

OUTREACH



The Newsletter of the *Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship Program*

Fall/Winter 2006

Welcome 2006-2007 Women's Law Advocates !!!

We are pleased to introduce the new class of Women's Law and Public Policy Fellows and Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows – all incredibly talented and passionate women's rights advocates.

Diana Aguilar (U.S. Fellow) Prior to attending Wisconsin Law School, Diana worked as a Health Benefits Advocate for a public interest law firm helping families access private and public health care services. As a law student, Diana was Editor-in-Chief of the *Wisconsin Women's Law Journal*, and was involved in the Latino Law Students Association and the Public Interest Law Foundation. She received the Abe Sigman Award for her scholarship, character, and service, and the Katherine Held Award for her contribution to the *Women's Law Journal*. Her comment entitled "Using SCHIP to Provide Prenatal Care to Undocumented Women in Wisconsin: The Benefits, Risks, and Shortcomings," was published in 2005. Diana has interned at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and at the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project. She received her B.A. in Journalism from Wisconsin-Madison. Her Fellowship with **Planned Parenthood Federation of America** is generously supported by the **Huber Foundation** and the **Robert Sterling Clark Foundation**.

Ann Cammett (U.S. Fellow) Ann graduated from the School of Visual Arts with honors and launched a distinguished career as an art director. She later received her J.D. from CUNY and was named the Public Interest Law Association's Student of the Year. Ann represented battered women in prison through the Battered Women's Rights Clinic, and was a Thurgood Marshall Fellow with ABCNY's Civil Rights Committee, concentrating on the class and race dimensions of child removals to foster care. After law school, Ann was Skadden Fellow at the Legal Aid Society of New York, representing formerly incarcerated women in civil cases and pro-

viding reentry services to those facing civil sanctions arising from criminal convictions. Ann also served as a policy analyst at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, providing community education and designing model programs to achieve more positive reentry outcomes for returning prisoners and their communities. She is currently a Board Member at the Center for Constitutional Rights. Ann has joined WLPPFP as a **Teaching Fellow with Georgetown's Domestic Violence Clinic**, and her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Georgetown University Law Center**.

Linda Dumba (LAWA Fellow - Namibia) Linda wrote her LL.B. thesis at the University of Namibia on "Policies and Legislation on HIV/AIDS in Namibia: A Human Rights Based Approach?" She earned a Post Graduate Diploma in Law, and researched the impact of traditional inheritance laws on women for the Ministry of Justice and orphans in rural communities for UNICEF. Upon graduation, Linda joined the Legal Assistance Centre, Namibia's only public interest firm, and was admitted to the High Court. Through LAC's Women and Property Rights Project, Linda represented widows and child victims of "property grabbing" (disinheritance). She led a forum on women's rights under customary law in Zambia, resulting in a report on that issue in Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. Linda helped enact a statute replacing discriminatory provisions of the law governing black decedents' estates in Namibia, and participated in a conference in South Africa on Strategic Litigation for Women's Rights. Through her church, Linda led talks on women's property rights and HIV/AIDS. As a LAWA Fellow, Linda is earning an **LL.M. at Georgetown focusing on international women's human rights**. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **U.S. Agency for International Development** and the **Georgetown University Law Center**.

Priscilla Huang (U.S. Fellow) At American University's Washington College of Law, Priscilla was a Public Interest/Public Service Scholar, served as a student attorney with the Women and the Law Clinic, taught a Constitutional Law class at a local high school, and co-founded the WCL Law Students for Choice. She received an Equal Justice Foundation Fellowship and the first annual WCL Women's Law Association Scholarship to work on gender-based employment discrimination cases at Equal Rights Advocates in San Francisco in 2005. The prior summer, she worked on increasing access to Medicaid-funded

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Fellows on the Steps of the U.S. Supreme Court

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reproductive health care. Before law school, Priscilla served as an AmeriCorps member with Public Allies and coordinated after-school programs at an emergency homeless shelter for women and children. She also worked as a child case manager at Building Futures with Women and Children, a transitional housing program for



Fellows on Retreat in West Virginia

Tzili Mor (U.S. Fellow) A Georgetown law graduate, Tzili recently worked in London with Amnesty International focusing on the risks faced by women human rights defenders working in closed societies or on controversial issues. Previously, she was in Kyrgyzstan as a Human Rights Specialist for the American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Initiative (CEELI), promoting the use of international human and women's rights standards in domestic practice. She collaborated with non-governmental organizations to author an alternative report to the CEDAW Committee (which oversees implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), the bulk of which was adopted by the Committee. At the Center for Reproductive Rights, Tzili oversaw fact finding missions documenting the impact of U.S. foreign policy on health, speech and association rights in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Peru. She also helped launch the Center's work on HIV/AIDS around the first UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on that issue. Tzili is currently a **Teaching Fellow with the International Women's Human Rights Clinic at Georgetown**, and her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Georgetown University Law Center**.

Meghan Rhoad (U.S. Fellow) Meghan graduated *cum laude* from the Georgetown University Law Center with a Certificate in Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies. She received the Student Advocacy Award presented by the International Academy of Trial Lawyers for excellence in the art of advocacy. Equal Justice Foundation Fellowships enabled Meghan to spend her summers with the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). At CRR, Meghan researched strategies for combating violence against women, international jurisprudence on access to reproductive health services, and the right to emergency contraception for rape survivors under the European Convention on Human Rights. During her summer in UNHCR's Cairo office, Meghan developed a complaint mechanism to allow refugees and asylum-seekers confidentially to register allegations of abuse by UNHCR staff and partners. Prior to law school, Meghan worked with an alliance dedicated to the implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development's Program of Action. Meghan graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University with an A.B. in Government. Her Fellowship with

the **National Women's Law Center** is generously supported by the **Charles H. Revson Foundation**.

Naomi Schoenbaum (U.S. Fellow) Naomi comes to WLPPFP from a clerkship with the Honorable Karen Nelson Moore, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Naomi graduated from Harvard Law, where she served as co-editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Gender*. She co-founded the HLS Gender Justice Alliance, which raises awareness about gender issues among students and faculty. Naomi was also a member of the Working Group on Student Experiences, a student-led group that conducted a study of gender at Harvard Law. She spent her summers working at the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (now called Legal Momentum) and Bernabei & Katz, a civil rights firm focused primarily on employment discrimination. Naomi is a *cum laude* graduate of Yale University, where she received a B.A. in Ethics, Politics, and Economics and served as editor-in-chief of *Aurora*, a feminist magazine. She spent a year as a paralegal working on employment law issues prior to law school. Naomi has published an article in the Winter 2006 issue of the *Harvard Journal of Law & Gender* entitled "Employees Behind the Veil: The Failure of Ignorance as Fairness in Employment Law and the Need for an 'Information-Shifting' Model." Her Fellowship with the **National Partnership for Women and Families** is generously supported by the **Charles H. Revson Foundation**.

Amelia Vukeya (LAWA Fellow – South Africa) Amelia received the first Sir Sydney Kentridge Scholarship at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. During law school, she participated in the Street Law Democracy for All Program, providing human rights trainings on rape, domestic violence, and other issues for schools and community groups. Amelia served as a Law Clerk in the South African Constitutional Court for Justice Kate O'Regan, one of the two women on the highest court in the country. She then completed her Articles of Clerkship with Deneys Reitz Attorneys, a well-established law firm. Amelia later joined the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC), and was admitted as Attorney of the High Court of South Africa. Amelia has edited the *South African Law Journal* and worked on the publication entitled *Constitutional Law of South Africa*. She also conducted a foreign-law survey of institutions protecting judicial independence called "The Superior Courts Bill in Comparative Perspective," which was submitted to the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development. As a church youth coordinator, Amelia organizes discussions on issues such as HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug abuse, family violence and child abuse. As a LAWA Fellow, Amelia is earning an **LL.M. at Georgetown focusing on international women's human rights**. Her Fellowship is generously supported by the **Overbrook Foundation** and the **Georgetown University Law Center**.



Amelia and her Soccer Teammates

Developing Future Women's Rights Leaders

Through professional development trainings, regular seminars on hot-topics in women's legal issues, and numerous networking opportunities, WLPPFP helps our Fellows to become the future leaders of the women's rights movement. Examples of their activities this fall include:

- Our **WLPPFP Orientation Alumnae Panel** featuring Cassandra Butts, Vice President for Domestic Policy with the Center for American Progress; Sarah Craven, Chief of the Washington Office of the United Nations Population Fund; Justine Andronici, attorney with the civil rights firm Katz, Marshall & Banks; and Elizabeth Liu, Senior Teaching Fellow with the Georgetown Domestic Violence Clinic.



Justice Ginsburg and the 2005-2006 Fellows

- A **Welcome Dinner** at the home of Marcia Greenbeger, Founder and President of the National Women's Law Center.
- Reserved seating to attend three **U.S. Supreme Court hearings** this fall: *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* addressing gender-based employment discrimination, and *Gonzalez v. PFFA* and *Gonzalez v. Carhart* about women's reproductive health.
- Our **Annual Retreat** at Lost River State Park in West Virginia for a weekend in September, where the new Fellows learned more about each others' backgrounds, countries (U.S., Namibia, South Africa), experiences, placement organizations and aspirations.
- A seminar on **"Legislative Advocacy Skills"** with Shannon Good, Legislative Director for Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Portia Wu, Legislative Counsel with the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee; and Professor Heather Sawyer, Assistant Director of the Georgetown Federal Legislation Clinic.
- A seminar on **"Violence Against Women"** with Juley Fulcher, WLPPFP alumna and Director of Break the Cycle's Washington, D.C. Office; Janese Bechtol, WLPPFP alumna and Chief of the Domestic Violence Section of the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia; Naomi Stern, WLPPFP alumna and Domestic Violence Attorney with the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty; and Seema Jalan, Senior Policy Manager with Women's Edge Coalition.
- A seminar on **"Trafficking and Women Refugees/Asylum Seekers"** with Ann Jordan, Program Director with Global Rights; Jean Bruggeman, WLPPFP alumna and Survivor Services Department Director with Boat People SOS; and Colleen Renk Zengotabengoa, Managing Attorney with the Tahirih Justice Center.
- A seminar on **"Women's Rights in Action"** with the Fellows' supervising attorneys Joan Entmacher, Vice President of the National Women's Law Center; Professor Laurie Kohn, WLPPFP alumna and Co-Director of the Georgetown Domestic Violence Clinic, and Professor Susan Deller Ross, Director of the Georgetown International Women's Human Rights Clinic.

- A seminar on **"Women's Rights in Action"** with the Fellows' supervising attorneys Jocelyn Frye, General Counsel with the National Partnership for Women and Families; Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum; and Helene Krasnoff, staff attorney with Planned Parenthood Federation of America.
- A seminar on **"Blazing a Career Path in Women's Rights and Social Justice"** with Cindy Hounsell, WLPPFP alumna and Executive Director of Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement; Deborah Fleischaker, Director of the ABA Death Penalty Moratorium Project; Barbara Moulton, Assistant Dean of Georgetown's Office of Public Interest and Community Affairs; and Sandra Butreau, Georgetown's Director of International Professional Development.

And to highlight some of the events in which our 2005-2006 Fellows participated over the summer toward the end of their Fellowship year...

- **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg** invited the Fellows to have tea with her at the U.S. Supreme Court, where they had the opportunity to ask about her extensive history shaping women's rights in the United States
- **Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton** invited the Fellows to join her for lunch in the Members Dining Room at the U.S. Capitol Building, where they learned about her leadership in Congress on many social justice and women's rights issues.
- The senior LAW A Fellows gave a presentation on **Women's Human Rights in Southern Africa** to a standing-room-only audience at the Georgetown University Law Center.
- During an interactive workshop, the Fellows learned about **"Principles of Fundraising"** with Regan Ralph, WLPPFP alumna and Executive Director of the Fund for Global Human Rights, Shira Saperstein, Deputy Director of The Moriah Fund, and Adwoa Agyeman, Senior Program Assistant with The Moriah Fund.
- The Fellows had a training on **"Media and Communication Skills"** with Margot Friedman, President of Dupont Circle Communications.



Congresswoman Norton with the 2005-2006 Fellows

WLPPFP Honors Cokie Roberts at the Annual Luncheon

The Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program (WLPPFP) held its annual luncheon at the Georgetown University Law Center to welcome the 2006-2007 Fellows. WLPPFP honored its special guest and keynote speaker, Cokie Roberts, who is the nationally recognized senior news analyst and political commentator for National Public Radio and ABC News. Executive Director Julia Ernst opened the luncheon, noting that "once again, this year's Fellowship class consists of some of the brightest and most passionate women's rights activists in the world, coming from Namibia, South Africa and across the United States."

Georgetown's Dean Alex Aleinikoff provided a warm welcome to the honoree Cokie Roberts, the 2006-2007 Women's Law Fellows, and the other attendees, emphasizing:

This program is unique at this law school, and I think it's unique around the world in terms of what it brings together with both the LAWA Program and the Public Policy Fellowships... This issue is crucial to the law school – human rights in general, women's human rights in particular. We are proud of the people who have come and studied with us, our LAWA graduates, for the work they have done... When I go out on the road and I talk about this law school, I frequently talk about the LAWA Program as one of the places that we think we have made the biggest difference in the world... Thank you to the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program for all you do for Georgetown and all you do, really, for the world.

WLPPFP Board Member Wendy Williams then warmly introduced the incoming Fellowship class, which includes six U.S. Fellows and two LAWA Fellows, highlighting their accomplishments in promoting women's rights across the U.S. and Africa (see their biographies on pp. 1-2). Board Member Judy Lichtman introduced the luncheon's honoree and keynote speaker, Mary Martha Corinne Morrison Claiborne Boggs Roberts, better known as Cokie Roberts, noting:

Cokie is a journalist and an author best known for her insightful and pointed news coverage and commentary at NPR and at ABC News where she is a political commentator serving as an on-air analyst for the network... Cokie is the daughter of Lindy Claiborne Boggs and Hale Boggs, who both served in the U.S. House of Representatives. Her mother was a leader in the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues for many years, and the reading room for the women Members of Congress in the U.S. Capitol is named in her honor – a wonderful room that those of us who are advocates and have spent a fair amount of time in Congress have used and have loved. Cokie is a trailblazer in the field of journalism and especially in your vitally important coverage of Congress. You've been a true role model and inspiration for millions

of women across America and throughout the world. We are so pleased to be able to honor you today as we welcome our new class of Women's Law and Public Policy Fellows, whom I am sure all aspire to have both a career and a personal life that are as rich and significant and meaningful as yours. We would also like to send our best regards to your wonderful mother Lindy, and we are sorry that she was unable to join us here today.

Ms. Boggs was also honored at the luncheon. Cokie then riveted and delighted the audience with stories from her personal and professional life:

It is so great to be here in this room with all of these fabulous women – and a few brave men. My mother [was widowed in 1972]... and had the experience, that so many women at the time did, that not only did she lose her spouse, but she also lost her credit... So when she came to Congress... [and the majority leader asked her what committee assignment she wanted], she said "I want Banking." And as she tells the story, they were writing up an equal credit bill that outlawed discrimination on the basis of race, national origin or creed. She went into the back room and wrote in longhand "or sex or marital status," Xeroxed it and passed it around to her colleagues, and said in her oh-so-sweet-southern way, "I'm sure this was just an omission on your part." And that's how we got equal credit, ladies... What she understood, and what all of you understand, and what is so important to keep understanding, is that it's so important to have the law on your side.



Honoree Cokie Roberts

WLPPFP extends our sincerest thanks to our Annual Luncheon Sponsors and Major Benefactors!!!

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When I was writing Founding Mothers, I went back to read Abigail Adams' letter to John... before he was writing the Declaration of Independence... She wrote to him saying "remember the ladies." She was talking about was the law, because of course the law in the 18th century was that married women were not allowed to own any property. The jewelry on their bodies belonged to their husbands. THEY belonged to their husbands. And so she, of course, had witnessed husbands abusing wives, as you do today, and wanted the law to be changed. So she understood then that the law needed to be on your side. And it took a long time. Finally, over the centuries, people did start to change it...

When I was writing a piece on the 40th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill... what happened is that Howard Smith, the chairman of the Rules Committee who was an ardent segregationist, inserted the words "or sex" into Title VII, the employment section of the bill, as a killer amendment. Because he thought that although his colleagues might be crazy enough to vote against discrimination on the basis of race, but they certainly weren't crazy enough to vote against discrimination on the basis of sex, so he thought that would kill the bill. But the bill was not going to be killed... And it changed all of your lives. My life—every woman in this room's life—was changed by those two words being in the bill. When I graduated from college in 1964,



Fellows Priscilla, Amelia and Naomi

men said to me without any hesitation, "We don't hire women to do that." All the help wanted ads were male and female, white and colored, and that's the way the world was. And men would say "Women certainly can't deliver the news, your voices aren't authoritative enough" – and they'd say that with their hand on your knee. It was the fact of the law that made all the difference, and brave women who sued under the law.

What I think is so wonderful, and what you see continuing today in the Congress, is women coming together to make that difference. We have lots of evidence of it from the state legislatures... We are able to chart women coming together across party lines to enact legislation that is of benefit to women and children and families, particularly in terms of legal rights, property rights, economic rights, and health. Even in this unbelievably partisan atmosphere that we have going on in Washington, this is still true... The women of the Senate have one of the few bipartisan events that take place, which is that they have dinner together on a regular basis. Now, I think they mainly do it to occasionally be in a testosterone-free-zone, but they also do it to talk about legislation that they can work on where they can come together, where the ideology gets put aside and the practical aspects of women's lives and women's ability to get things done can come together. And we need more of them. And we need women on the outside helping them... Programs like this make a difference throughout the world and in this country... It changes the world – completely changes the world – to have it in the law and to have the law tested and enforced. So I am thrilled that you have this program – that these very impressive people, my goodness, are in this program. And I encourage you to be part of all of these institutions that really do make a difference, the institutions of teaching the law, of practicing the law and bringing it into the courtroom, of lobbying to make the laws better laws, and most important, please, some of you wonderful young women – run for office, and become the people who make the laws.

Nearly 140 people attended the event, including WLPPFP alumnae; public interest lawyers and leaders of women's rights organizations; professionals with the State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Attorney's Office, Government Accountability Office, Federal Reserve Board, World Bank, Embassies of Afghanistan and South Africa, and Congress; Georgetown students, faculty and staff; attorneys from over a dozen law firms, journalists, and many other WLPPFP supporters.

WLPPFP was founded in 1983 to provide opportunities for recent law graduates to advance women's rights by working for a year with leading public interest organizations in Washington, D.C. Ten years later, WLPPFP added the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Program to train women's rights lawyers from Africa to use international human rights mechanisms to advance their work upon returning home. The LAWA Fellows earn their LL.M. degrees at Georgetown focusing on international women's human rights and then participate in a several-month work experience before going back to Africa. In addition, all of the Fellows participate in numerous professional development opportunities. For example, the day prior to the Annual Luncheon, they attended the oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court in the Ledbetter v. Goodyear employment discrimination case, and they had already attended two other Supreme Court hearings impacting women's rights. Each year the Fellows have tea at the Supreme Court with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and have lunch in the U.S. Capitol Building with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. Additionally, the Fellows participate in a bi-weekly seminar throughout the Fellowship year, discussing hot-topics with leading women's rights attorneys and building their skills through leadership development training programs.

The new Fellows have joined the extended WLPPFP family consisting of over 200 alums – over 165 Fellows from across the United States and nearly 50 LAWA Fellows from Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and one from Afghanistan. The alumnae of the program have gone on to achieve incredible advancements in women's rights, and have attained positions such as judges and state supreme court justices, parliamentarians, professors and deans of law schools, founders and executive directors of non-profit organizations, heads of governmental agencies, public interest lawyers and partners in law firms, and other influential professions, where they promote women's rights and social justice throughout their careers.

The alumnae continue to be actively involved in the Fellowship Program, as mentors and role models for the current Fellows and as an extensive resource network to each other. Many of the alums attended the luncheon to help welcome the new Women's Law Fellows.



Cokie Roberts and Ambassador Donald Norland

2005-2006 Women's Law Fellows — *Where are they now?*

Best wishes to our 2005-2006 Fellows as they start the next phase of their careers advancing women's rights and social justice!

- **Mushahida Adhikari** launched the NAPAWF's anti-trafficking initiative this fall before returning to South Africa.
- **Beth Burkstrand-Reid** began teaching Family Law at American University's Washington College of Law.
- **Janel George** is working with the Children's Law Center, providing free legal services to at-risk children and families.
- **Terri Keeley** joined the National Women's Law Center to work on Title IX and gender discrimination in educational programs. She also published an article in *Clearinghouse Review* entitled "Landlord Sexual Assault and Rape of Tenants: Survey Findings and Advocacy Approaches," based on work that she did during her WLPPFP Fellowship with the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty.
- **Sindile Kubheka** is the Swaziland Skills Centre's, Executive Director developing non-traditional vocational programs for women.
- **Elizabeth Liu** entered her second year as the Georgetown University Law Center's Domestic Violence Clinical Teaching Fellow.
- **Christie Love** is working with Advocates for Children of New York to challenge discrimination in educational opportunities.
- **Bongekile Nxumalo** finished her work on women's, economic empowerment and HIV/AIDS in the World Bank's Africa Region.
- **Liza Zamd** is working with CASA de Maryland to assist Central American refugees fleeing war and civil strife in their countries.

Alum Accomplishments

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

- **Algresia Akwi-Ogojo ('94-'95, LAWA Uganda)** currently serves as an independent consultant in human rights, women's rights, gender and the law, development, HIV/AIDS and humanitarian emergencies in Kampala, Uganda.
- **Hadija Ally ('95-'96, LAWA Tanzania)** will be based in Hargeisa, Somaliland, to spearhead the protection cluster under the Cluster Leadership Approach for Internally Displaced Persons, a new initiative being piloted in five countries.
- **Jacqueline Asiimwe-Mwesige ('00-'01, LAWA Uganda)** has recently been engaged in a consultancy with the Gender Division of the African Union, developing their yearly presentation on how member states are implementing the Gender Declaration and suggesting best practices for future developments.
- **Belquis Ahmadi ('02-'03, LAWA Afghanistan)** is currently working with the Asia Foundation/Asian Development Bank on a project on legal empowerment and economic development for women and disadvantaged groups in Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan.
- **Dora Byamukama ('95-'96, LAWA Uganda)** was elected to represent Uganda as an Honorable Member of the East African Legislative Assembly, the regional branch of government which takes precedence over the national parliaments in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In the Honorable MP Byamukama's words, "This is another achievement for the WLPPFP; it is an opportunity for us to take the fight for women's rights to a regional level."
- **Virginia Davis ('03-'04, U.S.)** is working on issues of violence against Native women, reproductive health care, and other women's issues with the National Congress of American Indians.
- **Adrienne DerVartanian ('01-'02, U.S.)** has taken a position as a Staff Attorney/Policy Analyst with Farmworker Justice, a non-profit organization that seeks to empower migrant and seasonal farmworkers to improve their living and working conditions, immigration status, health, occupational safety, and access to justice.
- **Phumzile Dlamini ('03-'04, LAWA Swaziland)** has become a Program Manager at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) Africa Program, based in Pretoria, South Africa. Her work entails grant making and management of selected grant portfolios within the WKKF Africa Program.
- **Angela Dwamena-Aboagye ('94-'95, LAWA Ghana)** is currently studying for her Master of Arts in Theology and Missions at the Akrofi-Christaller Institute for Theology, Mission and Culture. Several months ago she was honored by being represented in a wall exhibition under the theme, "Women Empowering Women," which opened in Accra at the DuBois Center.
- A doctoral student in the Harvard Graduate School of Education, **Liliana Garces ('98-'99, U.S.)** has also been working with The Civil Rights Project on the voluntary school integration cases that were argued before the U.S. Supreme Court this term.
- **Holly Fechner ('91-'92, U.S.)** helped organize the premier of a special new documentary film about work/family issues called *The Motherhood Manifesto*, which was hosted by Senator Clinton, Senator Dodd, Senator Kennedy, and Senator Obama. Holly serves as Chief Labor Counsel for the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee.
- **Tracy Higgins ('91-'92, U.S.)** has been appointed to a new International Human Rights Chair at the Fordham Law School.
- **Angela Hooton ('03-'04, U.S.)** has become the new Vice President for National Programs with the Institute for Reproductive Health Access at NARAL Pro-Choice New York.
- Founder and Executive Director **Cynthia Hounsell ('89-'90, U.S.)** celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) in the fall of 2006.
- **Jennifer Joni ('03-'04, LAWA South Africa)** published an article called "Promoting the right to health care services for people



living with HIV/ AIDS in rural and peri-urban communities,” in *Righting Stigma: Exploring a Right’s-Based Approach to Addressing Stigma*, by the AIDS and Human Rights Research Unit at the University of Pretoria. Additionally, she plans to work with the Gender Division of the African Union to assist writing the Chairperson’s Status Report on the Gender Declaration of the African Union.



• **Sarah Lubega ('99-'00, LAWA Uganda)** recently participated in the Gender and Growth Assessment for Uganda, “A Gender Perspective on Legal and Administrative Barriers to Investment” (IFC-GEM, Foreign Investment Advisory Services and The World Bank).

• **Dr. Monica E. Magoke-Mhoja ('96-'97, LAWA Tanzania)** is an Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and is currently engaged in consultancy work in international human rights law, legal pluralism, and gender and development matters. She is also engaged as a part-time Rights Based Approaches Specialist with the South African Human Rights NGO Network – Tanzania Chapter (SAHRiNGON (T)) and is a contact person for UNIFEM in Tanzania. In 2006, she penned *Child-Widows Silenced and Unheard: Human Rights Sufferers in Tanzania*, (Dar es Salaam: Children Dignity Forum).

• **Regina Mutyaba ('93-'94, LAWA Uganda)** completed her term as the Acting Executive Director of The Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS which was founded by LAWA alumnae. In October she was involved in presenting arguments to the Constitutional Court regarding provisions discriminating against women in the Succession Act and in Penal Code sections dealing with adultery.

• As Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women, **Lynne Paltrow ('84-'85, U.S.)** has organized a National Summit to Ensure the Health and Humanity of Pregnant and Birthing Women.

• **Lourdes Rivera ('90-'91, U.S.)** has joined the Ford foundation in New York as a Program Officer for the Sexual Health and Reproductive Rights initiative in the Human Rights Unit.

• **Elise Roy ('03-'04, U.S.)** has joined **Debra Katz ('85-'86, U.S.)** and **Justine Andronici ('02-'03, U.S.)** at the civil rights law firm of Katz, Marshall & Banks.

• **Jana Singer ('84-'85, U.S.)** has joined the Editorial Board of *Perspectives Magazine* published by the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession. Jana is a professor teaching courses in family law and constitutional law at the University of Maryland Law School.

• **Naomi Stern ('03-'04, U.S.)** worked on a hearing addressing the Protection from Discriminatory Eviction for Victims of Domestic Violence Amendments Act before the District of Columbia Council Committee on Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

• **Christine Webber ('93-'94, U.S.)**, a partner with the civil rights law firm of Cohen, Milstein, Hausfeld & Toll, sent us the following report a few months ago on the Ledbetter v. Goodyear case. Our 2006-2007 Fellows observed the oral arguments in this case at the U.S. Supreme Court in November:

*This week I am filing an amicus brief in the Supreme Court on behalf of NELA [the National Employment Lawyers Association], the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and other groups in the case of Ledbetter v. Goodyear. **Teri Chaw**, a fellow from '85-86, is Executive Director of NELA. There is a separate amicus brief being filed on behalf of the National Women's Law Center, the National Partnership for Women & Families, and other groups, and that is being authored by **Deborah Brake**, a '90-91 fellow, and **Joanna Grossman**, a '95-96 fellow. The case involves a claim of pay discrimination by one of just a few women ever employed by Goodyear's Alabama tire plant as a supervisor. The Eleventh Circuit's ruling, which threw out a jury verdict in favor of the plaintiff, is at odds with prior Supreme Court cases on point, as well as every other circuit court in the country that has addressed this issue. In essence, the court ruled that the plaintiff could only challenge the small difference in pay caused by the last pay raise review, not the \$14,000 difference in pay that had built up over several years, and disregarded the evidence of intent to discriminate because the most direct evidence pre-dated the limitations period. Anyway, I thought it was neat to have a case with so many alums involved. Maybe this would be a case this new class of fellows would be able to see argued.*

Take care,

Christine

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!



Board Member Wendy Williams & Alumna Cynthia Hounsell

The Lasting Impact of the LAWA Program

Teri Champ, a third year law student from the University of Michigan, has spent this fall working with WLPPFP through an externship program. Her work has involved researching issues of women’s rights in the home countries of alumnae of the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Program. As part of this project, Teri has interviewed LAWA alumnae about their experiences with and perspectives on advancing women’s rights and has created biographies of the alumnae for our website— www.wlppfp.org/lawa/accm.htm. In addition, Teri has taken full advantage of all of the seminars, conferences and opportunities that the WLPPFP Program and Washington, D.C. have to offer. Teri’s research will culminate in two papers. One will explore evolving strategies for advancing women’s rights internationally, both legally and extra-legally. The other, written in collaboration with Julia Ernst, will examine the work of the LAWA alumnae concerning the connection between women’s property rights and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Any LAWA Fellows who would like to contribute their thoughts on legal feminism, women’s rights advocacy and development, or to share stories about their own experiences as women’s rights advocates, are welcome to contact Teri at her school email address: techamp@umich.edu.



Teri Champ



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