigrant Worker's Freedom Ride to successfully exercise their constitutional rights when the Border Patrol detained their bus.

And what is Blazer's advice for current law students seeking public interest careers? "Just do it! There are a host of injustices and social problems crying out for redress in this country and throughout the world. We urgently need new ideas, new energy, new talent, a new generation that can find ways to do the work more effectively than we have succeeded in doing so far."

As he continues his fight against current injustices and social problems, his commitment to social justice on behalf of low-income immigrants that began more than twenty years ago in the Rio Grande Valley continues to drive his work and serve as inspiration to others.

In-House Social Security Disability Project Completes First Year

The Law School's in-house Social Security Disability Pro Bono Project completed a successful first-year serving the local homeless community. Supervised by Director Lisa Douglass (BA '93, MA '94), 21 law students participated in SSDP during the 2007-2008 year, interviewing and representing 22 ongoing clients in Social Security Disability matters and counseling another 15 homeless individuals at drop-in public benefits advice sessions.

'08-'09 EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNOUNCED

Established in 2007, SSDP capped off the academic year with the announcement of its '08-'09 Executive Board. SSDP offers four executive board positions for second and third year students. The 2007-2008 founding Board Members Ling Lew '09, Aaron Konopasky '09, Tyler Pool '09, and Blair "Andy" Stewart '09, will return to the Board for their 3L year (with the exception of Stewart who will be spending a semester externing in the Hague). The full 2008-2009 Executive Board is as follows:

Case Development Chair: Lew and Valerie McConnell '10

Legal Research Chair: Ethan Kroll '10 and Kevin Papay '10

Mental Health Chair: Konopasky and Paul-Jon Benson '10

Communications Chair: Pool and Vivian Wang '10

Under the supervision of Douglass, Board Members will continue to shape the growth of the project, creating and updating training materials, mental health resource materials and procedural protocols for student volunteers; mentoring first-year students volunteering in the project; developing educational materials on public benefits issues; and acting as student liaisons with SSDP's community partners including physicians, social workers

and law firms. The dedication and energy of these students enables SSDP to help dozens of homeless and formerly homeless individuals secure or maintain Social Security Disability Benefits.

According to Douglass, the generosity of SLS students has made a tangible benefit to the community SSDP serves, a community that would be without legal representation if not for SSDP. Douglass says, "I was impressed and inspired by the dedication and commitment of the law students in the first-year of the project. Time after time, once students sat down with a mentally-ill homeless or transient client, they emerged motivated to persistently navigate the bureaucratic maze or to come up with creative ways of developing disability evidence. I have appreciated their insights and enthusiasm when discussing their cases both with me and at project-wide case-rounds throughout the year."

She also notes that students helped forge a productive relationship with SSDP's community partner the Opportunity Center of the Mid-peninsula. In the Center's medical clinic, Opportunity Health Partners, students work with physicians, a psychiatrist, a social worker and a Disability Analyst, Stan Wanat, PhD, to get client referrals and develop evidence of disability. This summer, Luke Weiger '10 will work with these professionals to develop comprehensive new trainings.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Lew and Peter Conti-Brown '10 represented the father of a 13 year-old with Multiple Sclerosis at an administrative hearing. The students, with Douglass, prepared the client to testify and presented his testimony and legal argument challenging an alleged overpayment of SSI benefits to the child.

Stewart and Pool worked to develop evidence for an SSI hearing on behalf of a homeless man who suffers from

severe mental illness. Their creative factual investigation led them to 20 year-old records from schools and medical facilities in New Mexico. The two students also compiled all their evidence and outlined the disability criteria in a comprehensive report to the treating psychiatrist. They will represent the client at his hearing in the Fall.

Jared Thompson '10 and Papay represented an elderly client in a complicated overpayment case, where their exhaustive research and persuasive arguments convinced the claims administrator to re-open a prior determination. The students then prepared the paperwork and supporting declarations to submit to SSA.

In preparation for disability hearings that will be held next year, several students have prepared declarations from professional and lay-witnesses including psychiatrists, social workers, and family members, gathered medical evidence, and performed detailed client interviews. These include Jessica Feinstein '10, Elisabeth Oppenheimer '10, Thomas Scott '10, Kroll, Benson, and McConnell.

Drop-in sessions added a new dimension to SSDP Spring semester, as students advised homeless clients with basic eligibility advice regarding SSI and state benefits. Based on the advice of Wang and Max Rettig '10, a homeless retiree who attended a drop-in session was able to receive an additional \$350 in Social Security benefits. Ben Ratner '08 volunteered time over Spring Break and after graduation to interview new SSDP clients and assist them in filing SSI applications and an appeal.

Finally, a few students, including Kroll, Oppenheimer, and McConnell, have continued to volunteer time in the summer to complete witness declarations, in between commitments from their summer employers.

Summer Public Interest Scholars Named

Over 110 students will receive Stanford's guaranteed summer public interest grant for students with financial need. In addition to these grants, which range from \$5,000 - \$10,000, there are also several externally funded scholarships designated for Stanford law students working in public service.

Sidley Austin Scholars

Since 2005, Sidley Austin LLP has funded generous summer grants to Stanford law students who volunteer at least 10 weeks for public interest employers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Preference goes to second-year students who do not receive any funding from their employers. This year, five second-year students will receive the grants.



Ling Lew '09

Ling is working at Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. Lawyers' Committee is

dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of people of color, low-income communities, and immigrants and refugees, with a special commitment to African-Americans. Ling will assist with policy advocacy, community education, direct services, or litigation in these areas of work.



Kelly Lowenberg '09

Kelly will be at the nonprofit civil rights law firm Public Advocates in San Francisco. Public Advocates and a

coalition including bus riders, labor, and civil rights advocates recently filed a federal class action lawsuit against the Metropolitan Transportation Commission alleging that MTC violates federal and state civil rights laws by channeling funds in favor of BART and Caltrain commuters while denying equitable funding to AC Transit bus riders of color. Kelly will help prepare for the hearing on the motion for summary judgment and for trial.



Sarah O'Farrell '09

Sarah will work this summer in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California in

San Francisco. She will assist in hearings, preparing motions, legal research and writing, and settlement negotiations. She will also be busy during the summer helping to finalize the inaugural edition of the Stanford Journal of Animal Law and Policy, Stanford's newest law journal.



Natalie Saba '09

Natalie will spend her summer at the National Center for Youth Law (NCYL) in Oakland. She will be working with NCYL

attorneys to eliminate barriers to mental health care for low-income children, with a focus on adolescents and at-risk youth.



Rachel Zwillinger '09

Rachel will be at the San Francisco office of the Natural Resources Defense Council. She will be working in the

Litigation Program, which lends legal support to the organization's issue-focused programs. The programs focus on a variety of environmental challenges, including climate change, oceans protection, and toxic chemicals.

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. Students are selected based on academic performance, demonstrated qualities of leadership, and commitment to public service. They must also spend their first summer at a public interest internship.



Alvaro Huerta '10

Alvaro will intern for Migrants Rights International in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he will conduct legal and policy

research on migrants' rights within Latin America while documenting violations of international human rights law in the region. He will also research government positions on the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers as well as those expressed at the Global Forum on Migration and Development

and analyze whether they meet international human rights standards. In addition, Alvaro will assist with intake and legal case work at a legal clinic for the defense of migrants' rights.



John Kimble '10

John Kimble is splitting his summer between the Offices of the New York and California Attorneys General in San

Francisco and New York City. He will be working on subprime lending industry investigations in both offices.

Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellows

The Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowships annually recognize the achievements of two Stanford law students with financial need who have exhibited exceptional commitment to public interest lawyering and who will spend their summer volunteering at a public interest organization.



Aaron Konopasky '09

Aaron will be spending his summer at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in Washington DC. He will assist

attorneys with policy research and high-impact litigation in the areas of children's mental health and foster care reform, campus mental health, criminalization of mental illness, special education, and integration of persons with mental disabilities. In addition, Aaron will continue his policy research on mental health court reform and psychotherapist malpractice.



Jessica Oats '09

Jess Oats will spend her summer at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (NDS), assisting public interest

attorneys in public defense practice. NDS practices a holistic model of community-based, client-centered public defense, involving civil attorneys and social workers as well as interns in the aggressive defense of its clients.

Levin Center Welcomes New Pro Bono Program Coordinator

In mid-December 2007, Danielle Cover joined the Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law as the new Pro Bono Program Coordinator. Before coming to Stanford, Danielle worked at the Women's Law Center of Maryland (WLC) as both their Legal Projects Manager and as the Director of the Justice in Divorce project.

As the Legal Projects Manager at the WLC, Danielle was responsible for the management of four courthouse offices



and oversaw two statewide family law-based hotlines. Additionally, as Director of the Justice in Divorce project, Danielle headed all

WLC lobbying efforts related to family law matters in the state of Maryland, staffing a coalition of private family law practitioners, delegates, senators, and lawyers from legal services agencies. She wrote the testimony presented by the Women's Law Center on family law-related bills and testified at session hearings in both the House of Delegates and the Senate.

Before the WLC, Danielle worked on divorce, custody, child support, and adoption cases for a small, well-respected family law firm. She particularly enjoyed adoptions, which were always "happy cases." Previously, she worked at two other legal service agencies that had specialized programs for victims of domestic violence: the House of Ruth and the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. She also has experience teaching, having taught Introduction to Women's Studies at the Community College of Baltimore County in the fall of 2006 and summer of 2007.

One of the primary factors that appealed to Danielle about the position at Stanford Law School was the opportunity to work with students one-on-one. "I really liked the idea of working directly with students, while they're still (hopefully) idealistic, to understand all the different ways and possibilities there are for working in the community after graduation."

Within the next academic year, Danielle hopes to resolve some of the long-standing issues with placement and matching in the different pro bono programs. Her goals also include working with the student coordinators to help each project run as smoothly as possible and providing students with solid substantive experiences that also meet the needs of the different legal service providers. "And of course," she added, "to help the students stay excited about pro bono work and community involvement in all its forms."

So far the position has both met Danielle's expectations and surprised her in some ways. She really enjoys working with the rest of the Levin Center staff, whom she considers "an amazing group of women who so clearly know what's going on and how to make things happen."

In addition to finding her coworkers energizing, she is also surprised and excited by the level of commitment of the students. "It's great to see students who are so strongly centered in community work and to know that Stanford can provide some of the real resources necessary to support those students."

Furthermore, Danielle is soon to experience an exciting personal milestone: she is expecting her first child in October. Congratulations and best wishes to Danielle and her family!

Pro Bono Program Spring Update

It was an exciting year for the Pro Bono Program despite being unstaffed for the majority of the first semester. Most of the group placements continued with high numbers of volunteering students and several new projects were developed. Moreover, fifty-two 3Ls graduated with Pro Bono Distinction.

With the help and advice of Susan Feathers, the Executive Director of the Levin Center, and Barbara Olshansky '85, the Leah Kaplan Visiting Professor of Human Rights, Mariko Hirose '08, developed the International Human Rights Pro Bono Program, creating pro bono opportunities with Asylum Access, a locally-based refugee advocacy organization, and with Burke O'Neil LLC, a Philadelphia-based public interest law firm working on Alien Tort Statute litigation. Over 24 students participated in the newly launched project. In the 2008-2009 academic year, students will continue their international human rights work with Freedom Now, a Washington D.C.-based organization and also with the ACLU.

Over Spring Break students were able to participate in three off-site, week long pro bono placements around the country. First, for the third year in a row, Stanford sent students to New Orleans, Louisiana through the Student Hurricane Network to volunteer with community organizations in New Orleans and its surrounding parishes. Students also participated in a trip to the Arizona-Mexico border, learning through first hand experience and face-to-face meetings with community organizers and attorneys about border immigration issues and the work that is being done to address those issues. Finally, three students traveled to Washington, D.C. to spend the week at the Public *Continued on page 8*



Starting with the top left, clockwise, are (1) Susan J. Feathers, Executive Director of the Levin Center, who welcomed guests to the “Education as a Civil Right” symposium; (2) Professor Paul Trachtenberg of Rutgers School of Law, the founder of the Education Law Center and founding director of the Rutgers-Newark Institute on Education Law and Policy, who discussed how to define the right to education in terms of adequacy and equality; (3) The audience included noted civil rights activist and educator Dr. Robert P. Moses (second row) who gave the closing address; and (4) Wendy Puriefoy, president of the Public Education Network, who spoke about education reform efforts.

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE R. COVER

Symposia Convene Scholars, Practitioners

The Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law sponsored two major symposia this past year.

On February 2, 2008, over 200 practitioners, students, and educators discussed the latest issues at the “Education as a Civil Right” symposium. It was co-sponsored with the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Youth and Education Law Project of the Mills Legal Clinic.

The Symposium provided a unique forum to explore education-related civil rights themes including educational rights for linguistic minorities, constitutional concerns behind school choice and charter school efforts, school desegregation and issues of racial justice

in the public school system. Christopher Edley, Dean and Professor of Law at UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), delivered the keynote address.

Our second symposium, “The American Legal Profession: Current Controversies, Future Challenges” was held on March 14, 2008 in collaboration with the Stanford Law Review and the Stanford Center on Ethics. This national conference convened leading scholars and practitioners to discuss the changing face of the legal profession and its current ethical challenges. Topics included “Ideology and Organization: Promoting the Public Interest” and “Government Lawyering and Professional Independence in the War on Terror.”

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:

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PRO BONO PROGRAM ANNUAL REVIEW

Continued from page 7

Defender Service for the District of Columbia. These students had the unique opportunity to volunteer with the premier public defender service in the country and were able to participate in client interviewing, jailhouse visits, and brown bag lunches.

Looking forward to the 2008-2009 academic year, the Pro Bono program hopes to continue to develop new programs based on student interest. Discussions are under way to expand offerings in the immigration area, to create a possible winter break trip to rural areas of California, and to offer a mediation pro bono program starting in February 2009.