

OUTREACH

WOMEN'S LAW & PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
AT GEORGETOWN LAW

2013

SPRING/SUMMER

Ses•qui•cen•ten•ni•al
[ses-kwi-sen-ten-ee-uhl]

Adjective: pertaining to or marking the
completion of a period of 150 years;

Noun: a 150th anniversary or its celebration.

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Save the Date

Join us for our Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration

September 19th – 21st, 2013, Washington, DC

The Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program is celebrating 150 years of Women's Human Rights Advocacy. In addition to commemorating the 30th year of the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program and the 20th year of the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa Program, we are celebrating Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's 80th birthday and 20th year on the Supreme Court. Director Emerita Mary Hartnett (who is to be credited with the Sesquicentennial theme) and I are delighted to announce that Justice Ginsburg has agreed to be honored at this special occasion.

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Sesquicentennial Anniversary Celebration

The events are still shaping up, but in addition to a dinner on the evening of Friday, September 20th, we hope to also bring together our 236 US alumnae and 86 African alumnae in a symposium earlier that day. Our morning plenary session will focus on Women's Human Rights in Africa, with speakers discussing developments in the areas of: political participation, marriage and property rights, reproductive rights and maternal mortality, and HIV/AIDS. Our afternoon breakout sessions will focus on issues in the United States. You will have time to catch up with old friends and make new ones at a reception on the evening before the symposium, as well as events on Saturday, the 21st.

The Program is currently seeking funding to provide some travel support for LAWAW alumnae. We will keep you posted on our progress, and hope that you share our excitement in the upcoming events!

Highlights from our Seminars and Events

Lunch with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

The fellows joined the District of Columbia Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton for lunch and conversation on Capitol Hill on November 16th. The afternoon began with a tour of Rep. Norton's office, which features historic pictures of the District. This was a special treat for our fellow who is a DC native, Beccah Watson. The LAWAs were also humbled by the Representative's immense interest in the problems faced by women in their countries, including access to justice and maternal health care. We thank Rep. Norton, one of WLPPFP's founding mothers, for her continued support and generosity with her time.

Supreme Court Visit: Vance v. Ball State University

On November 26th, the fellows visited the Supreme Court to hear the argument in Vance v. Ball State University, an employment discrimination case. Sarah Crawford, the director of Workplace Fairness Programs at the National Partnership for Women & Families, and WLPPFP placement supervisor, treated the fellows to an overview of the case. Sarah authored an amicus brief filed in the case. The fellows agreed that the seminar with Sarah made the experience all the more interesting, as Sarah was spot-on in identifying the issues on which the Justices would focus.



The fellows visiting the Supreme Court to hear Vance v. Ball State University.

WLPPFP Supporters Join us for Seminars on Poverty and Disability Rights



Judge David Davidson and Professor Peter Edelman

Each year, WLPPFP dedicates seminars to two women who had fellowships created in their memory. Judge David Davidson created the Rita Charnatz Davidson Fellowship to support work advancing the rights of women living in poverty. Judge Rita Charnatz Davidson was the first woman judge on both the Maryland Court of Appeals and the Court of Special Appeals. As the Secretary of Employment and Social Services, and first woman appointee in the Maryland Governor's Cabinet, she worked to make government more responsive to the needs of the poor. On April 8th, at the request of Judge Davidson, Professor Peter Edelman joined us to discuss the barriers facing women who are living in poverty.

The Harriet B. Burg Fellowship was created by Ms. Burg's husband and friends to advance the rights of women with disabilities. Before she pursued a legal career, Ms. Burg was a physical therapist. She served as Counsel to the Committee on Education of the District of Columbia's City Council, where she built a career promoting the legal and civil rights of women and the disabled. Ms. Burg died of breast cancer at 41. On April 22nd, Amanda Maisels, of the Department of Justice's Disability Rights Division joined Burg Fellowship founders Jerry Burg, Ann Garfinkle and Barbara Franklin to discuss disability rights.

Men in the Movement

In December, the fellows were joined by WLPPFP alum Aram Schvey (US 2008-2009), Policy Counsel for Foreign Policy and Human Rights, Center for Reproductive Rights, and Brigadier Siachitema, an LL.M. candidate who advocates for widows' property rights in his home country of Zambia. Each presenter described his path to understanding that women's rights are human rights, and that women's equality benefits men. And in case you are wondering, yes, there was much talk of cloning them after their captivating presentations...

Seminars Focus on Building Skills

Our fellows were treated to two seminars with women who are at the top of their game: Stephanie Sterling, Director of Legislation at Service Employees International Union presented "Congress 101 and the Elevator Speech," and Christine Jahnke, Founder of Positive Communications and author of "The Well-Spoken Woman" presented: "A Standing Ovation – How to Give a Great Speech." Both speakers took the mystery out of their respective subject matters, and made the fellows eager to apply the lessons learned. These interactive seminars gave the fellows a chance to practice critical skills that all them will need sooner or later.

Thank you for Supporting our Fellows Entering the Job Market

By Jill C. Morrison, WLPPFP Director

As our US alumnae know, it is a very daunting job market for our Fellows. The Program is immensely grateful to all of you who have been so willing to spend time with our current fellows, providing informational interviews, mentoring, and forwarding job postings. I'd like to give a special thank you to the US alumnae who presented on our career panel in December, Abby Cook-Mack (2011-2012), Katz, Marshall & Banks LLP; Janel George (2005-2006), Legislative Counsel, Office of Senator Maria Cantwell; Jessica Powers-Heaven (2009-2010), Staff Attorney, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Lisa Keels Lowenstein (2009-2010), Health Insurance Specialist, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, CMS/HHS; and Lisa Bornstein (1999-2000), Senior Counsel, Leadership Council on Civil and Human Rights.

Our current fellows also sought advice from our seminar speakers. A technical glitch gave Professor Brenda V. Smith of the Washington College of Law at American University some additional time to chat with the Fellows about her career path before our discussion of women in the criminal justice system. Despite Prof. Smith's warning that her pursuit of her professional passions was largely a result of her simply not knowing any better, the fellows were nonetheless inspired.

I know how busy you all are, so I am touched by how generous you are with the time you give to the Fellows.

Women's Human Rights in Africa

The LAWAs Shine on Capitol Hill, at Washington & Lee Law School, and USAID

After nearly a year of work, the LAWAs were excited to have multiple opportunities to discuss their LL.M. theses with the outside world. First,

We began with a March 4th Spring Break road trip to Washington & Lee Law School. After a beautiful and laughter-filled drive through the Virginia countryside, Mooya Nyaundi, Beverline Ongaro and Hilda Stewart Dadu were graciously welcomed by an enthusiastic group of students, and WLPPFP Alumna Dean Johanna Bond (US 1998-1999).

On March 25th, the LAWAs were invited to USAID's Africa Bureau to present their theses.

This was a special opportunity to present before an intimate audience that was both exceptionally interested and well informed. On April 16th, Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton sponsored a Congressional Briefing on Women's Human Rights in Africa, where the LAWAs Fellows presented their work to Hill staffers, Georgetown students and faculty, and diplomats from several African embassies. Their paper topics were:

Elizabeth Ogwal Akullo, *Nowhere to Turn: An Examination of Uganda's Ban on the Recruitment of Health Workers and its Impact on Maternal Mortality*

Christine Alai, *Making Shattered Women Whole Again: Seeking Effective Remedies for Victims of Sexual Violence in Kenya's 2007 Election-Related Violence*

Hilda Stuart Dadu, *Married too Young and Gone too Soon: Prohibiting Child Marriage as a way of Reducing Maternal Mortality in Tanzania*

Nadhifa Mahmoud Juma, *Women without a Country: A Suggested Framework for Protecting the Human Rights of Women Affected by Tanzania's Refugee Free Policy*

Mooya Lynn Nyaundi, "A Woman's Prerogative": *Zimbabwean Women's Right To Their Maiden Names*

Beverline Anyango Ongaro, *Am I My Sister's Keeper? Involving Men in the Restorative Justice Approach to Addressing Domestic Violence Against Women in Kenya*

Cherer Aklilu Shaffo, *Multiple Wives and Multiple Legal Systems: The Effect of Legal Pluralism on Women's Human Rights in Africa.*

Intrigued? You should be! The Fellows have worked incredibly hard to develop papers that are interesting, pragmatic and innovative. Just as impressively, they each managed to condense all of this brilliance into a ten minute presentation for the Hill event, which was covered by Voice of America. Please check back on our website at www.law.georgetown.edu/wlppfp for a video clip.



LAWA Fellows after a job well done.

Understanding the Perspectives and Experiences of Women Living with HIV in Uganda and Malawi

By **Sonia Haerizadeh**, Fellow at the International Community of Women Living with HIV

To ensure success in preventing vertical transmission of HIV (transmission during childbirth and breastfeeding) and keeping mothers healthy and alive, it is critical that the perspectives and concerns of women living with HIV are meaningfully considered. Therefore, to inform the development of the 2013 World Health Organization Consolidated Guidelines Process, the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) and the Global Network of People Living with HIV held focus group discussions in Malawi and Uganda, where women living with HIV and their communities shared their perspectives and concerns, and made programmatic recommendations based on their lived experiences. The results showed how essential it is to include affected communities in policy making in order to respect human rights, increase demand creation, and improve retention and adherence to HIV treatment.

In November 2012, ICW held focus group discussions with women and men living with HIV, including those who were young, from both urban and rural communities, in leadership roles, and of different faiths. The goal was to understand participants' perspectives on a recently implemented protocol that recommends that pregnant women living with HIV begin triple antiretroviral therapy (ART) as soon as they are diagnosed with HIV (without needing CD4 tests to assess individual's current health status) and to continue ART for life. This is different from previous protocols for two reasons. First, people living with HIV have started treatment when their CD4 count reached a certain level. Second, previous



Lillian Mwareko, ICW East Africa Regional Coordinator and Sonia.

protocols recommended that pregnant women living with HIV stop treatment after the risk of transmission to the child had passed, unless their CD4 count reached a certain level.

Almost all participants were happy that the protocol protects babies born to mothers living with HIV from acquiring HIV and that it provides women with lifelong treatment. However, there was a notable lack of consensus regarding the extent to which the new protocol will impact the closely interwoven dynamics of disclosure, testing, stigma/discrimination,

conflict and violence. Additionally, participants noted that stigma from health care providers continues to prevent some women, notably younger women and women of Muslim faith from accessing antenatal care in general.

All focus group participants reported that women living with HIV were not meaningfully involved in their countries' decision-making process to adopt and implement this new protocol. Participants wanted more advocacy led by women living with HIV to ensure that

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governments and funders understand and provide for the needs of pregnant women living with HIV, including protecting the right to informed consent. They highlighted the need for clear information about counseling around treatment initiation, the risks/benefits of beginning treatment for life, and guidance about the best breastfeeding options for each individual. Additionally, male involvement and sensitization should be encouraged at all stages, but should never be made a requirement for women to access care. The focus group participants also identified areas that need further research so that women can make informed and empowered decisions about their health.

The results and recommendations of the study have been shared with country representatives in Malawi, Uganda and other countries considering implementing the new protocol, as well as donors, UN entities and civil society organizations. The findings were presented at the International Treatment as Prevention Conference and will also be presented at Women Deliver and the International AIDS Society Conference later this year.

To read the full report, visit: <http://www.emtct-iatt.org/2013/04/understanding-the-perspectives-and-or-experiences-of-women-living-with-hiv-regarding-option-b-in-uganda-and-malawi/>.

Lessons Learned from “Women who Make America”

By Hilda Stewart Dadu, LAWA Fellow, Tanzania

On March 27th, 2013, I, with my fellow LAWA Beverline Ongaro from Kenya and Ms. Becca Watson, a US Fellow, together with the LAWA Executive Director Ms. Jill Morrison attended a documentary screening of “Makers: Women Who Make America” at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The event was hosted by the White House Office on Women and Girls in celebration of Women’s History Month in the United States of America.

The documentary showed how American women were abused by their counterpart men. In 1967, 20 year old Kathrine Switzer was attacked by the Race Director of the Boston Marathon, who was outraged that a woman was running the race. The documentary screening showed also how the American women activists were struggling to eliminate violence against women in America since the 1970s. Through this documentary I came to realize that gender based violence is not only an African women’s issue because of the dominant patriarchal system, cultural attitudes and bias in gender. Violence against women is a matter concerning women around the world. In America, violence against women exists because of men’s stereotypes about women. The struggle of elimination of violence against women must involve men.

The former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, and the former President of Brown University, Ruth Simmons, both featured in the documentary, spoke about their life experiences and how they made efforts to eliminate violence against women in America. They said that because of sexism during that time, they were not supposed to think about achieving their high positions. Their examples taught me that, should a woman fight for her ambition in life, chances are many. If women are given a chance, women can make a difference in the community. Also I learned that women of America freed themselves from sexual harassment by speaking up and fighting back. Redeemer of the woman is the woman herself.



Hilda, Beccah and Beverline

WLPPFP Fellows Contribute to the Georgetown Community

Fellows Amy Senier and Christine Alai featured as speakers at Georgetown Law



Amy Senier

WLPPFP Fellow Amy Senier spoke about her work in *Gill v. Office of Personal Management* at a brown bag lunch hosted on April 23rd, 2013 by Outlaw, Georgetown Law's LGBTQIA organization. Amy was a member of the team at Foley Hoag LLP that—together with Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders and Sullivan & Worcester LLP—represented the plaintiffs in their challenge to Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Section 3 of DOMA denies married same-sex couples federal benefits that married heterosexual couples receive, resulting in a violation of equal protection.

Amy's work led to the first federal court decision which invalidated the law, laying the groundwork for *United States v. Windsor*, the March 2013 Supreme Court case challenging DOMA. We are very proud to have in the WLPPFP family a fellow who contributed to



Christine Alai

such an important and historic cause. We join Amy in anxiously awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court, and hope that she is accurate in her prediction of a victory in the march toward marriage equality.

On April 8, 2013, LAWA Fellow Christine ("Tina") Alai spoke at Georgetown University Law Center's ("GULC") eighth annual Samuel Dash Conference on Human Rights. The conference, which is sponsored by GULC's Human Rights Institute, honors former GULC Professor Dash's contributions to international human rights and domestic civil rights. This year's conference theme was "Jurisdiction for Mass Atrocities." Over 100 members of the GULC and wider human rights community attended the conference. Tina was part of a lineup of illustrious speakers, including former International Criminal Court ("ICC") Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo and former Legal

Advisor to the U.S. Department of State, John Bellinger. Tina spoke on a panel entitled "The International Criminal Court and the Dynamics of Complementarity."

Together with Elena Baylis, Associate Professor at University of Pittsburgh Law School; Susana SaCouto, Professorial Lecturer-in-Residence and Director of the War Crimes Research Office at American University Washington College of Law; and Jane Stromseth, Professor at GULC, Tina addressed complicated issues related to the ICC's exercise of jurisdiction over crimes against humanity that took place in Kenya following post-electoral violence there in 2007 and 2008. In particular, Tina highlighted the plight of Kenyan women who were victimized by mass acts of sexual violence and, six years after the atrocities took place, have yet to receive any justice for the pain and suffering they endured. As the only African and most recent legal practitioner on the panel, Tina added a unique and invaluable perspective on the ICC's exercise of jurisdiction over crimes against humanity in Africa as well as domestic efforts to address mass atrocities. The audience's response to her remarks was enthusiastic, and we look forward to hearing from Tina on this—and other topics—in the future!

Alumnae Spotlight

We celebrate the continued achievements of our outstanding alumnae, who strive throughout their careers to improve the lives of women and families. Former fellows constitute a powerful network of experienced and committed lawyers across the United States and the world, serving as founders and directors of non-profit organizations, judges and justices, parliamentarians, professors and deans of law schools, public interest attorneys, and in many other influential roles. Below are a few examples of recent achievements:

Elizabeth Enaka Ako (LAWA 2011-2012) attended a Continental Consultation and Sensitization Seminar on the African Court on Human and People's Rights, organized for women's rights activist.

Sarah Burns (US 1983-1984) is setting up a new Reproductive Justice and Women's Equality Clinic at NYU School of Law, where she is a professor of law.

Ann Cammett (US 2006-2007) has accepted an appointment as a Professor of Law and Director of the Family Law Concentration at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law. Ann has been teaching at University of Nevada Las Vegas as an associate professor and co-director of the Family Justice Clinic.

Anna E. Carpenter (US 2011-2012), the clinical teaching fellow and supervising attorney in the Community Justice Project at the Georgetown University Law Center, has been named a 2013 Bellow Scholar by the Association of American Law Schools.

Chai Shenoy (US 2009-2010) is at the Peace Corps' Office of the General Counsel as an Attorney Advisor, where she provides legal and policy advice to the agency on matters related to gender-based violence, particularly sexual

violence. She is also drafting and implementing policies and protocols as part of the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011, which deals with sexual assault and harassment. Chai also taught Domestic Violence Law at American University, Washington College of Law in Fall 2012, and a Gender & Violence seminar at the GWU's Women's Studies Program in Spring 2013.

Jaspreet Chowdhary (US 2010-2011) has a new position at Community Catalyst. As of June 1, 2013, she is a state advocacy manager for the group's Substance Use Disorders and Integrated Care Advocacy projects.

Sarah Craven (US 1992-1993) is chief of the Population Fund's Washington, D.C., office. Sarah and her work to end to child marriage and improve girls' education were featured in an article about the twenty-fifth anniversary of GULC's Public Interest Law Scholars program

Mary Dent (US 1990-1991) recently switched gears. Formerly general counsel of Silicon Valley Bank, she is now Vice President for Public Policy at the bank and focuses on helping startups navigate the policy issues they face. In her new position, Mary will continue her efforts to increase the level of entrepre-

neurship in the US, creating more opportunities for women to form their own businesses and to be part of a thriving economy.

Angela Dwamena-Aboagye (LAWA 1994-1995) is the Executive Director of the Ark Foundation in Ghana. She received a full scholarship to pursue her Ph.D. in theology at Akrofi-Christaller Institute for Theology, Mission and Culture, and will write her thesis on women's mental health.

Liliana Garces (US 1998-1999) will start a position as assistant professor at Penn State University College of Education in the coming Fall.

Janel George (US 2005-2006) will have an article published this summer in the University of Baltimore Law Review. In "Beyond a Beautiful Fraud: Using a Human Rights Framework to Realize the Promise of Democracy," she focuses on using a broader human rights framework for advancing a reproductive health and justice agenda.

Toni Holness (US 2011-2012) will join Maryland Legal Aid as a Staff Attorney representing kids in abuse and neglect cases.

Hope Lewis (US 1986-1987) is Professor of Law at Northeastern University School of Law and chair of its Global Law Committee. She recently co-authored "Forgotten Sisters - A Report on Violence Against Women with Disabilities: An Overview of its Nature, Scope, Causes and Consequences." Hope remains a member of the Society of American Law Teachers Board of Governors and of the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Minority Groups.

Lisa Keels Lowenstein (US 2009-2010) is at CMS/HHS, at the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, the center established to implement the Affordable Care Act.

Kavinya Makau (LAWA 2011-2012) left Akili Dada, where she established the organization's Innovation in Leadership Program and served as the Program's first director. Kavinya has joined Equality Now's Africa Office to coordinate the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Campaign. This is a Pan-African Initiative to promote the ratification and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on Women's Rights.

Susan McGolrick (US 1989-1990) has been a legal editor at Bloomberg BNA (formerly the Bureau of National Affairs) since 1994. Last year, she became the managing editor of the Labor and Employment News unit of seven publications—Daily Labor Report, Employment Discrimination Report, Workplace Immigration Report, Labor Relations Week, Construction Labor Report, Government Employee Relations Report and Workplace Law Report.

Joan Meier (US 1985-1986) traveled to Japan, where she gave a series of lectures on parental alienation syndrome, two at universities and one for the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations. Reports Joan, "It was fascinating and rewarding to meet my counterparts on the other side of the globe, and sobering to realize that they are facing remarkably similar challenges, despite the supposedly completely different family law system."

Jill Morrison (US 1998-1999) was appointed to the District of Columbia Commission for Women, a body that makes policy recommendations to the Mayor's Office. She is serving on the Health Committee.

Vera Ngassa (LAWA 2011-2012) is now a Justice of the Court of Appeals in Cameroon. "It was such a happy coincidence," she reports, "that my first ruling was to correct a violation of a woman's human rights." Vera also recently co-authored a new book, "Issues in Women's Land Rights in Cameroon." She also completed "Commonwealth Women's Land Rights Handbook" and is translating the publication into simple English and French for country-wide popularization.

Sandy Pullman (US 2009-2010) joined the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office.

Michael Silverman (US 2000-2001) is executive director of Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund in New York City. He has been working on a case in Colorado on behalf of a six-year-old transgender girl who experienced discrimination at school.

Marion Stillson (US 1987-1988) was appointed to an ad hoc Bipartisan Election Process Improvement Commission for Fairfax County, VA. Through weekly meetings and extensive data collection, the group examined the causes of long voting delays in some precincts in November 2012; its April 2013 report made fifty unanimous and constructive recommendations.

Elana Tyrangiel (US 1999-2000) is the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Kathleen Zern (US 1996-1997) is general counsel at Every Mother Counts, a Washington, DC based non-profit organization that seeks to end preventable deaths caused by pregnancy and childbirth around the world.



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