

OUTREACH 2015

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

FALL WINTER



Meet Our 2015-2016 Women's Law Fellows

We are pleased to welcome our fourteen Women's Law Fellows: six 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.



**Olufunmilayo
"Funmi" Adeniyi**

is from Nigeria. She attended The Nigerian Law School where she earned her LL.B. She performed her Law School Attachment in Chief Gani Fawehinmi's Chamber. Thereafter, she obtained her L.L.M. at the Obafemi-Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State in Nigeria. Working on behalf of the Federation of International Women Lawyers, Funmi helped to produce a training manual for grass-roots women on gender-based violence and founded the Gender-Based Violence Network. She has trained numerous police officers on enforcement of the Domestic Violence Law. She has also trained aspiring female politicians on women's participation in politics. Funmi has handled a number of pro-bono cases for poor and vulnerable groups whose rights have been violated, and is a member of various coalitions that support human rights for women in Nigeria.



Maereg Tewoldebirhan Alemayehu

comes from Ethiopia. After graduating with an LL.B. from the Unity University College in 2007, she joined Addis Ababa City First Instance Court and

served as a Judge and Assistant Judge for six years. During this time she joined Addis Ababa University's Institute for Peace and Security Studies and earned an M.A. Degree in 2013. From 2014 until joining LAWA, she worked at the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission as a Legal Aid and Civil Society Coordinator. In this capacity she had oversight for 126 legal aid centers which were established in partnership with nineteen Universities to serve the poor, women, children and other vulnerable groups. She was responsible for managing the day to day activities of the regional legal aid offices and outreach centers. She provided professional support to paralegals, identifies locations for expansion of legal aid services, and managed a case recording system to track clients' information about the nature of inquiries and details of legal cases. She was

also a member of the committee that drafted the legal aid strategy policy which currently is under the process of adaptation.



Amelia Bell works with Family Economic Security team at the National Women's Law Center. Amelia received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 2015 and her B.A. from

St. Lawrence University. As a law student, Amelia participated in the Federal Legislation and Administrative Law Clinic where she worked on policy solutions regarding the recent influx of child refugees from Central America. Amelia also had the opportunity to participate in a practicum project where she helped develop a guide for prosecuting rape and sexual assault in countries where Peace Corps volunteers serve. Additionally, Amelia interned with the Civil Liberties Division of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Center for Reproductive Rights, the National Women's Law Center in the Education and Employment group, and for Senator Richard

Blumenthal. Before law school, Amelia worked for Senator Jeff Merkley on civil rights and labor policy issues.



Monica Bhattacharya joins the Workplace Fairness group at the National Partnership for Women & Families. While at Georgetown University Law Center, Monica had the pleasure of clerking

for Senator Patty Murray's Labor and Pension Policy staff, now-Chair Jenny Yang at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Senator Patrick Leahy's Senate Judiciary Committee staff, and the D.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence policy team. Monica also served as a student attorney for the Federal Legislative and Administration Clinic, where she worked on behalf of the Women's Refugee Commission to protect unaccompanied alien children and migrant families. In addition, Monica assumed leadership roles on the Executive Boards of the Georgetown chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union, American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, Human Rights Action/Amnesty International and Georgetown Law Advocates Against Sexual Violence. Monica received her J.D. in 2015, and her B.A. in American Studies from Stanford University.



Megan Challenger serves as a Clinical Teaching Fellow in the Domestic Violence Clinic. Megan previously worked as a Senior Staff Attorney at Break the Cycle. There she represented 12 to

24 year-old survivors of dating and domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in domestic violence and family court, small claims court and in Title IX proceedings at schools. Megan graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Kansas State University with a B.A. in Political Science and Women's Studies and earned her

J.D., Cum Laude from the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law in 2013. During law school, Megan participated in two clinics: the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic where she provided holistic legal services to families infected and affected with HIV and the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic where she represented immigrants seeking cancellation of removal from the US. Megan also served as the Symposium Editor of the UDC Law Review. Megan brings a background in event coordination and experience at a variety of non-profits, educational organizations and grassroots campaigns to her work.



Katie Filous works with the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS. Her fellowship is generously supported by the Ford Foundation. Katie graduated from DePaul University College

of Law in 2015. She received her Master's in Women's Studies and Gender Studies at Loyola University Chicago, and her B.A. in English Literature and Political Science with a minor in French from the University of Pittsburgh. Katie served as both a fellow and a teaching assistant in DePaul's International Human Rights Law Institute, submitting a shadow report to the CEDAW committee on Peruvian women's human rights violations. Additionally, Katie was President of Law Students for Reproductive Justice DePaul chapter, editor-in-chief of the DePaul Journal of Women, Gender & the Law, and a co-founder of the DePaul International Human Rights Law Journal. While in law school, Katie completed a research fellowship with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders in Nairobi, Kenya, during which she researched and wrote a civil society monitoring report on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. She also held externships at Equality Now, in Nairobi, Kenya; the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; and with Judge Ann Claire Williams of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. Katie received the

Cudahy Fellowship for Public Service in both 2013 and 2014, and the Women's Bar Foundation of Illinois scholarship.



Pamella Ocaya Lamunu comes from Uganda, where she worked as a Magistrate Grade One since 2009. In her judicial work, she ensured gender responsiveness and sensitivity by promot-

ing fairness, equal treatment and protection of litigants irrespective of gender. She was previously an advocate with Komakech-Kilama. There she provided pro-bono services to those in the Gulu Region, which experienced massive violations of human rights resulting from the twenty-year civil war. Pamella also worked for Justice and Rights Associates, an NGO based in Kitgum Uganda, which focused on promoting access to justice in the post-conflict setting. Her job included interfacing with many women's groups to educate them on their rights and ways of economic empowerment to make them less vulnerable, less prone to exploitation, and able to access health services and justice. She also volunteered as an advocate at the Gulu Legal Aid Clinic of the Uganda Law Society, offering pro bono legal services on property issues, maintenance of children, custody, administration of estates, and gender-based violence. She obtained her LL.B. in 2004 from Uganda Christian University and her post-graduate diploma in legal practice in 2005 from the Law Development Center.



Born in Zimbabwe, **Elizabeth Anne Makumbi** joins the LAWA program from South Africa. During her tenure at the private law firm of Webber Wentzel, she authored op-ed pieces on the

Anti-Homosexuality Act 2014 and Anti-Pornography Act 2014 in Uganda, and the

effects the legislation would have on the rights of women. She comes to the Fellowship after working at the Centre for Human Rights in South Africa, which promotes greater human rights throughout the Continent. She worked in the gender unit where she assisted in the drafting of reports, articles and research on the rights of women and girls in Africa. She is determined to gain an insight into the methodology of advancing women's rights in her home country. Elizabeth believes that through the LAWA Program, she can create awareness on the rights of women and create a future which is built on a foundation of honesty, transparency and accountability. Elizabeth graduated with an LL.B. from the University of Pretoria in South Africa in 2012.



Before joining the LAWA Program, **Anthonia Nkechi Okolie** was a dedicated advocate on behalf of indigent clients seeking redress for human right violations. She provided legal advice to stigma-

tized groups through her law office in Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria. Anthonia represented widows who had been denied their inheritance rights under the law. She has a soft spot for abandoned adopted kids, helping several with their schooling. Anthonia reaches women locally through her newsletter "Ideas Worth Shared," which seeks to educate laypeople on legal issues and inform them of their rights. The newsletter is distributed through local service organizations. Anthonia regularly presents on women's human rights during the yearly August Meeting, which brings together women in the Igbo community to discuss issues affecting them at home and abroad. She is also an active member of the Association of Women Lawyers. Anthonia earned her LL.B. from the University of Nigeria in 2005.



Jasmine Phillips joins HIPS with the generous support of the Ford Foundation. Jasmine received her J.D. in 2015 from UCLA School of Law where she specialized in Critical Race Studies and the Epstein

Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. At UCLA, Jasmine co-chaired the Education Rights Clinic and Reentry Clinic, served as Senior Editor of the Chicana/o Latina/o Law Review, and sat on the law school admissions and experiential learning committees. She was a student in the Youth Justice Clinic, where she addressed civil needs of detained youth, the International Comparative Women's Human Rights Seminar, where she co-wrote a brief advancing the rights of rural women in Kenya to therapeutic abortions, and the International Human Rights Clinic, where she co-wrote a report documenting civil and human rights violations of incarcerated women with mental health issues in Los Angeles County Jails. Jasmine has interned with the Vera Institute of Justice, the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services in Cape Town, South Africa, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the Los Angeles HIV Law and Policy Project. She has also published a comment in the UCLA Law Review for 2015 Symposium issue on Human Trafficking and Exploitation. Jasmine received B.A. degrees in Critical Gender Studies and Sociology from UC San Diego, where she also minored in African-American Studies.



Dunia Mekonnen Tegegn comes to the LAWA Program from Ethiopia, where she was a Human Rights Officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the East Africa Region.

There she contributed to the mainstreaming of human rights within the UN Economic

Commission for Africa and the African Union human rights-mandated organs. She has also previously worked with UN Women Ethiopia as a program officer. She supported the Africa UNiTE campaign to end violence against women and girls in Ethiopia. Dunia has also worked with the Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association, extending pro bono services to victims of gender-based violence and providing legal advice on common property rights, child custody, maintenance and other family law matters. She delivered trainings on the human rights of women and children to government officials, law enforcements, public prosecutors, paralegals and law students. She also worked as an alternative care expert seconded by UNICEF Ethiopia to the Ethiopian Ministry of Women Children and Youth Affairs. Dunia co-edited and published a book "Unleashing African Resilience: Pan African Renaissance in the New Africa Century" and "Security and Empowerment: African Women in the 21st Century." She received her Master's Degree in Human Rights with Merit from Addis Ababa University College of Law and Governance in 2011, and her LL.B. degree from Bahirdar University in 2007.



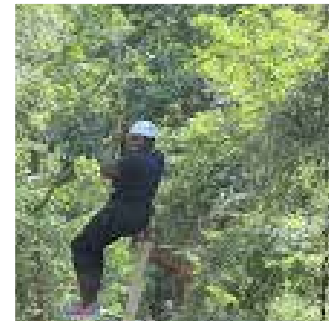
Chloé White is the Hillary Rodham Clinton Law Fellow with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. She received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 2015

and her A.B. in Political Science, with a minor in French, from Washington University in St. Louis. While at law school, Chloé was President of Georgetown Law Students for Reproductive Justice and Co-Managing Editor of the Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law. She previously worked as a government affairs assistant for the National Safety Council and as a legislative assistant for Rep. Dennis Moore [D-KS]. Chloé is deeply passionate about women's rights and health and is dedicated to achieving better outcomes for women throughout the world

While you might have observed some interesting pictures of our ropes course retreat in previous newsletters, here are the reflections of one participant.

Retreat Reflections

Monica Bhattacharya (WLPPFP 2015-2016)



I could not have imagined a better way to learn about my colleagues – and myself – and to build a sense of community with these truly phenomenal women. What had bound us together before the retreat, I think, was a sense of shared experience: we were all embarking on a year of discovery, either to launch our careers or to expand their scope. After the retreat, this sense was coupled with an understanding of our shared goals and values. We learned to work with one another, to evaluate the dimensions of a problem and approach it together strategically. We learned how to recalibrate when our methods were

unsuccessful. We learned who was more likely to speak up and direct the collective action, and if unsuccessful, who was more likely to reflect and redirect. And on occasion, we learned that when the problem remains unconquered, it may be appropriate to dissolve into laughter.

Hilarity, in fact, was the prevailing theme of the day, much to my surprise. The US Fellows had just had the opportunity to hear the LAWAs present their individual and group research a few days prior to the retreat, so I knew the work that would consume the bulk of their fellowship

year. I knew that our LAWAs counterparts were accomplished and inspiring women, whose passion and intellect had fueled tremendous work in service of vulnerable populations. I knew that they were poised to make an even greater impact in their careers. What I did not know (but may have intuited) was how funny these women are, how unfailingly warm. After laughing together over such exercises as the ropes course and the giant swing, I have a much better sense of their individual personalities, and thus a better understanding of what informs their worldview and their work.

Welcome Luncheon

The Georgetown University Law Center Community warmly welcomed our 2015-2016 class on September 29th. We were treated with remarks by Professor Victoria Nourse, who returned to the Law Center after serving as counsel to Vice President Joe Biden. Professor Nourse was an architect of the Violence Against Women Act while working as then-Senator Biden's Senior Advisor. Professor Nourse reminded the audience that both implicit and explicit gender stereotypes were at the core of gender-based violence, as well as the failure to prevent, investigate and adequately punish acts of violence. Despite the very serious subject matter, the keynote provided plenty of laughter with Professor Nourse's spot-on impersonation of Vice President Biden, and stories from her days waiting tables.



Neena Chaudhry (1997-1998) and Janel George (2005-2006)



US Fellow Megan Challender and our Keynote Speaker, Professor Victoria Nourse



US Fellow Monica Bhattacharya and LAWA member Antonia Okolie



US Fellow Amelia Bell

Alumnae Spotlight

We celebrate the continued achievements of our outstanding alumnae, who strive throughout their careers to improve the lives of women and families. Our alums 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:

Amanda Allen (US 2009-2010) is now the Senior State Legislative Counsel at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Angelina Atabong (LAWA 2013-2014) sends greetings from Cameroon, where she is now a Research Officer in the Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation in the Ministry of Justice. One of her duties is the follow up of the implementation of International Human Rights treaties by Cameroon.

Jen Caballero (US 2012-2013) will be starting a Staff Attorney position with the 9th Circuit in September in the bay area. She will thus be leaving her position at Neighborhood Legal Services Program.

Neena Chaudhry (US 1997-1998) reports that last year, she helped secure two victories on behalf of young women (one in middle school and one in high school) who were sexually assaulted and whose schools did not respond in ways that complied with Title IX or the Constitution

Abby Cook-Mack (US 2011-2012) is now a staff attorney at the NYC commission on human rights.

Amy Fettig (US 2001-2002) reports that she has been promoted to Senior Staff Counsel and Director of the Stop Solitary Campaign

Catherine Crystal Foster (US 1992-1993) is now Executive Director of the Westly Foundation, a Silicon Valley-based foundation that supports programs that serve children at risk in California and sponsors a prize program for young social innovators. She is also an advisor to the CEO of Posiba, a software startup that brings data and analytics tools to the social sector to build greater impact.

Sally Goldfarb (US 1983-1984) continues to teach Torts, Family Law, and Sex Discrimination at Rutgers Law School in Camden, NJ. The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence recently selected Sally as a recipient of the 20/20 Vision Award for her work to improve the legal response to violence against women. She was also invited to speak at a White House forum on gender violence, equality, and civil rights. Last year, she published an article in Harvard Journal of Law & Gender arguing in favor of expanding the availability of child support awards for financially dependent adult children. She is currently working on an article proposing family law reforms to advance equality for same-sex couples

Kelley Hampton (US 2011-2012) reports that she has started a new role and residency program. She has been selected as a Broad Resident, where she will be focusing on urban education management. The Broad Residency is a two year fellowship program that places professionals into management roles in selected education organizations, supporting them through a rigorous professional development program. All Broad Residents who complete the program receive a M.Ed in Educational Leadership. As part of the residency, she is working as Director of Strategic Growth for a charter school network in Los Angeles - Equitas Academy Charter Schools. In this role, she will be strengthening and guiding the expansion of elementary and middle schools in a community-based setting.

Amy Hsieh (US 2011-2012) is currently working as a part-time staff attorney at Sanctuary for Families in the Anti-Trafficking Initiative. She provides immigration counsel to clients identified as potential trafficking survivors in the Human Trafficking Intervention Court in Brooklyn and Queens. She has also been independently consulting with the Global Network of People Living with HIV, which she has been doing since she completed her WLPFFP fellowship year.

Ayesha Khan (US 1990-1991) reports that she has left Americans United for Separation of Church and State to become a Deputy Chief in the Appellate Section of the Civil Rights Division at DOJ.

Jamesina King (LAWA 2001-2002) sends greetings from Sierra Leone, and reports that in June, she was elected to be a Commissioner in the African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights. She looks forward to contributing to the work of the Commission. Since this is not a full time job, she will continue serving in the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone until the end of her term.

Myung Lee (US 1991-1992) is now the Executive Director of Cities of Service (www.citiesofservice.org).

Joan Meier (US 1985-1986) received a grant from the National Institute of Justice to study Family Court Outcomes in Cases Involving Allegations of Abuse and Alienation. The study will take three years (2015-2017) and will provide objective analysis of thousands of published opinions across the country, potentially providing objective data supporting the reports from the field that many women are losing custody to abusive ex-partners and children are rarely protected from abuse by family courts.

Cristine Nardi (US 1999-2000) is in her 7th year as Executive Director of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence (CNE) in Charlottesville, VA - www.thecne.org. CNE works to strengthen nonprofits in the region by building skills in leadership, management and collaboration. Her updated personal email address is: cristinenardi@gmail.com.

Molly McNulty (US 1988-1989) reports that she was promoted to Principal Attorney Editor at Thomson Reuters Westlaw. She is now creating a course called Law in Public Health Practice which will be taught at the University of Rochester in Spring 2016.

Jessi Leigh Swenson (US 2010-2011) reports that she will be leaving her role in NAF to become the new Senior Policy Counsel in Reproductive Health at the National Partnership for Women and Families.

Mary Wyckoff (US 1988-1989) is now Program Counsel with Legal Services Corporation in DC.

Merle H. Weiner (US 1991-1992) is a Philip H. Knight Professor at the University of Oregon School of Law and author of *Parent-Partner Status for American Family Law*.



Advisory Board

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Coalition building at its cutest: Evan, son of Aram Schvey (US 2008-2009) and Rose, daughter of Ginna Anderson (US 2010-2011), are life-long friends, and perhaps future WLPPFP Fellows for the class of 2036-2037.

