

## 2008-2009 WOMEN'S LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWS

We are pleased to introduce the outstanding women's rights advocates who are participating in the Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program (WLPPFP) and the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Program at the Georgetown University Law Center. Although each of their fellowship experiences is unique, they all learn together about women's human rights and develop their legal and advocacy skills through colloquia and other professional development programming.



### **Aziza Ahmed**

(U.S. Fellow - International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS) Aziza graduated from Emory University with a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies. She then went to Johannesburg, South Africa, where she worked with the Planned Parenthood Association of South Africa (PPASA), organizing sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents and sex workers. Aziza later attended

the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and received a Masters of Science in Population and International Health. Her master's thesis focused on children engaging in transactional sex in Jamaica and their increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. After graduation, Aziza worked as a consultant in Barbados with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Development Alternatives With Women in a New Era (DAWN). She subsequently began her law degree program at the University of California, Berkeley. She spent her first summer with Breakthrough, a human rights organization in India, where she co-wrote a curriculum on sexual rights in India. She spent her second summer working with the International Women's Health Coalition mainly on issues related to UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS five-year review. Aziza is a Georgetown Fellow supported by the Ford Foundation.



### **Nadia Asanchev**

(U.S. Fellow - Georgetown Center on National Security and the Law) Nadia received her B.A. from Johns Hopkins University, majoring in Biology and English, and her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. At Georgetown, she was a research assistant for Professor Neal Katyal while he led the Hamdan v. Rumsfeld case to victory in the United States Supreme Court. In addition, she participated

in the Domestic Violence Clinic, representing victims of domestic violence seeking civil protection orders in DC Superior Court. Nadia was an Articles Editor of the Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law, and published an article on same sex marriage. She was the Treasurer of both the Law Democrats and Students Against the Death Penalty, and a member of the American Constitution Society. Following law school, Nadia clerked for the Honorable Richard Owen in the Southern District of New York. She then practiced at a firm in New York, specializing in white collar criminal defense, as well as challenging the detention of four Uighur detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Nadia is a Georgetown Fellow supported by Georgetown Law.



### **Meredith Asay**

(U.S. Fellow - Planned Parenthood Federation of America) Meredith graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 2004, and was recognized by the Wyoming State Bar Association as the Pro Bono Student Lawyer of the year. She also received an award as the Outstanding Clinical Student of the year. During her third year of law school, Meredith was the Student Director of the University of Wyoming Legal Services Program, where she provided civil legal services to low-income individuals and argued a case regarding education rights before the Wyoming Supreme Court. After law school, Meredith worked for the Human Services Division of the Office of the Wyoming Attorney General for three years. She primarily represented the Wyoming Department of Health, which included advising the Department on legal issues, writing legal opinions and memorandums, reviewing contracts, and representing the Department in court and administrative hearings. In addition, she gained further trial experience by volunteering to help other departments and divisions with cases on issues such as terminations of parental rights, state tort defense, and license revocations. Meredith moved to Washington, DC in 2007 to pursue an LL.M. degree in Global Health Law at Georgetown University Law Center, through which she studied numerous aspects of health law both domestically and globally. Meredith is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Huber Foundation and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation.



### **Elizabeth Atemnkeng**

(LAWA Fellow - Cameroon) After earning her L.L.B. in Private English Law from the University of Yaounda, Elizabeth received a Professional Masters with Honors in Corporate Legal Executives. She also earned a Postgraduate Degree in International Law for Organizations and Development from the International Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands. Elizabeth has served as an advocate to the High Court of Cameroon since 1999. As a human rights lawyer, she is especially passionate about defending the rights of marginalized women and children. This passion has led Elizabeth to join and lead many organizations designed to fight for these rights. For example, Elizabeth has served as the Secretary General of International Federation of Women Lawyers in Cameroon (FIDA-Cameroon); President of Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church, Buea Diocese; Director for Women and Children Affairs of PLATEFORME for Democracy in Cameroon; and Legal Adviser for Cameroon Voluntary Organizations for Development (CAVOD). Through her work with these organizations, Elizabeth has aided in monitoring elections to maintain peace, increased the number of women in local government, and lobbied for adoption of stricter child trafficking laws. Elizabeth has also defended women's inheritance rights in Cameroon. Elizabeth is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.

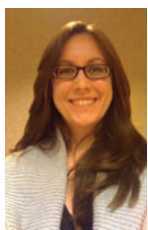
**Arlene Brens**

(U.S. Fellow – National Women’s Law Center) Arlene graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University with a degree in journalism and political science and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She then earned her J.D. cum laude from Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington. She was Notes Editor on the Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies (IJGLS), secretary of the Latino Law Students

Association, a member of the Public Interest Law Foundation, and a regional semifinalist in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. While serving on journal, Arlene became passionate about international women’s human rights and wrote her note on the sex trafficking of women into the United States. She also represented indigent clients at Indiana Legal Services. Upon law school graduation, Arlene spent a year and a half practicing labor & employment law in the Cleveland law firm of Thompson Hine, while representing women with mental disabilities as a Guardian Ad Litem and volunteering for the United Way as a Summer Loaned Executive. Arlene then clerked for a federal judge in the Western District of Missouri in Kansas City, where she worked on a variety of cases such as ERISA, employment discrimination, insurance, breach of contract, and mortgage fraud cases. Arlene is the co-author of “Bloggers in the Workplace: An Employer’s Rights, Risks, and Responsibilities.” She has also been involved in her community in many ways, such as spending a year mentoring a youth through the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program of Cleveland, and organizing clothing and toy drives for charities. Arlene is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Rita Charms Davidson Family Fund.

**Nancy Chung**

(U.S. Fellow – National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum) Nancy Chung received her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law and her B.A. from the University of Virginia. During law school, she served as a student attorney in the Family Law Clinic representing domestic violence victims in protective order proceedings and divorce and custody matters. Active in many organizations throughout law school, Nancy has served as President of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA), Co-President of the Student’s Supporting the Women’s Law Center (SSWLC), Manuscripts Editor of the University of Baltimore Law Forum Journal, and Board Member At-Large of the Moot Court Board. In APALSA, Nancy has served for two consecutive years as chairperson of the Minority Women in the Law Forum, an annual forum in which minority women talk about the challenges they face in public and private sector law. Nancy was also instrumental in the SSWLC’s Domestic Violence Clothesline Project, where she had t-shirts decorated by domestic violence victims displayed throughout her law school. Moreover, Nancy has published two “Recent Developments” in the University of Baltimore Law Forum Journal and was the Asian Pacific American Bar Association’s 2006 Scholarship recipient. Outside of law school, Nancy has clerked for the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of the Attorney General. In addition, she has interned for the Honorable Lynne Battaglia of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, where she received special recognition for her contributions in the Maryland Judicial Commission on Professionalism’s Final Report. Nancy is a member of both the Maryland and Virginia Bars and has served as the Vice President of Education for the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland since June, 2007. Nancy is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Moriah Fund and the Huber Foundation.

**Danielle Delaney**

(U.S. Fellow – National Council of Urban Indian Health) Danielle graduated summa cum laude from Seattle University with two BAs, one in philosophy and the other in political science. She was also a scholar-in-residence at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. Danielle graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 2005. While at Georgetown, Danielle served as the President of the

Women’s Legal Alliance, took part in the Women’s Leadership Forum at the Democratic National Convention, and was a campus organizer and alumni activist for the National Organization of Women. After law school, Danielle worked in the private legal field as a defense attorney, and she is licensed to practice law in Maryland. She continues to provide pro-bono legal assistance for the Maryland juvenile court system. Her written works include “Boondocks: Accessibility of Healthcare for Alaska Natives,” “Congress & the Attorney-Client Privilege: the Fine Art of Balancing Power,” and “Sandman and the Oresteia: Images of Justice and Mercy.” Currently, Danielle is the policy analyst for the National Council of Urban Indian Health specializing in health care and community wellness. Her work focuses on Medicare, Medicaid, community-based public health policy, culturally competent health care, and health disparities. Danielle is supported by NCUIH.

**Katharine Gordon**

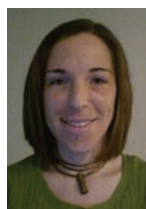
(U.S. Fellow – American Diabetes Association) Katharine graduated from Bryn Mawr in 2001. After graduation, she volunteered as a human rights observer in rural Guatemala and as an intern with the Margarita Magón Women’s Assistance Center in Mexico City, an anti-domestic violence organization. After working at the Los Angeles Central American Resource Center and the Florence (Arizona)

Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project as a bilingual immigration paralegal assisting domestic violence survivors and immigration detainees, she earned her JD at the George Washington University Law School, graduating with honors in May 2008. During law school, she completed internships with the DC Public Defender Service and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As a student attorney with DC Law Students in Court, she represented indigent clients in criminal proceedings, serving as the lead trial attorney. She also served as a student representative to the law school’s Student/Faculty Public Interest Committee. Fluent in Spanish, Katharine is committed to ensuring that legal information and resources become more widely accessible and available to the growing Spanish-speaking population of the United States. Katharine is supported by the American Diabetes Association.

**Sandy Han**

(U.S. Fellow – Georgetown University Harrison Institute for Public Law) Sandy received her J.D. from the University of Richmond Law School, where she interned at the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia and the Commonwealth Attorney’s office in the Juvenile and Domestic Courts prosecuting domestic violence cases. Upon graduation she served as a Law Clerk for the Twelfth Judicial

Circuit Court of Virginia and worked as an Associate at Harmon, Claytor, Corrigan and Wellman, a civil defense firm. Sandy began her work in health care compliance as a Policy Compliance Analyst at the United Network for Organ Sharing, a non-profit organization administering the transplantation system in the United States. Subsequently, Sandy worked in the health care regulation and compliance field as the Compliance Director at the Washington Hospital Center and as Associate Vice President for Strategic Management (SM), a private consulting group. While at SM she also served as the company’s first Compliance Director. Sandy recently received her Master of Laws (L.L.M.) degree with honors in Global Health Law from Georgetown University Law Center. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Korean American Scholarship Foundation. Sandy is a Georgetown Clinical Teaching Fellow supported by Georgetown Law.

**Erin Hastings**

(U.S. Fellow – National Partnership for Women and Families) Erin attended Grinnell College studying English and global development. After graduation, Erin served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin, teaching junior high school and organizing extracurricular activities for students that included a theater and dance troupe and radio quiz show. She was active in the Peace Corp’s Women in Development

program, raising money for and identifying local recipients of scholarships for girls. Upon returning from Africa, she joined Chicago Foundation for Women as assistant to the Executive Director and Board, where managed special projects including the establishment of the Chicago Girls' Coalition and local implementation of the Women's Lens on Global Issues project sponsored by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Erin then attended Georgetown University Law Center's evening program, while at the same time working in marketing and development at the Global Fund for Children, a public foundation that supports non-traditional education programs around the world. She also clerked at the DC Public Defender Service and Human Rights First. She graduated cum laude from Georgetown Law in December 2006, and received the Joyce Chiang Award, the Dean's Certificate for outstanding service to the Law Center community, and was a Pro Bono Pledge honoree. For the past year, Erin has served as law clerk to the Hon. Jillyn Schulze in the U.S. District Court, District of Maryland, Southern Division. She has also done interpreting and translating for French-speaking immigrants in counseling and in the immigration court system, and is a legal observer for the National Lawyer's Guild. Erin is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow.



### Moza Jadeed

(LAWA Fellow – Kenya) Moza was a teacher in her father's primary school, and also advanced her ability to speak French by attending Alliance Française de Mombasa. She graduated from Moi University in 2003 with an Honors Second Upper Division, and then attended the Kenya School of Law. As a student, Moza was the vice president of the Moi University Red Cross Youth Group and was appointed to the Ladies' Representative to the Muslim Students Association. For two years after graduating, Moza worked at the law firm of Deche, Nandwa & Bryant.

During this time, Moza was involved in many community and leadership activities, such as volunteering with a local girls' School Management Committee to act as a role model to local girls and help improve their academic performance. Moza was also selected by the British Council to participate in an international leadership program called InterAction. She subsequently worked as a litigation associate at the firm of Nabhan Swaleh Advocates. Moza also joined the Association of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA-Kenya), through which she has served as a researcher and consultant on the traditional legal systems in the coastal regions of Kenya. Moza is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



### Jane Kamagu

(LAWA Fellow – Kenya) Jane graduated from the University of Nairobi and the Kenya School of Law. In 1996, she was admitted as an Advocate for the High Court of Kenya. Between 2001 and 2005, Jane headed a Legal Aid Clinic for CRADLE – The Children's Foundation. In this capacity, she represented clients and lobbied for the rights of women and children in various ways, such as strategic

litigation, outreach campaigns, advocating through print and electronic media, and engaging diverse stakeholders. Prior to her LAWA Fellowship, Jane worked for the law firm A.M Wahome and Co. Advocates, representing numerous women seeking divorce, separation, maintenance or division proceedings. She has also volunteered as a Program Officer with the Kenya Women Judges Association and as a private consultant with governmental agencies such as the Office of The President, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and the Ministry Home Affairs. Additionally, Jane has worked for legal aid clinics that fight against traditional customs violating the rights of women and girls, such as early marriage and female genital mutilation. Jane is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



### Brook Kelly

(U.S. Fellow – The Women's Collective) Before law school, Brook earned her B.A. summa cum laude in cultural anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and studied and performed Afro-Brazilian dance. She also acted as a Field Assistant for NARAL Pro Choice America, and served as a tutor for the Academic Advancement Program at UCLA. Brook earned her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, where she served as

Senior Articles Editor for the Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law, and published "The Evolution of State Sexual Harassment Law" in its 2006 Annual Review. She also helped found the Georgetown Journal of Global Critical Race Perspectives and participated in a human rights fact finding mission to Swaziland with the Georgetown International Women's Human Rights Clinic. Brook worked with immigrant and low-income women on issues of reproductive justice as a Harry A. Blackmun Fellow at the California Women's Law Center and on appellate level litigation at the ACLU Reproductive Rights Project. Also during law school, she spent a year as a law clerk with the Service Employees International Union, and also clerked for the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights. Brook recently completed a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Ronald L. Ellis in the United States Southern District of New York. Brook is a Georgetown Fellow supported by the Ford Foundation.



### Emilia Lobti

(LAWA Fellow - Cameroon) Emilia earned her bachelor's degree and post graduate diploma from the University of Yaounde. Upon graduation, Emilia became active with the Cameroonian Association of Female Jurists. She has been a volunteer in the Association's legal aid clinic, and also has represented the Association in national and international conferences, organized training workshops on human rights and performed legal counseling. In 2007, Emilia completed

the certificate program in Human Rights at the Central African Catholic University. Prior to her LAWA Fellowship, Emilia served as an advocate and consultant for individuals and organizations dealing with human rights issues, specially those issues concerning women and children. Emilia is also a networker for Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUM). In this capacity, she works to promote and protect the rights of women living under Islamic regimes. Emilia is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



### Janet Maina

(LAWA Fellow – Kenya) Janet earned her Bachelor's degree from the University of Nairobi, and a postgraduate diploma in law from the Kenyan School of Law. While at school, she interned at Muriu, Mungai & Company Advocates where she prepared general pleadings for divorce and succession cases, debt collection and judicial review. Janet also interned at the Independent Medico- Legal Unit (IMLU), a Nairobi

based non-governmental organization that provides legal and medical aid to victims and survivors of torture. With IMLU, Janet trained judges, prison workers, police officers, and doctors on how to recognize and document torture. During the constitutional review process in Kenya, she worked as a Program Officer with the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission, where she was involved in the public hearings aimed at collecting views from the public on the proposed draft constitution, data analysis and dissemination of the report and draft bill. She is a member of the Law Society of Kenya and a volunteer with the Christian Legal Education Aid and Research (CLEAR - Kenya), a project which provides legal aid. Prior to receiving her LAWA Fellowship, Janet worked as a Legal Officer with Victoria Commercial Bank Limited, Nairobi. Janet has particular interest in economic policies and their impact on women's rights. She is a member of the Kenyan bar and a Certified Public Accountant. Janet is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



**Mariela Olivares**

(U.S. Fellow – Georgetown University Law Center Domestic Violence Clinic) Mariela was a Clarence Darrow Scholar at the University of Michigan Law School, where she was an Executive Editor of the Michigan Law Review and a student in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Texas-Austin with highest honors and special honors with degrees in Plan II Honors and Spanish Literature. As the former Managing Attorney for the Domestic Violence/Family Law division at Ayuda, the District’s leading provider of services for low-income immigrant victims of domestic violence, Mariela counseled hundreds of victims of violence while managing Ayuda’s legal and social service program. Additionally, Mariela managed Ayuda’s domestic violence outreach and media efforts and participated in Spanish-language print, radio and television programs. She was also active in domestic violence advocacy and non-profit associations and coalitions—participating and presenting at several conferences— and worked extensively in fundraising efforts. Mariela was named a Rising Legal Star by the Hispanic Bar Association of Washington and is a member of the Family Law Section Steering Committee of the DC Bar and of the Domestic Violence Unit Task Force of D.C. Superior Court. Before her service at Ayuda, Mariela was an associate at Wiley Rein & Fielding, LLP, where she practiced in the areas of employment discrimination, director and officer insurance liability and appellate law. Moreover, she represented various individuals through her pro bono practice, including successfully obtaining asylum for a client on the basis of sexual orientation and HIV status. Before moving to DC, Mariela clerked for the Supreme Court of Texas. Mariela is a Georgetown Clinical Teaching Fellow supported by Georgetown Law.

**Jane Quaye**



(LAWA Fellow – Ghana) Jane graduated from the University of Ghana with a Bachelor’s Degree, and from the Ghana School of Law. After completing her studies, Jane began her career as a private legal attorney, working for Ansa-Asare & Co, where she practiced commercial and corporate law as well as family law. After leaving private practice, Jane served as Solicitor Secretary for the government-run Omnibus Transport Services. While acting as Solicitor Secretary, Jane began volunteering with the International Federation of Women Lawyers, Ghana (FIDA-Ghana), providing legal services to indigent women and children. Currently, Jane is the Executive Director of FIDA-Ghana. Under her administration FIDA-Ghana has experienced growth in staff size and the amount of programs it undertakes. Through her initiative and with support from development partners, the organization underwent a major strategic planning process which culminated in the review of its internal systems and operations for more effective service delivery. Jane has headed a movement to collaborate with development partners to open three more FIDA offices in three regions in Ghana, namely; the Eastern, Northern and Upper East regions; thus extending services to more women and children. She also co-pastors a ministry with her husband. Jane is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.

**Jennifer Schingle**



(U.S. Fellow – Board of Veteran’s Appeals) Jennifer graduated from the Charleston School of Law in May 2008. While at Charleston, she served as an editor of the Charleston Law Review, member of the International Law Society, and competitor in the 2007 Jessup International Moot Court Competition. She spent her third year of law school as a visiting student at Georgetown University Law Center. While at Georgetown, Jennifer participated in the Women’s International Human Rights Clinic focusing her studies on women’s equal rights to land and inheritance in Kenya. She worked with FIDA-Kenya, conducting interviews in Kenya to gather research for the human rights report she co-authored, “Empowering Women through Equal Rights to Inheritance.” Jennifer is supported by the Board of Veterans Appeals where she

is focusing her research on women veterans’ issues concerning service-related post traumatic stress disorder and abuse. She plans to publish her findings in the January 2010 edition of the Veterans Law Journal.



**Aram Schvey**

(U.S. Fellow – Georgetown University Law Center International Women’s Human Rights Clinic) Aram received his Bachelor’s Degree from Harvard University and an Master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Aram is a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center. After law school,

Aram served as Litigation Counsel at Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a nonpartisan religious-liberty watchdog group dedicated to preserving religious freedom. He litigated a number of cases arising under the First Amendment’s Establishment Clause and Free Exercise Clause. He also engaged in advocacy and other non-litigation efforts, and taught seminars on American church-state jurisprudence to foreign visitors. From 2004 to 2005, Aram served as the Crowley Fellow in International Human Rights at the Fordham University School of Law. He taught a course on anti-Roma (Gypsy) discrimination in the Romanian education system and led his students on a fact-finding mission throughout Romania, culminating in a comprehensive report with recommendations. In addition, he administered a human-rights scholarship program and oversaw a lecture series. Aram has also served as an international-litigation associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, and clerked for Judge Jack B. Weinstein (Eastern District of New York) and Judge Allen G. Schwartz (Southern District of New York). He previously served as a stagiare in the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and in the Secretariat of the International Court of Arbitration. He was born and raised in the Netherlands, and speaks Dutch, French, and Italian. Aram is a Georgetown Clinical Teaching Fellow supported by Georgetown Law.



*Nadia Asanchev at the Inauguration*



*Professional Development Training for LAWAs with Sandra Buteau*

## DEVELOPING FUTURE WOMEN'S RIGHTS LEADERS

Through networking opportunities, professional development trainings, colloquia on hot-topics in women's legal issues, and other programming, WLPPFP helps our Fellows continue to develop as leaders of the women's rights movement. Examples of the activities of our 2008-2009 Fellows thus far include:

- Our **Welcome Bar-B-Que** for the new Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows at the home of WLPPFP Director **Julia Ernst**.
- A **Farewell Potluck Dinner and Award Ceremony** for 2007-2008 Fellows and Welcome for 2008-2009 LAWA Fellows at Georgetown Law.
- The **WLPPFP Orientation Program Alum Panel** featuring **Sarah Craven (1992-93, U.S.)**, Chief of the Washington, DC Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); **Amy Fettig (2002-03, U.S.)**, Staff Counsel for the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU); **Leah Kiguatha (2007-08, LAWA)**, Consultant with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI); and **Naomi Stern (2003-04, U.S.)**, Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee.



*Fellows inside the U.S. Supreme Court*

- Our **Board Welcome Party** with **Marcia Greenberger**, founder and co-President of the National Women's Law Center; **Judy Lichtman**, founder, former President, and current Senior Advisor of the National Partnership for Women and Families; **Judy Areen**, former Dean and current Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center; **Wendy Williams**, Professor of Law at Georgetown Law, and **Mary Hartnett**, Adjunct Professor at Georgetown Law. The board members delighted the new fellows with stories about the history of women in the law and WLPPFP at the party hosted at the National Women's Law Center.
- Our **Annual Retreat** at the home of WLPPFP Director **Julia Ernst** including a potluck dinner, good conversation and getting-to-know-you fun and games; where the new fellows learned more about each others' backgrounds, countries, experiences, placement organizations, and aspirations.
- **U.S. Supreme Court Hearings:** The fellows had reserved seating to attend five U.S. Supreme Court hearings this fall: *United States v. Hayes* (involving domestic violence and gun legislation), *Chambers v. United States* (involving a criminal case defining "violent felony"), *Fitzgerald v. Barnstable School Committee* (involving sexual harassment in schools), *AT&T Corp v. Hulteen* (involving the Pregnancy Discrimination Act), *Ashcroft v. Iqbal* (involving discrimination suits



*Fellows outside the U.S. Supreme Court*

against high-level governmental officials). The fellows also had the opportunity to attend the moot for respondent in *United States v. Hayes* at the **Georgetown Law Supreme Court Institute**.

- The **National Women's Law Center Annual Dinner**, featuring **Debra L. Lee**, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of BET Networks; **Linda Greenhouse**, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist & former Supreme Court Reporter for *The New York Times*; **Deborah Slaner Larkin**, advocate for women and girls & champion of Title IX.
- Our **WLPPFP Alumni Potluck** hosted by **Deborah Epstein (1990-91, U.S.)**, Georgetown Law Associate Dean of Clinical Education, Professor of Law, and Co-Director of the Georgetown Law Domestic Violence Clinic.
- A training on "**Giving Effective PowerPoint Presentations**" led by **Dianne Ferro Mesarch**, Assistant Director of Training with the Georgetown Law Information Technology Department.
- A public speaking opportunity for our LAWA Fellows on "**Women's Human Rights in Africa**" presenting to undergraduate students taking a seminar on International Women's Human Rights at the Georgetown Main Campus.
- A series of seminars on "**The Fellowship Experience**" led by our current fellows, who shared their multifaceted backgrounds working on women's rights, discussed their fellowship experiences with their placement organizations and LL.M. degree programs, exchanged ideas about what they have learned so far, and envisioned their future career paths advancing the legal status of women in their countries.



*Speakers at WLPPFP Seminar*



Fellows at WLPPFP Colloquium

Fellows have participated in colloquia featuring discussions with women's rights experts on the following topics:

- **“Using International Human Rights Law in Women’s Rights Cases”** with **Joan Winship**, Executive Director of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ); and **Anne Goldstein**, Human Rights Education Director with IAWJ.
- **“Women and Economic Rights”** with **Nicole Lee**, Executive Director of TransAfrica Forum; **Sinsi Hernandez-Cancio (1995-96, U.S.)**, Senior Health Attorney with Service Employees International Union (SEIU), **Christine Webber (1993-94, U.S.)**, Partner with Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll; and **Melysa Sperber**, Program Officer for Africa, Vital Voices Global Partnership.
- **“Legislative Advocacy on Women’s Rights – Reflections from the Hill”** with **Maryamu Aminu**, Assistant Government Relations Director of the One Campaign and former staff for U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and Human Rights Caucus; **Portia Wu**, Senior Counsel for the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, Pensions Committee and Senator Ted Kennedy; and **Heather Sawyer**, Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives House Judiciary Committee.
- **“Blazing a Career Path in Women’s Rights”** with **Barbara Moulton**, Georgetown Law Assistant Dean of the Office of Public Interest and Community Affairs; **Jacqueline Scott (1994-95, U.S.)**, Senior Attorney and Adjunct Professor, Georgetown Harrison Institute for Public Health Law, **Lisa Maatz**, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy with the American Association of University Women.
- **“Women and Politics”** with **Kristin Haffert**, Director of Women’s Political Participation Programs with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI); and **Erin Cutraro**, Director of Politics and Education with the Women’s Campaign Forum (WCF).



Fellows at WLPPFP Seminar



WLPPFP Seminar Participants

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*We are grateful to all of our speakers and other supporters – thank you very much for your willingness to share your expertise, mentoring and advice with our Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellows!*

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**Janel George (2005-06 U.S.)** recently joined the office of Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards:

I currently work in the office of Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards, who represents the Fourth District of Maryland. Congresswoman Edwards, an attorney and a community activist, has a long history of involvement in women’s issues and non-profit advocacy. She was the co-founder and Executive Director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence and was instrumental in helping to get the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 passed. Congresswoman Edwards also served as the Executive Director of the Arca Foundation and worked on campaign finance reform issues as an advocate for Public Citizen and the Center for New Democracy.

I currently handle the following legislative issue areas for Congresswoman Edwards: health care, education, immigration, women, children, TANF/welfare, and judiciary. I am proud to say that in the 111th Congress, the Congresswoman supported the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was signed into law by President Obama. She has also supported a House resolution expressing the sense of the House that the Senate should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as a house resolution acknowledging January 2009 as “National Stalking Awareness Month.” She has also supported legislation to promote research into post-partum depression and to address sexual assault and domestic violence involving members of the Armed forces and their families.

My experience as a Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellow with the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) really prepared me to work on legislative issues on the Hill. I look forward to working with the Congresswoman to address health disparities, to help pass an economic recovery package that supports working families, and to push for comprehensive health care reform for all Americans.

## ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WLPPFP celebrates the continued achievements of our outstanding alumni, who strive to improve the lives of women and their families throughout their careers. Our alumni constitute a powerful network of experienced and committed lawyers across the United States and Africa, serving as founders and directors of non-profit organizations, judges and justices, parliamentarians, professors and deans of law schools, public interest lawyers, and in other influential posts. Below are a few examples of some of their recent activities:

- **Mushahida Adhikari (2005-06, South Africa)** writes: “I hope you and all the wonderful WLPPFP women are doing well. We’ve all been enjoying the Obama-mania sweeping the world. I was particularly impressed with the swift recall of the global gag rule by the Obama administration! I’ve been insanely busy for the last couple of months with work and more work. I did however get to meet up with **Amelia Vukeya (2006-07, South Africa)** and [**Georgetown Law Professor**] **Sue Ross** at the World Justice Forum held in Vienna during July of last year. I also ran into **Linda Dumba (2006-07, Namibia)** and her lovely family during my December vacation in Namibia. As for me,... [I am] a senior associate at Werksmans (a “Big Five” firm)... I am currently serving as trustee for both the Capitec Bank Employee Empowerment Trust, a Black Economic Empowerment trust set up to benefit black employees of the bank; and the Extra-Mural Education Trust, a non-profit trust which works with schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods in providing extra-mural activities to school children.”
- **Patience Akenji (2007-08)** wrote that she has resumed her position as the Legal and Advocacy Coordinator for Women in Alternative Action (WAA), a non-governmental organization promoting women’s socio-cultural, political and economic rights in Cameroon and the Central African sub-region.



LAWA Alum Phumzile Dlamini and Family

- **Jaqueline Asimwe (2000-01, Uganda)** finished her job as Deputy Program Manager of the Civil Society Capacity Building Program in Uganda. From 2005 through 2008, Jackie was responsible for assisting the program grantees improve their advocacy role in order to advance the rights and welfare of the poor and marginalized. Jackie also worked to help ensure that the government came up with a policy that was favorable to nonprofit groups working in Uganda. When the program ended, Jackie worked as a consultant for the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), researching the use of community based paralegals as a tool for improving women’s access to and protection of their property rights. She then helped ICRW develop a Paralegal Training Manual on property rights which will be used in Uganda to improve training in women’s property rights, as well as provide the paralegals with a resource they can use as they create awareness among local communities and as they provide legal counseling to women and men on women’s property rights. Jackie is currently working as a consultant for Wellspring Advisors, a U.S. based organization that provides grants to nonprofit groups in developing countries such as Uganda. The grants are in the areas such as human rights, women’s rights, children’s rights, and reproductive and health rights, among others. Jackie will help Wellspring to provide critical support and oversight to their grantees in Uganda as well as propose prospective grantees.
- **Johanna Bond (1998-99, U.S.)** is an Associate Professor of Law at Washington & Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Va. She is teaching international human rights law, torts, and gender and the law. Johanna recently presented a paper in Botswana, where she saw LAWAlum **Keneilewe Lekoba (2002-03, Botswana)** and **Amelia Vukeya (2006-07, South Africa)**. She also recently collaborated with **Linda Dumba (2006-07, Namibia)** on a human rights project.



Board Member  
Mary Hartnett with  
LAWA Catharine  
Wangamati

Board Member  
Judy Lichtman  
with WLPPFP  
Alum Robyn Carr



Gregory Fox

Executive Director Julia Ernst Speaking at  
Michigan Law Symposium



LAWA Alum  
Jacqueline Asimwe-  
Mwesige

- **Vanessa Brocato (Program Assistant, 2000-2004)**, is now the Executive Director of the Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP) in New York.
- **Jean Bruggeman (2000-01, U.S.)** writes, "I'm back at Ayuda, where I spent my fellowship year, but this time I am the Director of a new project called the Community Legal Interpreter Bank. We are screening, testing and training interpreters to work with legal services providers in DC. We are also providing training to the providers and (so far) paying for all of the interpretation services. It's a unique program and has challenged me to learn all about the complex field of interpreting. The other big change is that, unlike during my fellowship, I am now also balancing the needs of my two kids (Hannah 3.5 and Martin 2) and my husband's evening grad school classes."
- **Beth Burkstrand-Reid (2005-06, U.S.)** reports, "I am now a visiting assistant professor of law at the University of Illinois College of Law. This semester I completed my first article in the area of reproductive rights. It is titled: "The Invisible Woman: Competition and Culpability in Reproductive Health Jurisprudence." My next project focuses on the enforceability of marriage agreements related to marital roles and responsibilities. I plan to go on the market for a tenure-track teaching position this fall 2009."
- **Cassandra Butts (1991-92, U.S.)** has joined President Barack Obama's White House staff as Deputy White House Counsel with a focus on domestic policy and ethics. Cassandra also served as General Counsel for President Obama's transition team.



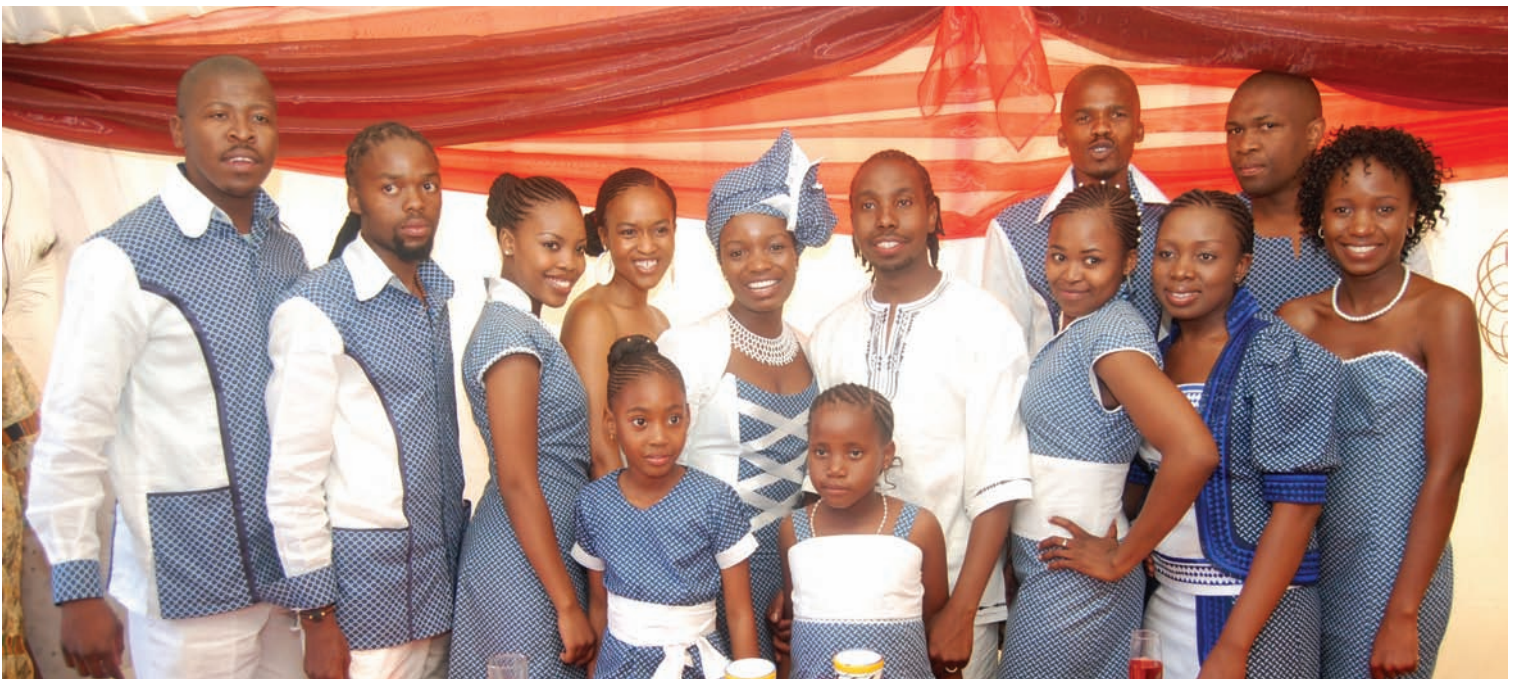
WLPPFP Alum Cynthia Totten Speaking in South Africa

- **Courtney Chappell (2004-05, U.S.)** has recently started a new position as the Advocacy Manager at the DC Employment Justice Center.
- **Terisa Chaw (1985-86, U.S.)** continues to serve as the Executive Director of the National Employment Lawyers Association, and is hosting NELA's 20th Annual Convention this summer in California.
- **Pamela Coukos (1995-96, U.S.)** writes, "In 2008, I advanced to candidacy in my PhD program, and am working on my dissertation research - a study of the development of sexual harassment law in the United States, including the role of the women's movement and the impact of Reagan-era political changes. I also took three months away from my studies to work as the Obama Campaign's Field Director for California Region 2 (6 Congressional Districts around the Bay Area). This was a great experience managing thousands of volunteers and hundreds of local organizers who mobilized to support the ground campaigns in Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado and generate hundreds of thousands of phone calls to battleground states for GOTV. As a result of that effort, we are building [www.CommunityOrganize.com](http://www.CommunityOrganize.com), an online network to support community organizers in California."



Sally Goldfarb, Wendy Williams, Sue Ross, Sally Burns

- **Linda Dumba (2006-07, Namibia)** continues her work with the Legal Assistance Centre, a human rights legal organization in Namibia, and recently welcomed a new baby.
- **Beatrice Duncan (1993-94, Ghana)** has recently completed her dissertation.
- **Amy Fettig (2002-03, U.S.)** writes "I continue to enjoy living and working in Washington, DC - especially now that Obama-mania has come to town. In 2007 I returned to the ACLU as Staff Counsel with the National Prison Project (NPP). At NPP I litigate class action prison condition cases for juveniles and adults with a special focus on grossly inadequate medical care, the use of seclusion as a disciplinary measure and staff violence and brutality. In the last year my work has focused increasingly on ending the widespread practice of shackling pregnant women prisoners, especially during labor, delivery and post-partum recovery." Amy is also speaking on a panel on criminal justice and women's incarceration at Georgetown Law in March, along with Georgetown Law alum Malika Saada Saar, Executive Director of the Rebecca Project for Human Rights, and moderated by Georgetown Criminal Justice Clinic Professor Abbe Smith.



*LAWA Alum Amelia Vukeya's Wedding*

**Amelia Vukeya** (2006-07, South Africa)

sent a detailed update on what she did after her LAWA experience at Georgetown Law.

I left D.C on the 7th of September 2007 and then started working at the AIDS Law Project [in Johannesburg] on the 17th. I did a lot of interesting work there ranging from access to medicines (HIV treatment) cases, prisons and HIV matters, TB, and customary law work with the women's rights section of the Treatment Action Campaign. In short I did the following:

- Practiced as an attorney in the area of health law and policy.
- Conducted public impact litigation for the advancement of rights of people living with HIV (representing the Treatment Action Campaign in competition law litigation on access to cheaper ARV medicines and on the rights of inmates living with HIV).
- Involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the HIV & AIDS and STI National Strategic Plan for South Africa 2007-2011 through the law and human rights sector of the South African National AIDS Council.
- Edited the AIDS, Rights and Law Manual to be published in 2009 and assisted in the course entitled HIV/AIDS and the Law at the University of Witwatersrand.
- Involved in drafting of the Department of Correctional Service revised framework for the implementation of comprehensive HIV and AIDS programmes and services for offenders and personnel.
- Conducted research on TB in South African prisons.
- Conducted research leading to a conference presentation on engaging traditional leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The conference was entitled "The Role of Customary Law in the 21st Century: African Customary Law Revisited" in Gaborone, Botswana from 23 to 24 October 2008, and was organized by Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham Law School, New York City. The article I wrote is going to be published by the Cambridge Press as a contribution to a book.
- On-going legal support for the Treatment Action Campaign gender-based violence initiative.
- Participated at the Lawyers Collective Conference on Access to Medicines in Delhi, India in April 2008.
- Was invited by the American Bar Association to participate at its World Justice Forum conference to establish strategies that can strengthen the rule of law in Austria, Vienna from 2-5 July 2008.
- Participated in the pre XVII International AIDS Conference meeting for lawyers and human right activists on litigation laws and human rights related to the HIV XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, 1- 8 August 2008.

I left the AIDS Law Project at the end of October 2008 to join a law firm called Bowman Gilfillan Attorneys... They understand my passion in human rights and support what I do. Bowman Gilfillan is a board member of ProBono.org, a legal clearing house for law firms. It has different clinics running the whole week, and one of the clinics is the HIV clinic which I am largely involved in, assisting people in matters ranging from employment discrimination, access to ARV's, referral for counseling etc. I am also assisting lawyers in the firm who are going to the HIV clinic on how to handle clients there. I have only been working here for four months but I am realizing that I can be a good resource on human rights here especially on HIV/AIDS issues. In addition to that, I was appointed secretary of a trust that is aimed at reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS in South Africa through education, treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS... I think this is a path that will open doors for greater contributions to the field of human rights.



Photo of 2003-2004 Fellows Shared by Quyen Ta

- **Catherine Crystal Foster (1992-93, U.S.)** writes, “I’m happy to be celebrating 10 years of consulting to help foundations and non-profits promote positive social change. Since leaving Washington, DC, in 1998, I’ve focused on policy and advocacy work for non-profits serving children and youth and for foundations nationwide. Recently, I’ve spent much of my time working with community organizing groups to help evaluate their work as it unfolds. Advocacy evaluation and evaluation of organizing has become an exciting new field, and I’m glad to be part of it. I still draw on my fellowship experiences at Ayuda all the time! I’m active in local politics and community work in my adopted home town of Palo Alto, CA, where I live with my husband and two boys. California alumnae, come find me at [catherine@policyconsulting.org](mailto:catherine@policyconsulting.org). I’d love to hear from you.”

- **Aye Fujimura-Fanselow (2004-05, U.S.)** started working with the International Center for Transitional Justice’s Gender Program in September.

- **Sally Goldfarb (1983-84, U.S.)** teaches Sex Discrimination, Family Law, and Torts at Rutgers Law School in Camden, NJ. Her most recent article, “Reconceiving Civil Protection Orders for Domestic Violence: Can Law Help End the Abuse Without Ending the Relationship?,” was published in *Cardozo Law Review* in 2008. In May 2008, she was invited by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women to participate in a meeting in Vienna to identify effective laws on violence against women and recommend model legislation for countries to adopt. In February 2009, Sally spoke at a symposium on women’s rights law at Rutgers Law School in Newark, NJ. Other speakers at the symposium included **Susan Deller Ross**, **Wendy Webster Williams**, and **Sally Burns (1983-84)**. All of them are featured in the recently-published book *Equal: Women Reshape American Law* by Fred Strebeigh, which chronicles some of the women’s rights legal battles of the late twentieth century. During the 2008-09 academic year, Sally is a faculty fellow in an interdisciplinary seminar sponsored by the Rutgers University Institute for Research on Women. She has enjoyed getting to know **Salma Maoulidi (1994-95, Tanzania)**, who is participating in the seminar as an Institute for Research on Women Global Scholar.

- **Angela Hooton (2003-04, U.S.)** continues her work with NARAL/Pro-Choice New York. She writes, “As part of my job, I am responsible for overseeing our program work—we have six programs areas: a youth peer education program (we train high schools students from NYC about sexual and reproductive health topics, who then train other peers as well as medical professionals); the low-income access program (focuses on expanding public health funding for reproductive health care); the EC access program (we run a national education campaign, Back Up Your Birth Control); the Residency Training Initiative (we work to obtain public dollars for hospital training opportunities in abortion and miscarriage services); and the Urban Initiative (a national effort to improve the reproductive health of urban communities through policy development, grants and regional summits). We also work on reproductive health policy and legislation in NYC and New York state and support policy initiatives run by partners in other localities. Through my job I have had opportunities to connect with **Lynn Paltrow (1984-85, U.S.)**, **Jill Morrison (1998-99, U.S.)**, **Ikeita Hinojosa (2002-03, U.S.)**, and **Lourdes Rivera (1990-91, U.S.)**. I am sure there are other WLPPFP alumni that I have connected with but I just can’t think of them now! We support these programs with grants to local partners and provide technical assistance. My role is to provide guidance and support to our program staff and fundraise for the work. It’s been such an exciting and challenging experience—kind of like being a new mom!” Angela welcomed a son in December of 2008.

- **Priscilla Huang (2006-07, U.S.)**, who is the Policy and Programs Director at the National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF), published an article in the *Harvard Law and Policy Review* entitled “Anchor Babies, Over-Breeders, and the Population Bomb: The Reemergence of Nativism and Population Control in Anti-Immigration Policies.” She is spearheading a working group to reverse the immigrant HPV vaccine requirement and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Med Page Today* on the issue. Priscilla also met with members of the Obama-Biden transition team to share recommendations for advancing immigrant women’s rights, expanding women’s health care and addressing Asian American issues, and is thrilled that she had the opportunity to attend President Obama’s historic bill signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

- **Jennifer Hunter (2004-05, U.S.)**, is in Washington, DC working for the union-side labor law firm of Bredhoff & Kaiser.

- **Margaret Johnson (1995-96, U.S.)**, Assistant Professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law, wrote that her law school held its Second Annual Feminist Legal Theory and Feminisms Conference on March 5-6, 2009, with keynote speaker Dr. Maya Angelou. She also noted that “We are very pleased to have **Joanna Grossman (1995-96, U.S.)** speaking at the conference.”



LAWA Alum Regina Mutyaba speaking at the conference.”

**Algresia Akwi-Ogojo (1994-95, Uganda)**  
Project Coordinator, East African Legislative Assembly

Algresia writes: "Attached is a brief update about what I am engaged in at the moment. I must mention that Hon. **Dora Kanabahita Byamukama (1995-96)**, a LAWVA alumni from Uganda, is one of the 52 Members of the East African Legislative Assembly." *Below are highlights of her work coordinating a project to strengthen the EALA:*

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is the independent legislative arm of the East African Community (EAC). The later was established on 30 November 1999, and currently comprises Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The EAC aims at widening and deepening cooperation among the Partner States in, among others, political, economic and social fields for their mutual benefits... Besides co-operation, the EAC is also intended to help address the challenges to development faced by the peoples of the region in the context of globalization and international competition. The vision of the Community is to improve East African's standard of living through ever greater regional social, economic and political integration... The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) approved a grant of US\$1,500,000 over four years in support of the project for the strengthening of the EALA... At the end of the project, it is expected that the capacities of EALA Members of Parliament (MPs) will be enhanced to execute effectively and efficiently their mandate under the EAC Treaty: law-making, oversight, and representation. Additionally, such enhanced capacities will enable the EALA to play a leading role in promoting broader issues of good governance and democratization, as well as accelerate the pace of East African regional integration. Moreover, fostering networks between MPs and professional staff members will promote and institutionalize a new culture of sharing information, knowledge, and experience with other parliaments in the region and abroad.

- **Jamesina King (2002-03, Sierra Leone)**, who is the Chair of the Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission, has been working with **Aziza Ahmed (2007-09, U.S.)** a fellow with the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, and **Tzili Mor (2006-07, U.S.)**, Acting Director of the Georgetown International Women's Human Rights Clinic, to reform a law on HIV/AIDS in Sierra Leone criminalizing HIV-positive pregnant women. Jamesina has also assisted **Chiseche Mibenge**, a lawyer from Zambia and scholar with the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights at Utrecht University, with her dissertation research on gender-based violence and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Sierra Leone. Chiseche wrote: "I am very much aware of the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship and am an admirer of the initiative of the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellowship program. During my field visit to Sierra Leone, I was greatly assisted by Jamesina King, a leading human rights expert and as I'm sure you know, an alumni of the LAWVA program. If you are not already aware, the program is extremely well advertised. This summer friends in Uganda, The Netherlands and Indonesia forwarded the call for applications to me -- and I was happy to circulate it throughout my network of African women activists."



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- **Esther Kisaakye (1993-94, Uganda)** defended her SJD dissertation at American University Washington College of Law in January 2009, which current LAWVA Fellow **Janet Maina (2008-09, Kenya)** attended.
- **Hope Lewis (1986-87, U.S.)** is a Professor of International Law at Northeastern University School of Law. Lately she has been a regular contributor to the feminist law professor's blog site [IntLawGrrls.com](http://IntLawGrrls.com). View her posts on the 2008 presidential campaign, human rights and the global economy, and race/gender and human rights at <http://int-lawgrrls.blogspot.com/search/label/HL>. Hope spent the Fall of 2008 as a Sheila Biddle Ford Resident Fellow at Harvard's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research. She would love to hear from "fellow 1986-87 fellows"!
- **Jane Magigita (2000-01, Tanzania)** has launched her own non-profit organization and is finalizing a Swahili legal advocacy manual focusing on the new laws strengthening women's rights.
- **Jenny Marston (2004-05, U.S.)** writes, "On August 29, 2008, I joined Local 1245 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers as its staff attorney. The labor union is headquartered in the San Francisco bay area, and it primarily represents workers employed at utility companies in Central and Northern California and Northern Nevada. Prior to joining Local 1245, I spent the three years after my WLPPFP fellowship practicing labor (union-side) law with Goldberg, Mechanic, Stewart & Gibson in Portland, Oregon, and Leonard Carder, LLP in Oakland, California. I enjoyed my three years working with law firms (and learned a lot!), but I am really enjoying being in-house counsel and working directly with labor union representatives and members on various workplace issues. On the personal side, I got engaged this month!"



WLPPFP Alum Potluck Dinner



WLPPFP Alum  
Potluck Dinner



- **Joan Meier (1985-86, U.S.)**, is a Professor of Clinical Law and Director of the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV-LEAP) at George Washington University Law School. DV-LEAP co-counseled an amicus brief in *U.S. v. Hayes*, concerning the federal “gun ban” that prevents individuals convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor from possessing guns. The WLPPFP Fellows observed the oral arguments at the Supreme Court in November 2008, and the Court issued a favorable ruling on this case in February 2009.
- **Jodi Micheal (1996-97, U.S.)** is the Director of Foundation Relations with the National Women’s Law Center.
- **Salma Maoulidi (1994-95, Tanzania)** is working at the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers for the fall semester of 2008 and hopes to complete two papers from her recent research. She also noted that “Sahiba, the women’s network I founded, just celebrated her 10 years of activism. We marked it with a learning and affirming session in Dar es Salaam.”
- **Jill Morrison (1998-99, U.S.)** was honored by the National Women’s Law Center for ten years of outstanding work since the start of her fellowship with NWLC.
- **Gloria Ofori-Boadu (1995-96, Ghana)** has been honored with a national award for her work in women’s human rights in Ghana



WLPPFP Alum Potluck Dinner

**Belquis Ahmadi (2002-03, Afghanistan)** sent this update about her work spearheading a Women’s Rights Access to Justice Campaign in Afghanistan:

I have been working with USAID-Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP) since November 2006 as a senior human rights advisor. I have also been heading the Women’s Rights under Islam Program. The aim of ARoLP’s Women’s Rights under Islam program is to enable Afghan women and men to understand and think critically about the customs, traditions and practices that are discriminatory toward women but are justified by using narrow and repressive interpretations of Islamic rules and norms.

Since its conception, ARoLP’s Women’s Rights under Islam program has conducted over 100 public discussions, seminars for graduate students of law, Sharia (Islamic Law) and journalism, and training for judges on issues related to women’s rights under Islam and Afghan culture and traditions.

I have designed and developed legal messages for national and provincial awareness raising campaigns to promote women’s rights and to highlight those aspects of customs and traditions that are contrary to women’s rights in Afghanistan. I have also designed a women’s access to justice campaign the aim of which is to raise awareness of women’s access the formal justice sector. The campaign is designed to reach women with little to no financial means who do not know or understand the law, have little knowledge of their rights under the Constitution of Afghanistan, and do not know where to go for legal assistance.

Prior to joining USAID’s ARoLP, I was the Field Coordinator for ADB’s (Asian Development Bank) Legal Empowerment and Women’s Access to Justice covering Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan. I have also worked as a human rights and political advisor for Afghanistan’s 2004 Presidential and 2005 Parliamentary elections. In 2004 I was the civil society coordinator and advisor for the Iraqi out of country elections.

- **Lynn Paltrow (1984-85, U.S.)**, Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women, gave the keynote address at the Cardozo Journal of Law & Gender 2009 Symposium entitled “Legal Developments and Challenges in Reproductive Justice.”
- **Ntibidi Rampete (2002-03, South Africa)** writes “I am currently employed as the deputy director in the Gender Directorate of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in Pretoria. The department has established a Women Lawyers Association and one of my projects with the association is to assist women lawyers to start writing and publishing their papers in accredited law journals and later to establish our own journal.”
- **Rachel Rebouché (2006-07, U.S.)** is working as an Associate Director of the Adolescent Health Program at the National Partnership for Women and Families. She recently participated in a panel discussion of Young Women’s Access to Reproductive Health at the Cardozo Journal of Law & Gender 2009 Symposium entitled “Legal Developments and Challenges in Reproductive Justice.”
- **Lourdes Rivera (1990-91, U.S.)** continues to serve as a Program Officer with the Ford Foundation’s Sexuality and Reproductive Health Program.



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- **Naomi Schoenbaum (2006-07, U.S.)** is a litigation associate at Sidley Austin LLP in Washington, D.C. Recently, a CERCLA Superfund matter in which she was involved was argued before the Supreme Court. She is also working on international law issues representing a foreign sovereign in an antitrust matter and is actively briefing a number of issues in federal court representing a large energy company. In addition, she has an active *pro bono* docket. Next month, she will represent tenants in a trial in D.C. Superior Court on an action for eviction. She is also representing the survivors of veterans in two cases before the Federal Circuit addressing the availability of attorney's fees in veterans benefits cases after the veteran passes away.
- **Jacqueline Scott (1994-95, U.S.)** currently serves as Co-Director for the National Center for Sustainable Health Outreach, a part of the Harrison Institute for Public Law at the Georgetown University Law Center. She is also a Senior Fellow and Adjunct Professor at the Law Center where she teaches Health Law and Policy. She concentrates her work in the policy and legislative areas of public health law and policy, bio-security, children and family law, race and gender equity. Her research and programmatic work in the area of bio-security focuses on the needs of vulnerable populations and communities
- **Naomi Stern (2003-04, U.S.)**, continues her work as Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Budget.
- **Marya Torrez (2006-07, U.S.)** is working as an Associate Director of Adolescent Health Programs at the National Partnership for Women and Families.
- **Cynthia Totten (1999-00, U.S.)** writes, "My update is that my organization is now called Just Detention International (it was previously Stop Prisoner Rape); we recently opened a DC office, though I am still based in Los Angeles. I have transitioned into the role of Program Director for all of our international work, managing, along with our ED, programs in Mexico, South Africa and the Philippines. Attached is a photo of me conducting a training on sexual violence awareness for corrections officers working at Pollsmoor Prison near Cape Town, South Africa, in July 2008. Doing this work, I often reflect on how fortunate I was to be a WLPPFP fellow; I really feel like that experience laid the groundwork for me to move toward this opportunity."



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- **Maria Tungaraza (1996-97, Tanzania)**, has recently concluded her "work of advocating for women's rights in Somaliland. My work was appreciated and had established good working relations with government ministries on gender equality, equity, gender mainstreaming, gender budget initiatives and poverty reduction strategies. I managed to influence the policy and legal environment of women's rights for positive change coupled with publications of legal literacy materials with the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Women's Umbrella Organization. I also enjoyed good working relationship with the UN, parliament, media, private sector religious and traditional leaders and communities."
- **Lisa Wilson (2002-03, U.S.)** writes, "In December 2008, I took a new position with the Office of the Solicitor at the Dept. of Labor. I am very happy to be joining the government at this exciting time. I also got married in May 2008, to Tim McCormack, a fellow attorney and feminist, here in Washington."
- **Liza Zamd (2005-06, U.S.)** has been at CASA de Maryland since the end of her fellowship, litigating employment cases and working on immigration policy for low-income immigrants. On February 18, 2009, the *Washington Post* ran a front page story on about one of her clients, featuring both of them in a photograph on page A10. Liza wrote that she is thrilled that President Obama signed the Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, and is excited that the new fellows will be working in this new environment of change!



WLPPFP Alum  
Liza Zamd



WLPPFP Alum  
Potluck Dinner

TO ALL OF OUR ALUMS:  
Thank you very much for all of the updates,  
and please keep them coming –  
we love to celebrate your accomplishments with you!

TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS:  
Your contributions are crucial for WLPPFP's continued success.  
To make a donation, please visit our website at:  
[www.law.georgetown.edu/wlppfp](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/wlppfp)

Thank you for your generous gift!



Bernice sent a detailed description of her work on “Women’s Interventions Promote Peace during Ghana’s December 2008 Elections,” and the following are some highlights:

As part of the “We Know Politics” project implemented by a consortium of five organizations under the leaders of WiLDAF Ghana, below are some activities undertaken to promote peace during the elections.

At the end of November 2008, the Women’s Manifesto Coalition organised a press conference reminding the party that wins to adhere to international commitments on women’s representation in decision making positions; and also calling for peace during the elections. Ms. Bernice Sam of WiLDAF chaired the press conference.

On 23th December over 230 women converged at the Osu Presby Hall where they were briefed by Bernice Sam on the contents of the petition that women were presenting to the NDC and NPP parties. Three buses of women singing solidarity songs were escorted by a police dispatch rider first to the premises of the NDC party headquarters and then to the NPP’s party offices. The petition contained three critical demands. First, that the winning party should continue implementation of policies and programmes on gender equality and women’s empowerment; second, the appointment of women who had been elected into Parliament and those who had contested and lost into decision making positions; and third, the need for peace during the run-off elections.

At the NDC office, 3 leaders of the party including the Communications Director, the Assistant to the Presidential Candidates and another official received the petition and responded to the concerns. They reiterated their commitment to appointing 40% of women into decision making positions but said they could not promise that the other women who had contested for parliamentary elections could be given any positions. They also promised to talk to the party supporters to desist from violence. At the NPP office, 8 members of the party including the General Secretary, the Campaign Director, 3 female ministers of the party and others welcomed the women and received the petition. They also responded by reiterating their intention to continue dialoguing with the women’s movement if they were elected into power. Though they committed to peace, they did not give an indication of the percentage of women that will be appointed into decision making positions. The presentation of the petition received a lot of media coverage on radio and television. Some of the women were interviewed.

Based on the tension in the country, the team working on this project decided a banners campaign would not get the message of peace to all parts of the country. Therefore we decided to use radio and television advertisements to reach more people in addition to a few banners. The radio advertisement in Akan calling for peace was aired on Peace FM that has the widest coverage in the country. There were also adverts in English on Ghana Television. Radio discussions on peace were done by members of the coalition in [other regions].

A day before the 28th December run-off election, things were so bad. There were reports of violence in areas where the NDC and NPP had strongholds... WiLDAF issued a press release on what a possible conflict could do to women and children. We called on party supporters to eschew violence.

[In light of several incidents heightening tensions,] partners of this project held a press conference. Amongst other things we called on the parties to allow the Electoral Commission to carry out its constitutional mandate of announcing the results... because any delays in declaring a winner will be the catalyst that will plunge the nation into conflict. This press conference was widely covered on prime time news throughout the day. On 2nd January, the Electoral Commissioner announced the results with the NDC party winning. The NPP conceded defeat. Literally everything in the country returned to normal after that.

Though we had requested slots on a popular television programme to talk about peace, we got the opportunity after the elections. During the week of 12th January, partners of the project discussed the reduction in number of female members of parliament from 25 to 20; and the need for the present government of the NDC to appoint 40% of women into decision making positions as promised during the elections... Ms. Akua Sena Dansoa, an elected female MP joined us on the Ewe programme to talk about the work of female MPs.

Between 3rd and 7th January when the new parliament had to be inaugurated, a list of persons who could be elected as Speaker of Parliament was released. This included a female ex-justice of the Supreme Court. The ruling NDC government called Ms. Bernice Sam on 6th January informing her that the party was going to put forward the name of Justice Joyce Bamford-Addo as Speaker, so we should lobby for all parliamentarians, especially the now-opposition NPP, to endorse her nomination. This confidence in us by the NDC demonstrates that our advocacy and engagement with them has paid off. We called the Judicial Service for her resume. We issued a press statement immediately outlining her experiences and competence to be a speaker. We gave a number of interviews on 4 radio stations calling members of parliament to support her nomination. By 9.30 a.m. on 7th January 2009, Justice Joyce Adeline Bamford-Addo was elected unopposed as the first female Speaker of Parliament. Justice Bamford-Addo had served on the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Following her election as speaker, we were asked to talk about what her election as speaker will do for Ghanaian women. We were on 4 TV stations and over 10 radio stations talking about her and what our expectations of her will be.

We wrote to all 20 elected female members of parliament to acknowledge their commitment and hard work during the campaign period and also to congratulate them on their election. We further outlined some collaborative work that we would want to carry out to strengthen their work in Parliament. Four of the 20 female MPs called WiLDAF to acknowledge receipt of the letter. Hon. Esther Obeng Dapaah requested that we get some of the MPs to be part of our media interactions, hence Ms. Sena Dansoa on the Adult Education TV programme.

The campaign for more women to be elected or appointed into political office paid off when the President Mills nominated 15 ministers out of which 6 were women. Even before the official list was out, Joy FM called to say that was what was coming out and wanted our views on it. There was a flurry of media engagements – television, radio, being interviewed by newspapers – which preoccupied us during the week of 19th January 2009. We called 3 of these 6 women for information on their backgrounds to support our media engagements, calling on all to support their nominations. We also cautioned that the first 6 women on the first list of ministers were not enough. There were a lot more positions coming up at the national, regional and district levels, and we were still expecting the President to have more females on his list.

On 11th January 2009, we had a meeting with development partners where we presented 3 key priorities that women would want to see the new government address. We presented these to the development partners in order that when they meet with new government they could mention these 3 concerns. These concerns were implementation of the Domestic Violence Act that was passed in 2007, appointment of 40% women into political positions, and a call on the government to allocate specific budgets for women’s empowerment activities.

One of the activities we had planned to carry out following our petition was to have a peaceful march on the streets of the capital city as a reminder of the ‘pact’ made with women that there will be 40% representation of women in political positions. However with the election of a speaker and nomination of 6 women as ministers, project partners decided to use the media as a means of getting our message across rather than a public march. We also wrote to the office of the President to have a meeting with him to re-emphasize this commitment of 40% and also to present to him a list of priorities that can advance women’s rights in Ghana which his administration should take seriously. We received a response to meet with the President on Tuesday, February 3rd. A delegation of 12 women and men met his Excellency, President Atta-Mills. We presented a 4-page statement on concerns of women which should be his priorities. He committed to working hard with his ministers to address the concerns we presented. We gave him copies of the statement, a Directory of Women and the Women’s Manifesto of Ghana.