

OUTREACH

Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship Program
at Georgetown Law

2017 - 2018

FALL | WINTER



Legacy!

Fellowship Alumnae and Friends gathered to celebrate Christine Webber, US 1993-1994 who has endowed the Small, Webber, Spencer Litigation Fellowship.

Turn the page to learn more!

Our Collective Legacy

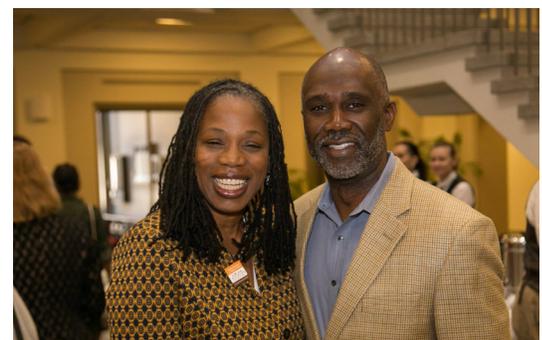
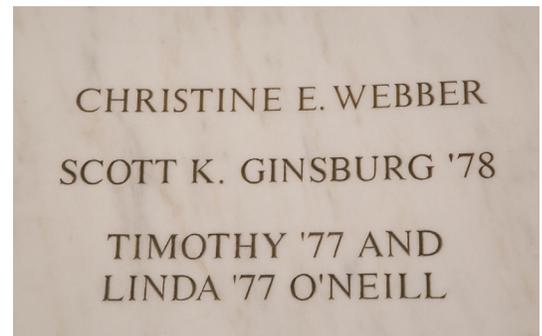
Jill C. Morrison
WLPPFP Director

On October 21st, Fellowship Alumnae and Friends gathered to celebrate Christine Webber (US 1993-1994), who has endowed the Small, Webber, Spencer Litigation Fellowship. The first fellow will be placed at the Washington Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights in 2018-2019, and will focus on employment discrimination. The name honors Amy Spencer and the late Lisa Small, who were also fellows with Christine.

Following brunch, we were treated to a keynote by Lynn Paltrow (US 1984-1985), the founder and Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women. Lynn spoke about how WLPPFP shaped her career, and how her placement nourished her desire to always push the boundaries of the law to ensure justice for all women. Providing additional inspiration at the wall dedication ceremony, Christine remarked that she was motivated to give by the example set by her grandmother.

My grandmother never had much extra money, but she would save a few cents here, a few cents there, and when she had something close to, but short of a dollar she'd start asking people (like her sisters or her older kids who were working at least part time), "I've got 85 cents, will you trade my 85 cents for a dollar bill so I can send it to ___" (whatever charity – always Catholic, often missionaries – had her most concerned that week). Then she'd slip the dollar bill into the envelope and send it off. No one would have imagined that my grandparents, raising six kids in a three bedroom house had any money to spare (seriously, they used to tell the kids that the candy bar was called a Three Musketeers because it was three servings, so one bar would be divided between three kids on Friday night when they visited the neighbor with the TV). But they always found a way to give something to people who had even less. And when someone who only has 85 cents to spare wants to give it to someone they consider less fortunate, then it's really hard to say no to their request for 15 cents.

Christine's generous gift represents what I hope will be only the first our endowed placements. We are now working with the National Health Law Program (NHLP) to endow a second fellowship in honor of the late Cassandra Q. Butts (US 1991-1992). I am confident that our Alumnae will come together to support this effort, and ensure that generations of women's rights advocates will continue to benefit from the Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship.



A WLPPFP is enshrined in marble at 600 New Jersey Avenue! Friends, Fellows and Alumnae gathered to celebrate. Cassandra Butts' sister Deidra Abbott and her husband Frank Abbott.

Meet Our 2017-2018 Women's Law Fellows

We are pleased to welcome our eleven Women's Law & Public Policy Fellows: five Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows and six US Law Fellows. Our LAWA Fellows pursue a Master of Law (LL.M.) degree at Georgetown with an emphasis on women's human rights, while our US Fellows work on gender equality issues at prominent organizations in Washington, DC. All of our Fellows participate together in bi-weekly seminars, trainings, and other events that foster professional development as lawyers committed to promoting gender equality and social justice.



Stella Amabilis served as a Senior Magistrate in Uganda for the past fourteen years before becoming a LAWA Fellow. In that capacity, she held meetings with

stake-holders in the criminal and civil justice systems, and wrote and delivered judgments. Stella also sensitized judicial officers on the rights of women through the Jurisprudence of Equality Project. Prior to that, she was the Acting Coordinator of the Public Defender Association of Uganda. She is a dedicated advocate on behalf of women, as seen from her participation in the Federation of Women Lawyers, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, and the National Association of Women Judges-Uganda. A 1997 LL.B. graduate from Makerere University, Stella also holds several post-graduate diplomas including those in the areas of Human Rights, Social Justice, and Legal Practice. Stella has authored several publications, including "The Role of JLOS Institutions in Promoting Women's Rights Against Gender Domestic Violence in Uganda."



LAWA Fellow Pela Boker-Wilson is from Liberia. Pela has made meaningful contributions to creating accountability for perpetrators of Sexual and Gender-Based

Violence through her work as the National Legal Advisor for the International Development Law Organization (Liberia Office). She previously spent two years at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Assistant Legal Counsel, where her duties included giving advice on international law, international agreements, protocols, and diplomacy. Prior to that, she was a Prosecuting Attorney at the Ministry of Justice, where she represented Liberia in criminal and civil matters. Her duties included witness preparation, trial preparation, and filing of legal briefs. After seeing the effects of the civil wars in Liberia, Pela developed an interest in women and children's rights during conflict, and the obligations that actors of war carry under international law. Pela received her LL.B. (First Place Honorary) from Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, The University of Liberia.



MiQuel Davies will work to advance reproductive rights at the National Women's Law Center. MiQuel is a 2017 graduate of William & Mary Law School,

where she was on the William & Mary Law Review and the Co-President of If/When/How. She also served as a Research Assistant for Professor Allison Orr Larsen exploring the role of amicus briefs in seminal Supreme Court cases. MiQuel has held internships at the National Women's Law Center, the National Abortion Federation, and NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia. MiQuel researched health and social policy in the office of Congressman Jim Matheson, and has worked in both Costa Rica and Ghana on projects related to health and development. MiQuel received her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Utah.



The Domestic Violence Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center is delighted to welcome Clinical Teaching Fellow **Carolin Guentert**.

Carolin is a 2014 graduate of New York University School of Law, where she was the Senior Symposium Editor of the *Journal of International Law & Politics*. At NYU, she participated in the Reproductive Justice Clinic and the EU Regulatory Policy Clinic. Carolin also served as the president of the NYU Law Domestic Violence Advocacy Project and interned at Sanctuary for Families. From 2014 to 2016, Carolin was a litigation and arbitration associate at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer US LLP. Most recently, she clerked for the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein on the District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She received her B.A. *summa cum laude* in International Studies from the College of New Jersey, with minors in French and Women's and Gender Studies.



Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security welcomes the Hillary Clinton Fellow, **Sophie Huve**. Sophie received her LL.M. in International Legal

Studies from Georgetown Law in 2017, with a certificate in International Human Rights. While a graduate student, she participated in the Jean-Pictet IHL competition and was nominated for the Gilbert Apolis Speaking Prize. She also was Vice President of the UN Association-Georgetown Law. Previously, Sophie interned with the Security Council at the United Nations, where she worked on sanctions regimes, and published a book on Russia's foreign policy towards the UN. Sophie graduated with a Master 2 Degree in International Public Law & International Organizations from Sorbonne Paris I University. She

received both her LL.B. and Master 1 Degree of International Public Law from Assas Paris II University, and studied for a while in Moscow. She also received a certificate in International Relations from the IHEI – Assas Paris II University.



Emmanuela Jean-Etienne is a 2017 graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. She joins In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda. Her

placement is generously supported by the Ford Foundation. Emmanuela has been recognized for her steadfast commitment to advancing diversity and public service. She was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Michigan Journal of Race & Law*, as well as an Advanced Student Attorney at the Michigan Law Pediatric Advocacy Clinic. Emmanuela was also a Student Attorney at the Michigan Innocence Project. In 2016, she was a Spitzer Legal Fellow at the National Health Law Program. She was also a Public Policy Intern at the Diaper Bank of North Carolina, and a Public Policy Intern at Haitian Women of Miami. Emmanuela received her B.A. from Duke University in Public Policy Studies.



HIPS welcomes **Johanna Margeson**.

She is a 2017 graduate of Emory Law School, who has also completed her Master of Public Health at the Tufts University School of Medicine. Johanna is the 2017 recipient of the Dean's Service Award, given to the student who has made extraordinary contributions to Emory Law through her service and involvement. She participated in the Barton Child Law and Policy Center Policy Clinic, where she developed a guide for mental health practitioners around legal issues concerning forensic interviewing and counseling. Johanna also participated in the Legisla-

tive Advocacy Clinic where she worked on drafting bills and evaluating legislative proposal addressing the welfare of children in Georgia. She also recently interned with the CDC's Public Health Law Program. Johanna's deep concern about public policy issues that affect women and children was cemented by her internship with Prevent Child Abuse Georgia and her time as a victim witness advocate. She received her B.A. in History from Boston College in 2013. The Ford Foundation supports Johanna's placement at HIPS.



LAWA Fellow **Prudence Mutiso** hails from Kenya, where she was a passionate advocate on behalf of children. Her duties at the International Justice Mission

included representing victims of child sexual violence and police abuse of power in court under the provisions of the Victims Protection Act. Prior to that, she was a Program Manager for the Access to Justice Project at the CRADLE Children Foundation. Prudence successfully filed a petition at the High Court of Kenya compelling the government to protect thousands of human trafficking victims. Prudence has also published several op-eds on children's issues in national newspapers. In 2009, Prudence received her LL.B. from Moi University, Eldoret. She also holds a Master of International Relations and Diplomacy from Kenyatta University.



The LAWA Program welcomes **Juliet Nyamao** from Kenya, where she was a prosecutor with the Office of Public Prosecutions. In her

previous position as the Program Officer in the Access to Justice Program at the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Kenya), she facilitated mediation sessions as an alternative form of dispute resolution and offered legal represen-

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tation for indigent women whose rights had been violated. She has also represented women's interests in public interest litigation. Juliet has a deep interest in women's land and property rights, training over hundred and fifty women leaders and elders on women's constitutional rights to ownership, control and access to land and matrimonial property. She drafted a memorandum on the Community Land Bill currently pending in the Parliament of Kenya, which aims to protect the acquisition and registration of land by women. Juliet received her LL.B. from Moi University School of Law in 2010. She also holds post-graduate diplomas in Law and Human Resource Management.



Joining the LAWA program from Ethiopia, **Muluka Shifa** had worked with

the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission since 2012. Most recently, she was a Human Rights Advising Expert for the Commission. Her duties included advising the government on amending laws to ensure their consistency with the international human rights instruments ratified by Ethiopia. Prior to that, she engaged in monitoring human rights situations and recommending government action. Together with her colleagues, she prepared a monitoring manual for the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. Muluka was also a member of the committee that drafted regulations to address gender-based violence in Ethiopian educational institutions. Because of

her commitment to access to justice, Muluka was a volunteer legal aid service provider and raised funds for the legal aid center at her alma mater. Muluka received her LL.B. from Wolaita Sodo University in 2012.

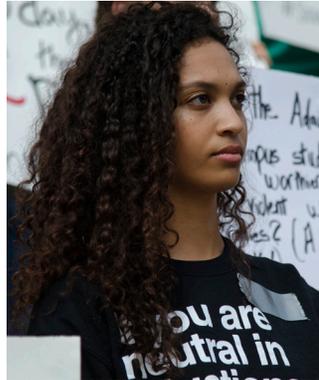


Juliana Shulman-Laniel is delighted to join the National Partnership

for Women & Families, where she will work to advance reproductive health and rights. She received her J.D. with a concentration in Health Law & Policy from Northeastern University School of Law in 2017. At Northeastern, she was on Law Review, served as a research assistant on a variety of projects related to human rights and health law, and co-authored several publications, including a law journal article on abortion and an article on the legal epidemiology of alcohol policy. During law school, Juliana also interned with the Center for Reproductive Rights, UNAIDS, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Center for Public Health Litigation. Prior to law school, Juliana spent four years as a grassroots organizer on issues related to health. She received her B.A. from the University of Chicago and a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins.



At the CEDAW 68th Session, Madame Commissioner Hilary Gbedemah (LAWA 1995-1996) (center) meets with Janet Maina (LAWA 2008-2009) (right) of CLEAR Kenya. Also pictured is Ms. Dorcas Parit, of Hope Beyond Transitional Center. Former Director Prof. Mary Hartnett (My Own Words, with Prof. Wendy Williams and Justice Ginsburg) and author Debbie Levy (I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes her Mark) captivate the welcome lunch talking about everyone's favorite "flaming feminist litigator." The new Fellows advocate for the (I)lama becoming the official mascot of the LAWA program, since we share most of the same letters in our name!



My Reflection on Today's Protest

By Muluka Hussein Shifa, LAWA 2017-2018

On Tuesday, September 26, I joined the Georgetown Law students and faculty in protesting the speech by Attorney General Jeff Sessions held here at the Law Center. We had class scheduled, but Professor Jill gave us the option to reschedule the class and join our classmates on the steps of McDonough Hall. I joined the protest for two reasons. First, I believe every case of restriction of human rights against a certain group is a restriction against all. If I want to enjoy my freedom of speech I will defend and fight for everyone to exercise free speech. If I have the right to practice my religion, I will be in solidarity with others who are fighting to get the freedom I have. I am concerned with what I know of Attorney General Sessions' record on immigration, voting rights and criminal justice.

Secondly, I always wished to exercise my right to freedom of speech in a peaceful and organized manner, but I never did that in my country of Ethiopia for fear of persecution. In my country university students start-

ed protesting in the 1960s and 70s and continued in the military regime and in the current government. However, all these protests resulted in police brutality, killing and all kinds of human rights violations against protesters. After today's peaceful protest, I felt like I joined it on behalf of all those students who lost their lives while protesting in my country.

Even when there was no violence, there were serious repercussions for student protestors. On April 18, 2001, the Ministry of Education of Ethiopia decided to close Addis Ababa University after students protested against the government's policies. This led most students to suspend their education for one year. I thank the people who created, owned and continued this culture of free speech. It was revolutionary for me to be able to participate in a public protest to call for the respect of human rights, and then return to class just hours later.

Alumnae Spotlight

As I hear from current fellows all the time: “it seems like every person I meet has done this Fellowship!” When you take a look at our Alumnae’s varied careers and contributions to advancing social justice, both in the US and abroad, you will see why they make such a big impression.



Elizabeth Akullo (LAWA 2012-2013) is currently working with the Equal Opportunities Commission of Uganda as the Principal Legal Officer, having obtained leave from the Judiciary for a period of three years effective May 1, 2017. She has reviewed and recommended amendment of the Minimum Wages Bill, noting that key provisions are discriminatory and marginalizing towards women, children and the youth, especially in informal employment like domestic workers, and those engaged in vulnerable sectors of fishing, quarrying, mining, construction and agriculture. She has also reviewed all laws relating to children to assess compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At a personal level, Elizabeth has founded a community based organization called Platform for Equality and Empowerment. The main objective is human rights advocacy and empowerment of women and vulnerable groups for equal treatment and opportunities. She is finalizing the process of registration and starting fundraising activities.

Abiodun Baiyewu (LAWA 2007-2008) reports that she is still working as the Country Director at Global Rights, while serving as the co-chair of the African Coalition for Corporate Accountability. She also serves on her country’s Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) civil society steering committee and on the Mining Strategy Implementation Committee.

Pictured above, **Gillian Chadwick (US 2014-2015)** (left) played host to **Juliet Hatanga (LAWA 2014-2015)** (center) at Washburn University Law School. Juliet lectured on “Using ADR to Promote International Human Rights.” She also spoke to a Family Law class about marriage law in Uganda. Gillian also made sure Juliet had some fun, with a tour of the Statehouse and a reception in Juliet’s honor. Juliet was warmly welcomed by both of the women on the Kansas Supreme court, the **Honorable Carol Beier (US 1986-1987)** (right) and the Honorable Marla Luckert, along with state judges, local attorneys, faculty, and students.

Megan Challender (US 2015-2016) started a new job as a supervising attorney as part of Maryland Legal Aid’s Center for Legal Assistance. She provided this update: “I am lovin’ my new gig y’all! The work is rewarding, the hours are great and my new colleagues are delightful. I am no longer operating in an explicitly feminist space nor one dedicated exclusively to the rights of victims of domestic violence, but instead one committed to social justice in a more holistic way, all of which has been an interesting change. I’ve already learned so much, have so much more to learn and am feeling really positive about this life change.”

Jaspreet Chowdhary (US 2010-2011) reports, “I will be the federal policy director at the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). The organization works to increase access to fact-based comprehensive sexuality and sex education. A holistic and positive approach to topics that can sometimes be controversial is desperately needed and I am excited to be part of that movement.”

Katie Filous (US 2015-2016) provides this update: “I have moved to Arizona, where I will be the Senior Law Clerk for the State Public Defender’s Office while I study for the bar, take it in February, and then transition into Staff Attorney once I am admitted. I am excited to try out a new part of the country, to enjoy lots of outdoor time, and of course to fight the good fight in a part of the country that needs it desperately.”

Holly Fuhrman (US 2016-2017) is an Associate Attorney Advisor at Aequitas: The Prosecutors' Resource on Violence Against Women. She will be providing technical assistance for prosecutors and allied professionals to improve the experience of survivors of Gender-Based Violence.

Priscilla Huang (US 2006-2007) is now a Senior Attorney with the National Health Law Program's Los Angeles Office. She will focus on advancing reproductive health and justice.

WLPPFP couldn't be more proud of **Debra Katz (US 1985-1986)** upon learning that The Best Lawyers in America® has named her as one of the best lawyers in America in its 2018 edition. She was also honored as Washington D.C.'s best civil rights lawyer for the second time.

Ayesha Khan (US 1990-1991) reports "I left DOJ's Civil Rights Division about a year ago (just in time!) to go into private practice. In addition to handling appeals in state and federal courts around the country, I've been consulting to civil rights groups on litigation-related matters. The work has ranged from mentoring junior attorneys, to supervising litigation, to advising organizations on building litigation capacity. The arrangement works well for organizations that need the services of a senior litigator but don't have the need or resources to hire one full time — and it allows me to continue working on civil rights litigation of all kinds. I'm absolutely loving it! Check out my website —ANKLawFirm.com — and please reach out to me if an organization you work with could benefit from those kinds of services."

WLPPFP congratulates **Mande Limbu (LAWA 2000-2001)** for starting her new job at the United Nations Foundation as Manager, Advocacy and Civil Society Engagement - Family Planning 2020.

Elizabeth Makumbi (LAWA 2015-2016) will be an analyst with Pegasys, a sustainable

development organization in Cape Town, South Africa. Elizabeth reports that she is "very excited to get back into social impact work!"

Anthonia Okolie (LAWA 2015-2016) reports on her actions to empower women. She started off in Uli, Anambra State, Nigeria on the August 15, 2017. While she found it awesome to have fulfilled a dream, it was "heart wrenching seeing poverty in its raw state in the rural areas." Every Saturday, the group trains over twenty young women on bead making, confectioneries, event planning, legal counseling and computer training. Anthonia hopes they will receive funding from the philanthropic gestures of the interested parties in the community by December this year.

In addition, Anthonia was chosen as a contributor, by World Bank on "Doing Business in Nigeria, Anambra State."

Dunia Tegegn (LAWA 2015-2016) reports: "I started doing a pro bono service for Bread for the City. The area of work is employment."

Cynthia Totten (US 1999-2000) has been appointed to the board of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Home - Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Joy Welan reports **(US 2009-2010)** joins **Stephanie Troyer (US 2007-2008)** at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia as a domestic violence and family law staff attorney. Says Joy "This takes me back to my first passion of gender-based discrimination, and I'll get to make an immediate impact in the lives of real people, while building my litigation skills and using my Spanish."

Enjoying Vermont's Fall foliage is **Chloé White (US 2015-2016)**, who is now with the Vermont ACLU. We know she will do a fantastic job as the organization's first full time Policy Director.



Advisory Board

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