

## 2007-2008 WOMEN'S LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWS

This year a total of 17 fellows – 11 from the United States and 6 Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows – are participating in the educational and professional development opportunities provided by the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program (WLPPFP) at the Georgetown University Law Center. Although each of their fellowship experiences is unique, they all learn together about women's rights and develop their legal skills through seminars and other activities. Some highlights of their fellowships are noted below:



**Aziza Ahmed (U.S. Fellow – International Community of Women Living With HIV/AIDS, ICW)** Aziza has traveled to countries in Africa numerous times representing ICW and advocating for the rights of HIV positive women. For example, at the start of her fellowship year she attended the Parliamentarians for Women's Health conference in Kenya. Last fall Aziza attended a governmental meeting in South Africa on the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT), where she organized a positive women's pre-meeting and ensured the participation of positive women in the meeting with government officials. Additionally, she is working with several LAWA and WLPPFP alumnae, including Linda Dumba (2006-2007, LAWA-Namibia) with the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia, Aya Fujimura-Fanselow (2004-2005, U.S.) with the International Legal Program of the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Teresa Mugadza (2002-2003, LAWA-Zimbabwe), who is a women's human rights legal consultant in Zimbabwe, on various legal initiatives addressing violations of the rights of women living with HIV/AIDS. For example, Aziza is helping bring a groundbreaking lawsuit addressing forced sterilization of HIV positive women, conducting investigative research in Namibia and organizing litigation strategy meetings in South Africa. She was quoted extensively in a Namibian newspaper article entitled "Sterilization Cases Headed for Courts," along with Linda Dumba (see Alum Accomplishments). She has also initiated a project addressing the recent trends in criminalization of HIV/AIDS, such as providing comments on a UNAIDS briefing document for governments on criminalization and an analysis of new legislation in Kenya criminalizing transmission. Aziza also participated in the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June. In addition, she has traveled to the United Kingdom to attend ICW staff meetings at the organization's main office in London. Additionally, Aziza has been involved in developing materials the global, regional, and national workshops on women and leadership regarding HIV organized by the Center for Population and Development Activities (CEPDA). These conferences bring women together for trainings on various topics including management, policy, human rights, and greater involvement for people living with HIV/AIDS. Aziza is a Georgetown Fellow supported by the Ford Foundation.



**Patience Akenji (LAWA Fellow – Cameroon)** Patience wrote a major legal research paper on "The Response of the Cameroon Legal System to Cultural Widowhood Practices and Compliance with International Human Rights Law" for her Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. She took classes on International and Comparative Law on Women's Human Rights,

Advanced Legal Research and Writing for LAWAs, International Trafficking in Persons, Health and Human Rights, Global and National Approaches to Reproductive Health and the Law, International Environmental Law, International Human Rights Law, Law and Psychiatry, and an International Women's Human Rights Seminar. Patience was selected to participate in the intensive week-long Georgetown Leadership Seminar lead by Ambassador Jennifer Ward, along with leaders from 24 countries including government ministers, doctors, journalists, judges and corporate officials. Speakers including Madeleine Albright and Alice Rivlin discussed issues such as religion and foreign policy, the 2008 U.S. elections, climate change policy, immigration policy, globalization and global trade, sustainable development, economic policy, the war on terrorism, and the rule of law. Patience was also invited to participate in a two-day meeting at the United Nations Foundation: "New Leaders Convening on Population, Justice and the Environment." She has volunteered as a Cultural Consultant for Meridian International educating children in Washington, DC public schools about Cameroon. In addition, she has taken several computer courses provided by Georgetown Law to enhance her technological skills. This summer she is conducting research for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Patience's fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law, the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation, and the Overbrook Foundation.



**Erin Aslan (U.S. Fellow – Georgetown Law's Domestic Violence Clinic)** Erin has served as a teaching fellow with Georgetown Law's Domestic Violence Clinic, which provides intensive training and supervision to students representing victims of family abuse in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The Clinic's website highlights that its mission is to provide Georgetown Law students with an intensive, challenging education in the art of trial advocacy; and also to provide high quality representation to indigent victims of domestic abuse. To fulfill this mission, the Clinic trains students to provide highly effective client representation; become creative, independent thinkers and outstanding attorneys; and increase the effectiveness of the civil and criminal justice systems in the fight against domestic violence. During her fellowship, Erin has supervised students representing clients who are seeking legal relief from the DC Superior Court such as emergency temporary protection orders and year-long civil protection orders. She has assisted the students in all areas of case preparation for domestic violence litigation, such as supervising students during intake, helping them decide which cases to undertake, attending court appearances with the students and helping to negotiate a favorable outcome for the clients. Erin has also taught in the seminar portion of clinic, instructing students as to how to file necessary paperwork, create a case strategy, and work with their clients throughout the litigation process. Moreover, Erin has handled her own caseload representing survivors in negotiations and in court, and has also represented the clinic at monthly meetings of domestic violence advocates in Washington, DC. In addition to her supervisory, teaching and client responsibilities, Erin has audited a seminar at Georgetown Law on International Trafficking in Persons and has participated in the clinical pedagogy seminars provided for all of the teaching fellows at the Law Center. Erin's Clinical Teaching Fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law.



**Abiodun Baiyewu (LAWA Fellow – Nigeria)** In fulfillment of her LL.M. degree from Georgetown, Abiodun completed her major legal research paper entitled “Revising Laws and Policies on Domestic and Sexual Violence: An International Human Rights Imperative for Women in Nigeria.” She took classes on International and Comparative Law on Women’s Human Rights, Advanced Legal Research and Writing for LAWAs, Global Health Law, Restorative

Justice, International Human Rights Law, International Trafficking in Persons, Development Law, Contemporary Peacekeeping Legality and Enforcement, Immunity under International Law, International Women’s Human Rights, and she also audited Global and National Approaches to Reproductive Health and the Law. In her spare time, Abiodun has attended numerous events, such as the Women’s Foreign Policy Group Annual Luncheon as a guest of Sarah Craven (WLPPFP alum who runs the DC Office of the United Nations Population Fund); which featured Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as the keynote speaker. Abiodun has also attended the International Justice Mission Awareness Dinner on Slavery around the World, trainings on fundraising for non-profit organizations at the Foundation Center, and presentations on topics such as maternal mortality, trafficking in persons, immigration and human rights. She volunteered with the DC Central Kitchen and gave a presentation on Nigeria to students at an educational facility within a juvenile penitentiary in Washington, DC. Abiodun was awarded a competitive position as a participant in the Annual Summer Symposium for Graduate Students in International Affairs organized by Women in International Security (WIIS), the premier global membership organization dedicated to advancing the influence of women in international peace and security fields. This intensive six-day program included seminars on security issues with leading policy experts, career development workshops, a crisis simulation, research presentations by the participants, and unique networking opportunities with security specialists from around the world. For her summer internship experience, Abiodun is working with the O’Neill Institute for Global and National Health Law. Abiodun’s fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law, the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation, and the Overbrook Foundation.



**Robyn Carr (U.S. Fellow – National Partnership for Women and Families)** Robyn has worked on a significant and multifaceted project responding to the disappointing Supreme Court decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire* concerning employment discrimination against women. For example, she researched possible legislative measures that could correct the Supreme Court’s interpretation of Title VII, and she worked with WLPPFP alumna Helen Norton, who is a professor at the University of Colorado Law School, on a letter from law professors in support of the legislative attempts to correct the *Ledbetter* decision. She has attended meetings with Senate Judiciary Committee staff on behalf of the Partnership and conducted outreach to other organizations to foster an organized response to the *Ledbetter* decision. Robyn has also researched nominees by the Bush Administration to the federal judiciary in order to help determine whether the National Partnership would oppose their nominations due to the candidates’ positions on women’s rights and other social justice issues. In addition, she has reviewed many amicus briefs that the National Partnership has been asked to sign onto concerning major federal lawsuits and has advised her colleagues about whether to join the briefs. Robyn also conducted research for an amicus brief that the National Partnership wrote for a case in Louisiana concerning state immunity from claims under the Family and Medical Leave Act, which was filed with the Louisiana Supreme Court. She drafted a letter supplying comments to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), regarding a federal regulation related to information collection and the uniform guidelines on employee selection procedures. Regarding pregnancy discrimination, Robyn has created fact sheets based on the new EEOC charge data that was recently released analyzing the pregnancy discrimination numbers, and she wrote a pregnancy discrimination fact sheet for the National Partnership to distribute to individuals who contact the organization for information concerning their rights. Robyn is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow.

**Alicia (Lacy) Carra (U.S. Fellow – Legal Momentum)**

Lacy has worked with Legal Momentum’s Immigrant Women’s Program during her Fellowship year. She has played a significant role in educating Members of Congress and their staff about various forms of discrimination and other problems faced by women and their families. For example, she helped coordinate the successful effort to enact the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) and worked with an expert team to draft gender-based asylum language for the TVPRA. Lacy also drafted a memo concerning the U.S. Department of Education’s postsecondary educational loans and grants for battered immigrants. Legal Momentum provides information and resources to people calling with questions about immigration issues, and Lacy has overseen this initiative addressing questions from attorneys, advocates, and survivors across the country about immigration, family law, and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) among other matters. Lacy also wrote and edited chapters on a manual that Legal Momentum authored for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Violence Against Women on sexual assault and immigrant survivors. She wrote chapters on gender-based asylum, jurisdiction and protection orders, and revised chapters on VAWA self-petitions and the introduction to VAWA and immigration issues. Lacy has also assisted in planning conferences on women’s rights by coordinating with other legal organizations, organizing trainings and spearheading working groups. She presented a paper analyzing the process of enacting the Violence Against Women Act at the Feminist Law Conference held at the University of Baltimore. She attended the National Office on Violence Against Women Conference in Kentucky. In addition, Lacy gave a presentation on “Women’s Rights and Political Involvement” for the U.S. Department of State World Visitor Program organized by World Learning for young Muslim political leaders from Africa. Lacy’s fellowship is supported by Legal Momentum.



**Nadine Chabrier (U.S. Fellow – The Women’s Collective)**

During her fellowship year, Nadine has been working with The Women’s Collective (TWC), a local non-profit organization that provides HIV care, management and prevention services to women and families in Washington, DC. Nadine was also awarded a prestigious Frederick Abramson Fellowship, for which she was featured in the *Washington Lawyer* magazine. One of her primary projects with TWC has concerned microbicides, which are methods currently under development for use by women to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. For example, Nadine has conducted research on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy concerning microbicides and the latest clinic trials that she has developed into a multifaceted training called Microbicides 101 including a detailed curriculum, handouts and power point presentation. She has used this training frequently to educate the public and possible supporters about the benefits of microbicides. For example, she has presented the training for TWC clients and staff, as well as at the Whitman Walker Clinic’s HIV-positive women’s group. Nadine has also prepared and led a workshop and power point presentation on wills, advance health care directives and planning for incapacity. Additionally, she helped organize a conference on microbicides last fall that was attended by participants from across the United States. In conjunction with this event, Nadine developed educational materials on microbicides, coordinated visits to Congressional offices, drafted model letters to Members of Congress informing them about microbicides, and has followed up with participants concerning their subsequent outreach activities. Nadine has also spearheaded groundbreaking efforts to ensure the participation of positive women in policy-making venues, such as meetings with the NIH Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council and the Director of Washington, DC’s HIV/AIDS Administration. In addition, she has been a active member of TWC’s Intergenerational Program Advisory Board. Nadine is a Georgetown Fellow supported by the Ford Foundation.



**Tinyade Kachika (LAWA Fellow – Malawi)** Tinyade graduated with distinction from Georgetown Law’s LL.M. program. Her major legal research paper explores “The Matrilineal Tradition and its Harms on Women’s Development in Rural Malawi: A Right to Development Perspective.” Her courses included International and Comparative Law on Women’s Human





Rights, Advanced Legal Research and Writing for LAWAs, Global and National Approaches to Reproductive Health and the Law, Establishing the Rule of Law after Conflict, Law and Economics, International Women's Human Rights, AIDS Law and Ethics Seminar, Public Interest Advocacy Seminar, and Comparative Constitutional Law. She wrote papers for her seminars on topics including "The Role of the Law in Reducing Maternal Mortality in Malawi: A

Human Rights and Bioethics Perspective," "Beyond the Citizenry: Using the Legal Empowerment Approach to Improve the Customary Justice System in Post-Conflict Liberia," "Advancing Women's Human Rights through the Courtroom: Challenging the Inability of Government to Protect Victims of Property Dispossession," and "The Forgotten Class: HIV Protections for People Who Wash Dead Bodies in Rural Malawi." She also attended legal research trainings and received certifications in researching secondary sources, case law and statutes, as well as trainings on networking and writing cover letters and resumes. Tinyade also volunteered as a moot court judge for the International Women's Human Rights Clinic, and networked with officials from the Embassy of Malawi in Washington, DC. Tinyade is interning this summer with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Women's Rights Project to learn more about bringing impact litigation cases as a promising new strategy to advance women's human rights in Malawi. She is working alongside WLPFP alum Emily Martin, who is the Deputy Director of the ACLU Women's Rights Project. Tinyade's fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law, the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation, and the Overbrook Foundation.



**Leah Kiguatha (LAWA Fellow – Kenya)** Leah completed her legal research paper on "Using International Human Rights Law to Ensure Women Access the Right to Political Participation in Kenya: The Case for Affirmative Action." Her coursework for her Master of Laws degree included classes on International & Comparative Law of Women's Human Rights, Constitutional Law II – Individual Rights and Liberties, International Human Rights, Advanced

Legal Research and Writing for LAWAs, Restorative Justice in International Human Rights, Law and Development, International Women's Human Rights Seminar, Comparative Constitutional Law, and Women and Politics in Africa. She was invited by the professor of her Women and Politics in Africa Seminar to give the lecture for a class on women and politics in Kenya and Ethiopia. Leah was active in the Foreign Lawyers at Georgetown (FLAG) student group as a member of the Political and Cultural Affairs Committee, such as organizing the African table at Georgetown Law's Global Gatherings Celebration. She also spoke to over one hundred high school students from across the United States who were members of United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Committee of the forty-fifth North American Invitational Model United Nations (NAIMUN) conference. The conference organizer sent a message afterwards indicating that *The committee staff all said she was "an amazing speaker" and that she had "a huge impact on the debate for the rest of the day."* Leah was also invited by the Georgetown Women's Institute to be a speaker at the International Women's History Dinner. She attended a talk by Wangari Maathai at the Smithsonian Institute and spoke with her afterwards (she has served in the Kenyan Parliament and as Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, and is the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for "her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace"). Leah noted that Dr. Maathai is familiar with the LAWAs Program and commended Leah's participation. Leah is spending her summer internship with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Leah's fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law and the Roth Family Foundation.

**Morgan Lynn (U.S. Fellow – Women Empowered Against Violence, WEAVE)** Morgan has launched an innovative new project at WEAVE providing legal services to clients in the LGBTQ community. Since this pioneering initiative is one of the first of its kind in the country, Morgan initially focused on development of the project and on outreach to various stakeholders with an interest in this issue. For example, she worked with a group of LGBTQ service providers to discuss LGBTQ-specific domestic

violence related resources and needs in the local Washington, DC community. She also put together a survey on LGBTQ intimate partner violence and created a resource list of LGBTQ-friendly social and legal services. Morgan also introduced her project to many area organizations. She spoke with representatives from the Child and Family Services Administration and was invited to give a presentation at their mandatory training on LGBTQ issues. Morgan also gave a presentation to the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit of the Metropolitan Police Department. Additionally, she created and presented a workshop entitled "Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence" to an audience of domestic violence intake center counselors, advocates, and Metropolitan Police Department officers. Morgan was also invited to apply, and then was selected, to become a board member of Women in the Life, which is a local DC organization that focuses on addressing the needs of lesbians of color. Morgan has traveled to many conferences on behalf of WEAVE. She attended a conference in New Orleans on the civil legal needs of sexual assault survivors, sponsored by the Boston-based Victims Rights Law Center (VRLC). She also participated in the National Institute of the Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse in Seattle. Additionally, Morgan has spent a significant amount of time working with the local LGBTQ coalition, "Rainbow Response: Metro D.C. Coalition to Address Intimate Partner Violence in the LGBTQ Community," which holds monthly meetings, and she has worked with coalition organizers to help strengthen the coalition's structure and effectiveness. In addition, upon passing her bar exam and becoming a licensed attorney, Morgan has provided legal representation to a growing number of clients. Morgan's fellowship is supported by WEAVE.



**Victoria Ochanda (LAWA Fellow – Kenya)** Victoria wrote her legal research paper on "Addressing Child Motherhood in Kenya: A Human Rights Approach." Her LL.M. classes included International and Comparative Law on Women's Human Rights, Advanced Legal Research and Writing for LAWAs, Establishing Rule of Law After Conflict, Law and Economics, International Women's Human Rights, International Trafficking in Persons Law, AIDS Law and Ethics Seminar, International Arbitration, and International Environmental Law. Victoria was invited to be a special guest speaker addressing women's human rights in Kenya for the Hadassah Attorneys Council Dinner. For her summer practical work experience, she is working on issues concerning male circumcision and HIV/AIDS in Swaziland with the O'Neill Institute for Global and National Health Law. Victoria is also writing a graduate independent research paper this summer, which will enable her to receive a Certificate in Human Rights from Georgetown Law. Her paper topic is "Male Circumcision as an HIV Prevention Strategy in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Women's Human Rights Perspective," in which she argues that governments in Sub-Saharan Africa must take cognizance of international ethical guidelines and women's human rights, including principles of non-discrimination against women and fully involving them in all stages of such programs. She is also examining issues such as spousal notification of HIV status, and concern that such programs will take resources away from women's health programs. In summarizing her experiences with the LAWAs Program, Victoria has expressed: *"In conclusion, I would say we need homegrown solutions to the problem of discrimination against women and girls in Africa -- solutions that are sustainable and a process that is owned by the African people themselves. Because God forbid the UN, USAID, etc., are not there tomorrow to assist us -- do we sit down and wait for another UN or USAID? I don't think so. The LAWAs Program is a noble example of this approach, because it builds the capacity of women's rights advocates and sends them back to 'be the change they want to see in the world.' With all the knowledge, strategies and networks we have formed, we shall make a significant impact. It is a process and an experience that one would not trade for the world."* Victoria's fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law, the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation, and the Overbrook Foundation.



**Dawn Philip (U.S. Fellow – National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, NAPAWF)** Dawn is working with the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) for her fellowship year, and has



taken a leadership role on numerous initiatives within the organization. For example, she has represented NAPAWF at many national conferences, such as the Asian American Public Health Conference at New York University and the Asian American Justice Center's Annual Access to Justice Conference. At the National Conference of Women's Organizations annual conference, Dawn co-presented a workshop with a representative from NLRH on health disparities in communities of color, including information about the Health & Equity Accountability Act. Dawn facilitated an Asian Pacific Islander (API) women's caucus at the Creating Change Conference organized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Detroit in which over 2000 LGBT rights advocates participated. She addressed the lack of research documenting API women's health concerns on a panel during the NFPRHA annual conference. Heading another major initiative, Dawn is helping lead a national alliance of organizations advocating for the health and safety concerns of nail salon workers. Representing one of the three convening organizations of the coalition (known as the National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance), Dawn helps plan nationwide conference calls to coordinate various ongoing regional and national advocacy efforts. Dawn has also the opportunity to write online articles, such as a publication on the issues facing nail salon workers for a blog called RH Reality Check. On another front, she is launching a project concerning comprehensive sexual education, which she notes is especially significant for Asian American women because knowledge about this important health issue is often not received at home or discussed among peers. Additionally, other social justice organizations frequently invite NAPAWF to sign onto letters addressing issues of national significance, and Dawn conducts research into each of these issues and provides advice and recommendations to her colleagues as to whether NAPAWF should join the letters. Recently Dawn was interviewed on the live radio show "In our Voices" about NAPAWF and their program areas. Dawn is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Moriah Fund and the Huber Foundation.



**Rachel Rebouché (U.S. Fellow – National Women's Law Center)** Rachel is a fellow with the National Women's Law Center, working in the family economic security section and on judicial nominations. She has played an instrumental role in the Dependent Care Tax Credit Project, researching and summarizing proposed legislation related to the issue and analyzing the impact of different state tax credit programs. As part of her research, she examined how tax credits aimed at improving quality child care have fared in various states to date, and has interacted with state advocates across the country to find out how the credits work in practice. Armed with the insight provided by her findings, Rachel helped draft language for a credit tied to improvements in child care, and also wrote a memorandum examining how proposed regulations would affect the federal tax credit. Rachel has also been working on a project addressing the unionization of home-based child care workers. For example, she is updating and revising a report that describes the approaches taken in states that have authorized union contracts with home-based child care providers. Rachel has also undertaken a lead role in the Center's involvement with monitoring nominations to the federal bench and other appointed positions. She has investigated the nominees' opinions, briefs, articles, memoranda and other records, including on candidates such as Attorney General Michael Mukasey. Based on her findings, she advised the Center's Board of Directors on the position that the Center should take, and has coordinated outreach with other groups who monitor the nominees and their records on social justice issues. In addition, she has attended the Congressional hearings at which the nominees have testified. As another responsibility, Rachel updates *Womenstake*, the blog of the National Women's Law Center, commenting on recent court cases that affect women's rights. For example, she covered the *Mendelsohn* decision concerning employment discrimination that she and the other WLPPFP fellows observed at the Supreme Court earlier this year. Moreover, in addition to her fellowship duties, Rachel taught a comparative law course at the Washington College of Law, incorporating materials on governance, feminism, family law, and international women's rights. Rachel is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Rita Charatz Davidson Family Fund.

**Victoria Thomas (U.S. Fellow – American Diabetes Association)** Victoria provides legal information and resources to people who contact the ADA about discrimination related to diabetes. Many issues relating to diabetes particularly concern women, such as gestational diabetes, the effects of eating disorders, and issues relating to children with diabetes. She fields many calls each month concerning discrimination that people with diabetes face from employers, educational institutions and law enforcement officials, and she educates them about their rights under disability and civil rights laws. She has helped people with diabetes to get their jobs back, obtain reasonable accommodations from their employers, gain financial compensation for past discrimination, persuade employers to change their hiring policies, and convince schools to change their policies regarding accommodations for children, and successfully challenge charges concerned alleged crimes related to hypoglycemia. Victoria also trains the ADA's Legal Advocacy Call Center employees, and she helps coordinate the ADA's nationwide volunteer attorney network and provides the attorneys with in-depth training and materials regarding diabetes advocacy. As part of these efforts, Victoria has trained attorneys across the country about providing legal information and services to people with diabetes. For example, she gave a presentation entitled "Establishing Coverage for Students with Diabetes" at the Fighting for Fairness Conference in Chicago, and she also helped ensure that the conference ran smoothly. Additionally, Victoria has been involved in other legislative, policy and education initiatives. For example, she has been active in the legislative campaign to enact the Americans with Disabilities Restoration Act, such as preparing experts to give testimony at Congressional hearings. She has also assisted with the Safe at School program, which was launched by the American Diabetes Association to ensure that students with diabetes receive appropriate accommodation as well as non-differential treatment as their peers. She has also completed a "know your rights" packet for people with diabetes who have been incarcerated. Victoria's fellowship is supported by the American Diabetes Association.



**Marya Torrez (U.S. Fellow – PPFA Legal and Litigation Department)** Throughout the year, Marya has conducted extensive legal research and analysis, examining numerous state and federal statutes, investigating proposed legislation, and analyzing federal and state cases that are winding their way through the courts. She has studied state referendum initiatives, conducted interviews, and explored potential litigation strategies in conjunction with her colleagues. Marya has also undertaken research projects concerning regulatory and administrative law, the use and effect of executive orders, and various constitutional law provisions. In addition, she assisted one of her colleagues in preparing for oral argument in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and she also attended the hearing in Cincinnati, Ohio. Marya attends weekly staff meetings with both the legal and public policy departments, and travels to New York to meet with colleagues and discuss possible future cases. In her spare time, Marya has attended many events related to a myriad of social justice issues. For example, she was awarded a scholarship enabling her to participate in the American Constitution Society annual conference. She attended the annual luncheon of the National Partnership for Women and Families, where she will be working when her fellowship concludes. She also enjoyed attending the annual luncheon of the Alliance for Justice, where she previously worked as a fellow immediately after graduation from the Georgetown University Law Center. Additionally, she returned to Georgetown Law to see the Henry Kaiser Memorial Lecture, where Lord Neil Gordon Kinnock discussed Globalization, Labor Conditions, and Human Rights. She also audited an evening seminar at Georgetown Law on Health and Human Rights during the fall semester and on International Trafficking in Persons during the spring semester. Marya has also attended numerous other events related to social justice, such as the Feminist Legal Theory Conference at the University of Baltimore and a program organized by the Washington Council of Lawyers on how to stay in public interest law. Marya is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and the Huber Foundation.







**Stephanie Troyer (U.S. Fellow – Legal Aid Society of Washington, DC)** Stephanie is working with the Legal Aid Society Family and Domestic Violence Unit. She provides invaluable direct legal services to her clients in a number of areas, including protecting her clients from violent abusers by filing for Civil Protection Orders and representing clients in complicated child custody and child support cases. Stephanie also facilitated a training for Assistant Attorneys General at the U.S. Department of Justice as part of their *pro bono* program, instructing them on how to handle child support cases. She has subsequently referred child support cases to them and helped supervise these matters. She also supervises child support cases that local firms undertake as part of their *pro bono* programs. This spring, Stephanie was selected to participate in an intensive, seven-day trial advocacy skills training at the Georgetown University Law Center through its Continuing Legal Education program and co-sponsored by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). The website highlights that participants in the program gain hands-on experience practicing their trial skills: conducting opening statements, direct and cross examinations, and closing arguments, and they receive critiques from some of the best trial lawyers in Washington, DC. They then try a case before jurors at the U.S. Courthouse, and subsequently watch as the jury deliberates on closed circuit TV. Finally, the participants de-brief the jury and receive detailed critiques on their trial performance from a distinguished set of litigators. Stephanie's fellowship is supported by the Legal Aid Society of Washington, DC.



**Catherine Wangamati (LAWA Fellow – Kenya)** Catherine wrote her graduate research paper on "Access to Property and the Participation of Women in Trade and Investment in Kenya: A Human Rights Perspective." Her coursework for her LL.M. degree included classes on International and Comparative Law on Women's Human Rights, Advanced Legal Research and Writing for LAWAs, Refugee Law and Policy, Restorative Justice in International Human Rights, International Trade Law, International Women's Human Rights, International Environmental Law, International Trade, Investment and Sustainable Development, International Trade and Development, and World Trade Organization: Texts of Agreements and the Doha Round of Negotiations. She wrote one of her seminar papers on the impact of Free Trade Agreements and Regional Trade Agreements on women in developing economies, and upon graduating she was awarded a World Trade Organization Certificate from Georgetown Law. She was invited to participate in the four-day Civil Society Dialogue in conjunction with the spring 2008 meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Catherine attended a number of presentations addressing human rights law by speakers such as Judge Thomas Buergenthal of the International Court of Justice and Pascal Lamy, the Director General for the World Trade Organization, as well as trainings on fundraising for non-profit organizations at the Foundation Center. She also provided volunteer services at the Meridian International Center, through which she gave presentations about Kenya as a culture consultant for Washington, DC public schools. Catherine is spending her summer internship working on women's economic development in Africa with Women Thrive Worldwide. Catherine's fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation.



*Fellows outside the U.S. Supreme Court*

## DEVELOPING WOMEN'S RIGHTS LEADERS

Through networking opportunities, professional development trainings, and colloquia on hot-topic legal issues affecting women, WLPPFP helps our fellows become leaders advancing women's rights. Below are examples of their activities since our last newsletter:

- A discussion with **Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg** at the U.S. Supreme Court about the development and current status of women's rights in U.S. constitutional jurisprudence.
- A meeting with **Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton** in her office to discuss legislation concerning women's rights, the history and current status of women's rights and civil rights, and women in politics and government.
- The **National Partnership for Women and Families Annual Luncheon**, featuring **Michelle Obama**, **Ellen Malcom** (Emily's List), **Deval Patrick** (Massachusetts Governor), and others.
- A presentation by **Professor Wendy Williams** sharing inside stories and the history of legal battles for women's equality from her forthcoming **biography of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**.
- A series of seminars on "**The Fellowship Experience**" led by our current Fellows, who discussed their Fellowship experiences with their placement organizations, shared their multifaceted backgrounds working on women's rights, exchanged ideas about what they have learned so far, and envisioned their future career paths advancing the legal status of women in the United States and around the world.
- **Colloquia featuring women's rights experts on the following topics:**
  - "**Health and Women's Rights**" with **Deborah Reid** (Staff Attorney with the National Health Law Project); **Pat Daoust**, (Health Action AIDS Campaign Director with Physicians for Human Rights) and **Paola Barahona** (Global Health Policy Associate, PHR).



*Fellows with US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg*



- **“Disability and Women’s Rights”** with **Katie Wolfe** (trial attorney with the Disability Rights Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice) and **Lisa Bornstein** (WLPPFP alum, Senior Council and Senior Policy Analyst with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights).
- **“Women and Criminal Justice - Prosecuting Crimes Against Women”** with **Elana Tyrangiel** (WLPPFP alum, Assistant U.S. Attorney, United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia), and **Nancy Paterson** (former prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague).
- **“Women and the Judiciary”** with **Judge Mary Terrell** (D.C. Superior Court), and **Joan Winship** (Executive Director of the International Association of Women Judges).
- **“Women and Politics”** with **Kristin Haffert** (Director of Women’s Political Participation Programs with the National Democratic Institute), **Lahra Smith** (Professor of African Studies with the Georgetown School of Foreign Service), **Erin Cutraro**, Director of Politics and Education with the Women’s Campaign Forum), and **Brianne Nadeau** (Adv. Neighborhood Commissioner & Special Asst. Congressman Sarbanes).
- **“Media and Communications Skills”** with **Margot Friedman** (women’s rights attorney and president of Dupont Circle Communications).
- **“Principles of Fundraising”** with **Regan Ralph** (Executive Director, Fund for Global Human Rights, WLPPFP Alum), **Shira Saperstein** (Deputy Director, The Moriah Fund), **Jacqueline Nolley Echegaray** (Moriah), and **Raquel Najera** (Moriah).



*LAWAs at the U.S. Capitol*

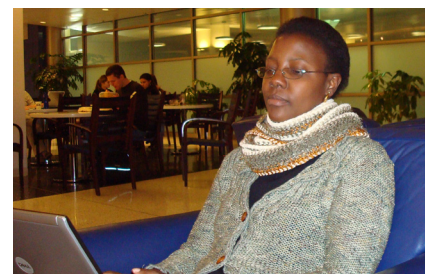
- Speaking on women’s rights in their countries at a round table discussion at the **U.S. Agency for International Development**.
- Lecturing at the Georgetown University main campus for undergraduate students in the **International Women’s Human Rights Seminar**.
- Presenting their **graduate research papers** addressing women’s human rights in their countries on a panel at the Georgetown University Law Center.
- Meeting with **Jolynn Shoemaker**, Executive Director, **Women in International Security**.
- Meeting with **Megan Shaw**, Africa Program Director with **Freedom House**, and **Rebecca Vo**, Program Officer with the Human Rights Defenders Fund of **Freedom House**.
- Meeting with **Mark Blackden**, Consultant on Gender, Entrepreneurship and Markets with the **International Finance Corporation**; and with **Melysa Sperber**, Africa Program Officer and Senior Editor with **Vital Voices Global Partners**.
- Attending a meeting at the United Nations in New York of the **Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** on the report from Nigeria.
- Attending the **Initiative for Inclusive Security’s** Annual Policy Forum Luncheon hosted by **Ambassador Swanee Hunt**.
- Attending the **Africare Dinner** on the theme of “The Empowerment of Women in Africa” honoring **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** and featuring keynote speaker **Laura Bush**, as guests of **Soraya Teymourian** with **CitiBank**.
- Attending a symposium on **“Courts at Risk, Rights in Peril: Where Have All the Courageous Gone?”** sponsored by the **Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation** and moderated by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.



*Fellows Discussing Women’s Rights*

- **Additional activities for the Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows included the following:**
  - Speaking at a **Congressional Briefing on “Women’s Human Rights in Africa”** in the U.S. Capitol Building in celebration of International Women’s Day in March.
  - Speaking on a panel addressing human rights in Africa during **International Law Week** at the Georgetown University Law Center.
  - Speaking about women’s rights in their countries at a luncheon hosted by the **Women’s Forum** at the law firm of **Covington & Burling**.

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



*Tinyade Kachika at work*



## LAWA Reunion at Vital Voices Program in South Africa By Melysa Sperber

In February 2008, Vital Voices launched Leveling the Playing Field for Women's Economic & Social Progress, a program of the African Women's Leadership Initiative. A group of twenty-five successful, talented African women entrepreneurs and legal advocates gathered in Cape Town, South Africa for an intensive four day program aimed at identifying legal impediments to women's economic progress. Among the African lawyers in attendance were four accomplished LAWA fellows - Sarah Lubega (1999-2000, LAWA-Uganda), Hilary Gbedemah (1995-1996, LAWA-Ghana), Regina Mutyaba (1993-1994, LAWA-Uganda), and Jane Magigita (2000-2001, LAWA-Tanzania).



Program participants represented 12 African countries from East, West, Central and Southern Africa. Materials were developed to provide leaders with the skills and tools they need to advocate for policy changes and the implementation of agreements to impact women's economic progress in Africa. International and regional examples were explored through academic research, case studies, and participants' own experiences. Global advocacy experts, and partners from the public and private sectors joined participants to collaborate on panel discussions, working groups, and strategic meetings. The issues identified as the most challenging were: access to credit, lack of collateral, financial literacy, weak property rights, and regulatory impediments to starting a business. Importantly, participants also discussed the critical importance of self-esteem and confidence among women and girls.

Regina Mutyaba, a LAWA alum from Uganda, commented, "The training enhanced the formation of a strong partnership and a strong network of advocates for leveling the playing field on the African continent." To further the strategic outcomes of the program, Vital Voices will engage with program participants to design and implement advocacy campaigns targeting the legal challenges identified as impeding women's progress in entrepreneurship. With the generous support of the Gates Foundation, program participants are eligible for grants to support the implementation of their projects and initiatives aimed at overcoming gender-based laws and policies affecting African businesswomen. Indeed, the organization Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda (LAWU), which maintains a connection to the Georgetown University Law Center, will receive a grant to campaign for the passage of a law to ban the practice of forced female circumcision.

## ALUM UPDATES

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 United States and Africa, serving as founders and directors of non-profit organizations, judges and justices, parliamentarians, professors and deans of law schools, public interest lawyers, and in other influential posts. Below are a few examples of some of their recent activities:

**Mushahida Adhikari (2005-2006, LAWA-South Africa)** recently wrote: "I'm still with the law firm and enjoying the work very much. I've been here for about a year now and am pretty much settled into a good routine..."

Sleep and a social life are quite another challenge though. These past few months have seen me pulling regular 12 hour days and weekends... I am however getting to do some pro bono work now that I've proven my worth and make my targets each month. I recently hooked up with **Linda [Dumba (2006-2007, LAWA-Namibia)]** on FaceBook. It's really a great tool for keeping in touch... Anyhow I just wanted to let you know that I'm still alive and please keep the email updates coming. Also if there is anything I can do to assist WLPPFP do let me know. Much love, Mushahida"



**Algresia Akwi-Ogojo (1994-1995, LAWA-Uganda)**, Project Coordinator for the East African Community Legislative Assembly wrote in January: "Thank you for keeping me on your email list as well and thank you for keeping us updated. My job here is going well. Unfortunately we are experiencing political problems in two of the member states currently and therefore the situation is not as good as it should be. We do hope the Burundians and Kenyans reach some workable solution soon."

**Justine Andronici (2002-2003, U.S.)** sent a note in April that "I am writing to let you all know that the Spring issue of *Ms.* is just about to hit the newsstands, featuring my law column with Debra Katz on 'Stall Tactics.' In it, we discuss the *Sprint v. Mendelsohn* case as well as the continuing aftershocks from the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire* case. As we write about the former case, 'The Court could have helped protect discrimination plaintiffs by declaring that other employee testimony is almost always relevant in discrimination cases. Instead, the decision leaves the fate of discrimination plaintiffs subject to the whims of the increasingly conservative District Court judiciary.'"



**Jackie Asimwe (2000-2001, LAWA-Uganda)** has been hired as a consultant by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), which is undertaking a project to develop and evaluate a standardized curriculum for community paralegal training in Uganda. They are especially interested in the impacts of paralegal programs on women's awareness of their property rights and their access and use of the legal system.

**Johanna Bond (1998-1999, U.S.)** will be starting a new position as an Associate Professor of Law at Washington & Lee University School of Law in the fall.

**Lisa Bornstein (1999-2000, U.S.)** writes that "After five years as a litigator at Mehri & Skalet, I recently joined the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights as Senior Counsel and Senior Policy Analyst (after a two week trip to Peru!) I will be working on a variety of civil rights issues including Hate Crimes, Criminal Justice, Voting Rights, Employment Discrimination, as well



LAWA Graduates



as heading up the project on the transition for the new administration. Since joining LCCR two months ago, I have been working most intensively on legislation to restore the Americans with Disabilities Act after the past decade of Supreme Court decisions severely narrowing its application. As the Harriet Burg fellow on disabilities as a WLPPFP fellow, it is wonderful to have the opportunity to work so actively on disability issues and with the disability community again."

**Jean Bruggeman (2000-2001, U.S.),** Director of the Community Legal Interpreter Bank with Ayuda, an organization addressing domestic violence in Washington, DC, sent information about job openings with Ayuda.



*Fellows Gathering at U.S. Supreme Court*

**Beth Burkstrand-Reid (2005-2006, U.S.)** will be starting a new position this fall as a Visiting Professor at the University of Illinois Law School teaching practice-oriented as well as doctrinal courses.

**Ahadi Bugg-Levine (2000-2001, U.S.)** is currently working as an Atlantic Fellow with the Atlantic Philanthropies, Inc., in New York City. She has also been keeping in close touch with friends in Kenya.

**Catherine Caporusso (1996-1997, U.S.)** let us know that she has a new baby girl, Samantha, who was born on October 2, 2007.

**Pamela Coukos (1995-1996, U.S.)** writes "I'm finishing up my third year in the PhD program in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at UC Berkeley, and just passed my qualifying exam. So I am ready to start my dissertation research -- a study of the feminist campaign to establish sexual harassment law. This project draws on approaches from existing work in political science and socio-legal studies and theories of social movements. I am particularly interested in how such a liberal, rights-based expansion of law occurred during a period of civil rights retrenchment and increasing political conservatism. This is a topic some of you know quite well, so if you have any suggestions or insights, please contact me at [pcoukos@berkeley.edu](mailto:pcoukos@berkeley.edu)." She also kindly indicated that she is "Always happy to support the fellowship program, which has done so much for me. Keep up the good work."

**Sarah Craven (1992-1993, U.S.),** as head of the Washington, D.C. office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized several events addressing obstetric fistulae. According to the materials she sent, "At least 2 million women in Africa, Asia and the Arab region live with fistula, a debilitating and devastating childbirth injury caused by prolonged labor without prompt medical intervention. The woman or girl is left with chronic incontinence, other health problems, and in most cases, a still born baby. She is abandoned by her family and community and relatively few women obtain surgical treatment which costs about \$300 per operation. While obstetric fistula was virtually eliminated in the U.S. and Europe one hundred years ago, today, it is a very real illustration of poverty and inequality at its most cruel as 50,000 to 100,000 new cases develop in other regions each year."

**Lucy Koh (1993-1994, U.S.) has recently been appointed to the bench in California.**

Quyen Ta (2003-2004, U.S.) wrote in January that "Lucy is an alum from a few years back, but I've met her through bar activities. Lucy is terrific, supportive of young lawyers, and her appointment is a true victory for the minority legal community, as well as the larger community. Below is a story that ran in our legal newspaper today." See CallLaw: California's Legal News Source, "Appointment Limits Race for Bench" (1/29/08), which states in part:

Lucy Koh, a Palo Alto IP litigator, will fill the Santa Clara County Superior Court seat made vacant by the retirement of Judge Randolph Rice. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Koh, a Democrat, on Friday afternoon... Koh, whose mother is North Korean and father is South Korean, said her parents' immigrant background and her own upbringing in Mississippi and Oklahoma give her a unique ability to deal with people from different segments of society.

"I just think that if you have different life experiences it can help you relate to different people," said Koh, 39, who since 2002 had been a partner in the Silicon Valley office of McDermott, Will & Emery, working on complex civil litigation in the intellectual property division. "Even though I've seen a lot of poverty in Mississippi, I've also represented multimillion dollar Silicon Valley high-tech companies."

Koh graduated from Harvard Law School in 1993 and has spent much of her career working for the federal government. Presiding Judge Catherine Gallagher... said Koh will have a very steep learning curve but that the former federal prosecutor is "kind of a superstar" who shouldn't have any trouble getting accustomed to her new duties. In addition to stints as a special counsel for the U.S. Department of Justice and special assistant to the U.S. deputy attorney general, Koh also worked as an assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting major frauds in California's Central District. Judge Socrates Manoukian said he had the opportunity to see Koh work in the courtroom once and described her as "greased lightning." "Everything about her seems impressive," Manoukian said.



*Fellows with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton*



**Linda Dumba (2006-2007, LAWA-Namibia) & Aziza Ahmed (2007-2008, U.S.) Bring HIV Lawsuit**

Linda Dumba Chikalu (2006-2007, LAWA-Namibia), lawyer with the Legal Assistance Centre in Namibia, and Aziza Ahmed (2007-2008, U.S.), WLPPFP Fellow with the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), are working together on a lawsuit in Namibia challenging forced sterilization of HIV positive women. A local newspaper provides the following account by Wezi Tjaronda, 4/7/08, New Era: Newspaper for a New Namibia, "Sterilization Cases Headed for Courts":

At least 10 potential cases of forced sterilization of HIV-positive women would be heading for the courts. The Legal Assistance Centre, which will be representing the women, has had preliminary consultations with 14 women who claim they were forcibly sterilized at the country's public health facilities because of their HIV status. LAC Aids Law Unit Project Lawyer, Linda Dumba Chikalu, said 10 of the cases were potential cases that would go to court... New cases have come up since February when New Era wrote about young HIV-positive women who were sterilized against their will and some without their knowledge.

At stake is the violation of the women's reproductive rights. Although almost all women said they signed consent forms, they claim they were either forced to sign in order to access other health services or signed under duress, when in labor pains. Others said they did not understand what sterilization was. They were also denied their choice to contraception. Apparently, after being sterilized some women went to hospitals seeking family planning services, which demonstrates that they did not understand what they had consented to.

During meetings with members of support groups of women living with HIV in the Khomas region last month, about 14 new cases of forced sterilization were brought to the attention of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) Namibia branch. ICW Namibia is working with the Legal Assistance Centre on the issue... Aziza Ahmed, Human Rights Officer of ICW Washington DC, said women going for follow-up visits at the health care facilities were reminded about the issue, which she said instilled fear in the women and prevented them from going back to the health facilities when they fell pregnant to enroll in the prevention of mother to child transmission programme.

"This type of treatment makes a pregnant woman stay at home and not go to the hospital. It discourages them from asking for advice on how to fall pregnant in view of the fact that they are positive," said Ahmed... When the ICW discovered this was happening to HIV-positive women in January during a workshop with young women, this was brought to the attention of some of the Parliamentarians for Women's Health, who promised to look into the matter once evidence was provided to them... For the women to develop trust in the health system again, the matter should be investigated to find out what is going on, said Ahmed, adding that the ministry was in the best position to do the investigation.



*Linda Dumba in Namibia with Aziza Ahmed*



*LAWA Congressional Briefing*

**Holly Fechner (1991-1992, U.S.)** is helping support an effort to pass the Ohio Healthy Families Act, a November 2008 ballot initiative, which would provide seven paid sick days per year for employees at workplaces with 25 or more employees.

**Aya Fujimura-Fanselow (2004-2005, U.S.)**, who is the Legal Adviser for International Litigation and Advocacy with the Center for Reproductive Rights, traveled to South Africa and met with LAWA alumnae.

**Mercy Garekwe (2002-2003, LAWA-Botswana)** sent greetings noting that "I am fine, save for the load of work. Thanks for the continuous information that you keep passing onto us."

**Hilary Gbedemah (1995-1996, LAWA-Ghana)** recently sent greetings. According to *Ghana Home Page Regional News* (1/3/07): "Mrs. Hilary Gbedemah, a legal practitioner, has appealed to women to be conversant with laws on gender issues and said ignorance of the law was making some women susceptible abuses. Mrs. Gbedemah was speaking to over 70 youths in Ho on gender based violence as part of the '16 Day Campaign on violence and gender issues' organized by ROZEE Foundation, a Ho based non-governmental organization. Mrs. Gbedemah said many women were violently abused due to their physical weakness and their ignorance of their rights and the law. She said there was the need for NGOs and stakeholders on women issues to help educate women on their rights and responsibilities and empower them economically."

**Jennifer Goldberg (1999-2000, U.S.)** let us know that "I'm happy to report a lot of changes going on! In April, I took on a new position at Maryland Legal Aid as the Assistant Director of Advocacy for Elder Law and Health Care, where I coordinate and support our elder law practice statewide. In addition, Marc, Julia and I are expecting an addition to our family -- my due date is July 25."

**Patti Goldman (1984-1985, U.S.)** wrote that "In January, 2008, I became the Vice President for Litigation of Earthjustice. In that position, I oversee the organization's nine regional offices and international program."

**Karen Guss (1994-1995, U.S.)** is representing several individuals with disabilities and nonprofit organizations that serve them in a federal court action against the state of Pennsylvania. They are seeking to enjoin enforcement of a statute that interferes with plaintiffs' rights under the Medicaid Act.

**Priscilla Huang (2006-2007, U.S.)**, Director of Government Relations with the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), organized a tele-briefing in June celebrating LGBT Pride month as part of "AP(Eye) on the Hill," NAPAWF's monthly policy call for its members on current issues and legislation that affect Asian/Pacific Islander (API) women & girls.



*Tinyade Kachika Lecturing on Women's Rights in Malawi*

**Angela Hooton (2003-2004, U.S.)** is the Vice President for National Programs at the National Institute for Reproductive Health, where she responsible for overseeing the national education, policy and training programs aimed at increasing access to reproductive health care services and information for all women. She also currently serves on the Board of the National Women's Health Network, and on the Advisory Board for Law Students for Reproductive Justice.

**Jinny Kim (2001-2002, U.S.)** wrote that "I am back at the Legal Aid Society - Employment Law Center working as a staff attorney in the disability rights program. I am working with WLPPFP alum **Claudia Center (1992-1993, U.S.)**."

**Nancy Kim (1990-1991, U.S.)** reports that "I am currently an Associate Professor at California Western School of Law and a Visiting Associate Professor at the Rady School of Management at UCSD. I will be teaching a course, Women's Rights in a Global Context, at the National University of Ireland, Galway this summer. My two daughters, ages 5 and 8, are unapologetic feminists like their mother."

**Sindile Kubheka Mcanyana (2005-2006, LAWA-Swaziland)** received a public note of appreciation from the Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Programme at the University of Toronto Law School, for submitting comments on a case review in Swaziland concerning a criminal prosecution of a father who raped his nine-year-old daughter.

**Hope Lewis (1986-1987, U.S.)** just celebrated her 25th college reunion. Among other things, she posts blogs on [www.IntLawGrrls.com](http://www.IntLawGrrls.com), as she notes, "to stay in touch with Generation Y (or is it Z)?"



#### **LAWA Alums Meet with International Association of Women Judges, Human Rights Education Director**

Anne Goldstein, Human Rights Education Director of the International Association of Women Judges (which now has offices at the Georgetown University Law Center) developed and co-taught the women's human rights course at Georgetown Law with Professor Susan Deller Ross in the early 1990s. Anne was able to meet with three LAWA alumnae, whom she had gotten to know during their fellowships, on a trip to Uganda in February. She met with Judge Margaret Oguli-Oumo (1996-1997, LAWA-Uganda), currently the president of the National Association of Women Judges, Uganda; with Esther Kisaakye (1993-1994, LAWA-Uganda), Deputy Chair of the Judicial Service Commission, and Regina Mutyaba (1993-1994, LAWA-Uganda), now in private practice working among other topics on HIV/AIDS. Anne was in Uganda for a train-the-trainers workshop for judicial trainers going to Northern Uganda to work with their colleagues on topics related to women's international human rights and HIV/AIDS.

**Margaret Johnson (1995-1996, U.S.)** reports that "I am an Assistant Professor at the University of Baltimore School of Law. My forthcoming article, "Avoiding Harm Otherwise": Reframing Women Employees' Responses to the Harms of Sexual Harassment, will be published in the *Temple Law Review* this fall."

**Ayesha Khan (1990-1991, U.S.)** writes "I continue to run the legal department at Americans United for Separation of Church and State. The staff has now grown to seven attorneys, and we all stay much busier than I would like. In recent years, we've litigated a challenge to the teaching of crackpot science (and its offshoot "Intelligent Design") in the Dover, PA, public schools. A few months ago, we won an appeal in the 8th Circuit in a case challenging a program in which Watergate-criminal Chuck Colson tried to get on the public dole to coerce Iowa prisoners to become Evangelical Christians. Around the same time, we litigated to a Supreme Court cert denial in a case challenging a charming, neon-lit Bible display outside a Houston courthouse. And we recently filed a lawsuit challenging a Christian "I Believe" license plate -- with small text running across the bottom saying "infidels unwelcome" -- that was issued by the South Carolina in an effort to put honesty back in government." She also has two wonderful children, a 7-year-old girl named Yasmeen and a 3-year-old boy named Sharif.

#### **Update from Dora Kanabahita Byamukama (1995-1996, LAWA-Uganda) Member of the East African Legislative Assembly**

LAW-Uganda (Legal Advocacy for Women - Uganda), which was founded by **Kulsum Wakabi (1995-1996, LAWA-Uganda)** and I using our meager resources, made 10 years last year having started in 1997. We have so far won three major cases in the Constitutional Court - namely that on the Divorce Act, the Succession Act, and Criminal Adultery provision in the Penal Code Act. We have petitioned the Constitutional Court in respect to female genital mutilation (FGM) and have drafted a bill that abolishes it, which has already been taken up by Members of Parliament and the hearing on the FGM case was in March 2008.

On behalf of LAW-Uganda, I drafted the Trafficking in Persons Act, which we have managed to propel to the 2nd stage of enactment in the Parliament of Uganda. This is being done in conjunction with the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association. We have published several books, currently we have published a *Training Manual on Trafficking in Persons*, a book on *Women's Constitutional Rights*, a simplified version of the *Local Council Courts Act* and several books on *Sexual and Gender Based Violence*.

On personal note, I am serving as a Member of East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) 2006-2012. I currently serve on the Accounts, Legal and House Business Committee. I am currently the only lady who sits on the House Business Committee charged with administration of the Assembly. (Each of the three countries names two nominees to this key committee. With Rwanda and Burundi coming on board we intend to ensure that more women serve on this Committee.)

In October 2006, we started an EALA-Women's Forum, where I was elected Secretary General. This Forum will coordinate all Women Parliamentarians in the East African Region. It will also propose a Chapter on women's rights which we hope will be incorporated in the East African Constitution. This week I facilitated a Club of Madrid Forum for male and female Ugandan MPs; the main aim of Club of Madrid is to increase the numbers and effectiveness of women in politics. I served as a Club of Madrid International Expert in Sierra Leone in 2007. We will endeavor to keep you posted on our progress.





*Fellows at Health and Women's Rights Colloquium*

**Sarah Lubega (1999-2000, LAWA-Uganda)** wrote in February that "I have just come back from Cape Town and the Vital Voices Program. It was excellent. I am going to apply for the next program for training on how to campaign since I am an aspiring politician! I think it is high time we moved to the next level so that we can personally push our agenda instead of depending on others."

**Emily Martin (1999-2000, U.S.)**, Deputy Director of the ACLU Women's Rights Project, recently brought a lawsuit challenging sex segregation in Kentucky schools. **Tinyade Kachika (2007-2008, LAWA-Malawi)**, is spending her summer internship with the Women's Rights Project and has conducted research on sex segregation in public schools across the United States. Under the Bush Administration, the U.S. Department of Education issued regulations in 2006 that, for the first time in 30 years, permit public schools to segregate students by sex, denying girls and boys equal opportunities in education.

**Joan Meier (1985-1986, U.S.)**, who is a Professor at the George Washington University Law School teaching the Domestic Violence Clinic, sent an update that Washington, DC has recently passed a pioneering "Sick and Safe Days Act," which provides days off work not only for illnesses, but also for domestic violence.

**Sheila Minkah-Premo (1994-1995, LAWA-Ghana)** wrote that Ghana has a law on FGM which she recently helped review.

**Tzili Mor (2006-2007, U.S.)** will continue to teach the International Women's Human Rights Clinic at Georgetown Law as its Acting Director and Visiting Professor. She also worked with **Linda Dumba (2006-2007, LAWA-Namibia)** and Linda's organization the Legal Assistance Centre to develop a submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination about Namibia's performance on race and gender discrimination.

**Jill Morrison (1998-1999, U.S.)** and current Fellow **Dawn Philip (2007-2008, U.S.)** gave a training on Increasing Diversity of Lawyers and Law Students in the Movement at the Law Students for Reproductive Justice National Leadership Retreat held at Northwestern University School of Law on February 23rd.



**Harriet Musoke (2000-2001, LAWA-Uganda)** writes "Hi Julia, hope you are fine. This is to officially inform you that today the 12th May, I have received my S.J.D. and I am now referred to as Dr. Musoke. I really feel proud. God bless. HDM"

**Regina Mutyaba (1993-1994, LAWA-Uganda)** reports that she is involved various work regarding the economic and human rights of women. She recently re-connected with Anne Goldstein, an attorney with the International Association of Women Judges, who was doing some work in Uganda. Regina also participated in a training organized by Vital Voices Global Partnership in Cape Town, South Africa, along with several other LAWA alumnae as well as a Member of Parliament from Uganda. She reported that the training was fantastic and they wrote a proposal for an advocacy campaign. Additionally,

## **Maria Tungaraza (1996-1997, LAWA-Tanzania) Helps Enact HIV/AIDS Legislation**

As a LAWA Fellow I studied HIV/AIDS Law, Policy and Dispute Settlement at Georgetown University. In my Master of Laws (LL.M.) thesis, I recommended that it is high time that Tanzania should come up with a policy and legal intervention to control the spread of the epidemic and to protect the rights of people affected with AIDS, orphans and widows. This dream did not take long to be realized. In the year 2001, the National Policy on HIV/AIDS was passed by the National Assembly. I took active participation in the development of the AIDS legislation, as well as advocacy and sensitization at all levels -- to mention but a few, civil society, faith based organizations, media, parliament, judiciary, government ministries and general public.

In the year 2000 the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs commissioned the Tanzania Women Lawyers' Association (TAWLA) to conduct a "Review and Assessment of Tanzania Laws Impacting on HIV/AIDS." The Study was carried out by two female lawyers, Ms. Magdalena Rwebangira and myself. It was a very good opportunity for me since during my studies for my Master of Laws degree at Georgetown I specialized in HIV/AIDS law, policy and dispute settlement, therefore, it was time to put my knowledge of AIDS law into practice. I used most of the information in my thesis, titled "Women's Rights and the AIDS Epidemic in Tanzania," in this study. In the year 2002, we completed the study and in 2003 we distributed the study to stakeholders for endorsement. Stakeholders approved the study and recommendation that there should be a pressing legal intervention on AIDS in Tanzania. In the same year TAWLA submitted the study and its recommendations to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.

In 2004 the Ministry of Justice approved the TAWLA recommendations and the Minister gave a directive for the development of the AIDS legislation. I was again lucky to have been selected among team members for developing the AIDS legislation under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the Ministry of Health. We went to Washington DC to attend a seminar on AIDS legislation. I was happy to meet Professor Stein and Professor Lawrence Gostin again, who taught me HIV/AIDS law, policy and dispute settlement at Georgetown University. In the same year, we went to Philippines and Vietnam to learn about experiences in implementation of AIDS legislation, since these countries had AIDS legislation in place. In the year 2005, we went to Bagamoyo Tanzania on a retreat whereby we completed the first draft of the legislation and developed a cabinet paper. Ms Patricia Maganga of the Ministry of Health submitted the Cabinet paper in 2005. In 2006 the final draft was ready and was submitted to the National Assembly in 2007.

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has enacted the HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 2008 which was passed by the National Assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008 and assented by the President on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2008. I thank Georgetown University Law Center and USAID for having given me this wonderful opportunity which created an enabling environment to move from theory to practice adding value to our country.



*Discussion During a WLPPFP Colloquium*





*Fellow Aziza Ahmed in South Africa with WLPPFP Alum Aya Fujimura-Fanselow and LAWA Alum Theresa Mugadza from Zimbabwe*

Regina recently met with Jennie Pasquarella who works with the Center for Reproductive Rights in New York, and noted that “I am expecting to work closely with them.” In addition, Regina is our first LAWA alum who has sent her daughter, Rita Mutyaba, to Georgetown University Law Center to obtain her J.D.

**Tandazwa Ndita's (2002-2003, LAWA-South Africa)** sister, Victoria Bottoman, contacted us about a competition for women entrepreneurs in South Africa.

**Helen Norton (1989-1990, U.S.)**, Professor of Law at the University of Colorado Law School, worked with current Fellow **Robyn Carr (2007-2008, U.S.)** at the National Partnership for Women & Families in drafting a letter signed by law professors across the country in support of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which seeks to protect workers who experience illegal pay discrimination by restoring federal civil rights law to its state prior to the Supreme Court's 2007 decision in *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*

**Gloria Ofori-Boadu (1995-1996, LAWA-Ghana)** sent an update that “I am currently working on my primaries to be selected to contest the seat for Member of Parliament. The present occupant of the seat is now the Presidential candidate for the ruling party. All being well he will be the next President of Ghana. There are six of us contesting and I am the only female and probably the most qualified. I wish we had some kind of affirmative action for parliament in Ghana. I will give you more details when I win the seat. The primaries may be held by May 2008. Keep praying for me.”

**Pritima Osman (2004-2005, LAWA-South Africa)** reports that “I work at the Judicial Inspectorate of Prisons. The JIoP is an oversight body established by legislation to oversee the way the national Department of Correctional Services treats inmates and to the human rights of inmates. As Acting Director: Functional Services it is my task to see that the independent prison visitors we have appointed to visit prisoners every day—and at any time requested to do so—operate efficiently. The IPV's are the eyes and ears of the organization. There is never a predictable day in my office. One has to be flexible while trying to deliver against measurable key performance indicators. So it's always a case of *Aluta Continua*. As part of my job I visit prisons nationally. This can be quite taxing but one learns to look for the violations of human rights so as to prevent such violations.”



*LAWA Alum Pritima Osman at Judicial Inspectorate of Prisons*

**Shannon Roesler (2002-2003, U.S.)** is starting a new position this fall as Assistant Professor of Law at the Oklahoma City University School of Law.

**Bernice Sam (1998-1999, LAWA-Ghana)** let us know that she visited New York in March to attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women meetings. She indicated that “The meetings have been very enlightening. I have been privileged to speak at a couple of non-governmental meetings on the theme for this Session,” which was financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

**Susan Scheider (1983-1984, U.S.)**: After a couple of years “in paradise” as the director of the Hawaii nurses union, Sue Scheider returned to D.C. and resumed employment with the federal government. First as a Special Advisor at DOJ's Office of Justice Programs and currently as a Labor Relations Specialist within the FAA's (Headquarters) Collective Bargaining Services, she rationalizes her move “to the dark side” (management) as an effort to balance her previously 100% union-side resume as those retirement options loom ever closer.

**Sibongile Sigodi (2001-2002, LAWA-South Africa)** was invited to participate in the Georgetown Leadership Seminar along with **Patience Akenji (2007-2008, LAWA-Cameroon)**, see Patience's accomplishments for a description of GLS). Sibongile currently serves as Chief Director of Legal and Executive Services to the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa.

**Jana Singer (1984-1985, U.S.)** continues to serve as Professor of Law at the University of Maryland School of Law. Her co-edited book on Resolving Family Conflicts will be published this fall. In conjunction with the law school's Women, Leadership & Equality Program, Jana and a colleague are conducting a survey of Maryland alumni/ae to explore the impact of gender on graduates' career paths. This coming year, Jana will chair the Faculty Appointments Committee at Maryland.

**Liza Zamd (2005-2006, U.S.)**, a staff attorney with CASA de Maryland, was on the same panel judging an American Constitution Society moot court competition with incoming fellow **Erin Hastings (2008-2009, U.S.)**, who will be working with the National Partnership for Women and Families (Lisa was a fellow there, too).



*Discussion During a WLPPFP Colloquium*

**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!

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