

OUTREACH

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

2018

SPRING | SUMMER



#MeToo!

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Women's Law & Public Policy Fellows and Alumnae give their reflections on this time in our history, and how to ensure that the movement to fight sexual harassment will not lose momentum.



**Debra Katz (US
1985-1986)**

In October 2017, amidst growing revelations about Harvey Weinstein's thirty-year reign of sexual assault and harassment

of women, actress Alyssa Milano raised the call that Tarana Burke first sent out eleven years before – speak out if you, too, “have been sexually harassed or assaulted,” to show other victims they are not alone. The #MeToo movement gathered extraordinary momentum within days, and over the past eight months has raised allegations against almost ninety high-profile abusers, some of whom now face criminal charges for their conduct. These high-profile cases have acted as the tip of the spear, opening a long overdue conversation about the harassment epidemic in workplaces everywhere. #MeToo has exposed the awful truth that civil rights attorneys and advocates have known all too well: sexual misconduct is pervasive in the American workplace, at tremendous cost to the professional lives and well-being of millions of women.

The sheer volume of #MeToo stories has made the enormity of the problem obvious and the need for legal reform urgent. The movement has brought about a rare moment, where women feel empowered to speak out and harassers are facing real, if belated, consequences for their actions. It is vitally impor-

tant that we use this spotlight while it lasts to ensure the law makes good on its promise of antidiscrimination.

We have already seen how powerful the urgency of #MeToo can be. In the aftermath of the Weinstein scandal, for example, New York passed reforms to prevent employers from using a variety of abusive legal practices. Just months after Weinstein's fall, the state has barred the use of mandatory arbitration for sexual harassment claims, required detailed annual anti-harassment training for all employees, and prohibited employers from requiring non-disclosure agreements as a condition to settle claims. As we learned during our involvement in the Weinstein case, lack of access to effective reporting procedures and coercive, unjust non-disclosure agreements left victims vulnerable and powerless for decades. New York's new laws properly focus on prevention, accountability, and victim-focused relief – a model for other states and Congress to combat the practices that continue to victimize millions of women.

In May of this year, #MeToo brought about another astonishingly swift result in the case of former New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. Just three hours and seventeen minutes after The New Yorker reported Schneiderman's sexually assaultive behavior against our client and three other women, he announced his resignation effective the next day.

We continue to see first-hand how #MeToo inspires women to seek legal representation and expose sexually hostile workplaces, with clients speaking out about other nationally-known figures who have also targeted women with impunity for decades. Relief for individuals is important but not enough, particularly if it only encompasses women who work for men who make the headlines. To truly maximize the impact of #MeToo, we must act urgently to harness its momentum for legislative reforms that deter harassment, set standards for prevention, and bar employers from hiding abusers behind the silence of coercive gag-rules and confidential mandatory arbitration. Only when the law changes to meet the reality of women's lives can we hope to say #Never-Again.



**Lisalyn Jacobs (US
1990-1991)**

I finished my fellowship in the summer of 1991 as Clarence Thomas was nominated to the Supreme Court. Thus,

it's not surprising that when I was interviewed last month about the Cosby verdict and asked how I traced the arc of progress that ultimately resulted in his conviction, I began with Anita Hill. I also pointed to the centrality of both the campus sexual violence and #MeToo movements.

In the decades since the Thomas/Hill hearings, social media has made it possible to galvanize, educate and rally communities of support within hours of a new revelation of domestic violence, and/or sexual harassment/violence. What we continue to struggle to do, however is to hold the state accountable when it is the offender. A few weeks ago, I wrote a piece for the Women's Media Center juxtaposing the abuse, "under color of law," perpetrated by former Oklahoma City police officer, Daniel Holtzclaw, and former NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.

While both lost their jobs, that Schneiderman continues to walk free is an indication of how much remains to be done before our society can determine how to consistently secure accountability from perpetrators who wield the power of the law. And that brings us to the most pernicious and least accountable state perpetrators: though the White House and the Justice Department have been at odds since Trump took office, they have managed to find horrendous common cause in abusing and terrorizing undocumented immigrants at our southern borders, including those who are survivors of domestic violence and are seeking asylum. As a direct consequence of my sexual assaulting advocacy, I tell my 10 year-old son, "no means no," a lot. In order to restore integrity to our justice system (the imperfect version we were trying to reform, anyway), safety has to mean safety, whether for #MeToo survivors, or those who come here whether fleeing from something worse, or looking for something better.



MiQuel Davies (US 2017-2018)

Sexual harassment and violence feels so engrained in our everyday experience it sometimes feels inescapable. You've

been sexually harassed at work? Me too. You were sexually assaulted at school? Me too. Your doctor sexually assaulted or harassed you?

You might be surprised, but patients across the country are also saying me too.

As the WLPPFP Fellow at the National Women's Law Center, I answer calls for the TIME'S UP Legal Defense Fund and the Legal Network for Gender Equity. I hear nearly every day from patients who have been sexually harassed or assaulted by their health care providers. To provide just one example, I recently heard from a young woman who was sexually harassed by her chiropractor. At almost every appointment she was subjected to sexually charged comments about her appearance, questions about her sexual knowledge and experience, and had to fend off requests to meet outside of the doctor's office. And she is not alone.

We know patients across the country are starting to come forward, but the push to hold people accountable for sexual assault and harassment seems to have largely skipped over health care. A 2016 report showed that of the 253 doctors reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank for having been sanctioned by a hospital or health care organization for sexual misconduct or paid a settlement that came from an allegation of sexual misconduct, 170 of them were not disciplined or held accountable in any way by state medical boards. That means some of these providers have been able to keep their medical licenses and keep practicing even after sexually harassing or assaulting their patients. Well, enough is enough.

Every patient should be able to get the care they need free from harassment or discrimination. I am so grateful that I have been able to start my career in this important moment as a Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow at the National Women's Law Center. I get to come to work every day and hear patients across the country say, Time's Up. And those two words have never felt or sounded more important.

We are excited to announce a new resource on getting your academic papers published. Michelle Ueland and her staff in the Language Center made an easy to follow video. Although this was made with LAWAs in mind, we hope that all WLPPFPs will be encouraged to share their brilliance with the world. Please contact Jill at morrisjc@georgetown.edu for more information.

Thanks to 2017-2018 Fellow Juliana Shulman-Laniel, we now have our very own LinkedIn page. Connect with us by searching WLPPFP.

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The Fellows observe the notorious RBG at work, then take in the RBG documentary before experiencing the real thing; LAWA Fellow Stella Maris Amabilis Odong (seated second from right) enjoys her time with the fellow members of the judiciary at CSW; Members of Fida-Kenya celebrate the opening of a new gender desk; LAWA Fellows Prudence Mutiso and Muluka Hussein Shifa enjoying the 2018 Commencement. Congratulations to the newest Masters' of Law!; The Fellows survived both their Fellowship year and an Escape Room challenge!; 2015-2016 LAWA Fellows Funmi Adeniyi and Anthonia Okolie connected at a reception in Lagos hosted by the Georgetown School of Foreign Service.



The LAW Fellows presented their Theses several times this Spring, including to a packed and enthusiastic audience at Georgetown University Law Center.

Stella Maris Amabilis Odong, Uganda:

Oh How I Wish I Could Only Get a Mother Delivery Kit! Listening to the Voices of Low-Income Pregnant Women in Uganda

Pela Boker-Wilson, Liberia

Erasing the Doubts, Taking Science to the Court Room: Using Forensic Evidence to Increase the Success Rates of Rape Prosecution in Liberia

Prudence Mutiso, Kenya:

A Woman's Worth: The Proprietary Consequences of Love

Juliet Nyamano, Kenya:

Yes We Can, Yes We Will: Accelerating Free Maternity Care In Urban Informal Settlements

Muluka Hussein Shifa, Ethiopia:

Rape Under the Blue Helmets: Ethiopia's Responsibility to Combat Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Committed by its Peacekeepers

Alumnae Spotlight

Take a look at the wonderful work our Alumnae are doing across the globe!

Maereg T. Alemayehu (LAWA 2015-2016) was a part of the team that published the World Bank's Report on Women, Business and the Law, 2018. She was joined by other LAWAs including Elizabeth Makumbi (2016-2016), and Mirabelle Chi-Okezie (2016-2017). Other Alumnae also did research on their home countries for the report. Thanks to all who contributed to this incredible resource!

Amanda Allen (US 2009-2010) is now Senior Counsel & Managing Director at the Lawyering Project, a new initiative to protect access to reproductive health services.

Lillian Andama (LAWA 2014-2015) is a Senior State Attorney at the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs. She is also Faculty at the International Law Institute, African Centre for Legal Excellence, in Kampala, Uganda.

Susanna Birdsong (US 2013-2014) Senior Policy Counsel at the ACLU of North Carolina, was named one of the Triangle Business Journal's 40 Under 40 for 2017.

Kristie Bluett (US 2014-2015) "I'm going back to Leros, Greece (where refugees arriving from Turkey are being held/processed) with Advocates Abroad. I give asylum-seekers information about the asylum procedure and assist them in preparing for upcoming interviews. Then in July, I'll be in Tbilisi, Georgia teaching an Intro to US Law and Legal Systems for foreign-educated lawyers who will be coming to the US for an LL.M."

Andy Budzinski (US 2016-2017) has been appointed a Visiting Associate Professor of Clinical Law & Friedman Fellow at George Washington University's Family Justice Litigation Clinic (directed by **Laurie Kohn (US 1998-1999)**).

Mirabelle Chi-Okezie (LAWA 2016-2017) has started her doctoral studies in Australia, with a focus on human rights, and reports that her LAWA training is serving her very well.

MiQuel Davies (US 2017-2018) will be staying at her placement organization, the National Women's Law Center, to continue her work on addressing sexual harassment in health care and expanding reproductive health care access.

Angela Dwamena-Aboagye (LAWA 1994-1995) earned her Ph.D. in Theology. Her thesis examined issues of women's mental health and the Church, touching on legal and policy issues, theology, mission, culture and women's health and rights.

Elizabeth Enaka Ako (LAWA 2011-2012) is presently combining two jobs; she is a Senior Court Registry Administrator in the Court of Appeals in Bafoussam and an Adjunct Lecturer in the National School of Administration and Magistracy (Yaoundé).

Deborah Epstein (US 1990-1991) resigned from the NFL Players' Association Commission on Domestic Violence, citing its lack of

movement despite the development of specific recommendations. Her resignation appeared in the Washington Post, and she was interviewed on Good Morning America. She also published a piece in The Baffler with Lisa Goodman on the systemic disregard throughout the legal system and society for victims of Gender-Based Violence.

Janel George (US 2005-2006) was awarded the prestigious Rockwood Fellowship for leaders in Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice.

Erika Hanson (US 2016-2017) is now a Staff Attorney with The Legal Aid Society's Civil Practice in New York City. She provides direct representation, including through class-action litigation, to low-income New Yorkers facing problems accessing health insurance. She also advocates for legislative and administrative policy changes to improve health care access for marginalized communities.

Cindy Hounsell (US 1989-1990), President of the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER), received the Plan Sponsor Council of America's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award for her work advancing policies that ensure women's economic security.

This summer **Jenny Hunter (US 2004-2005)** will become the Lead Counsel for the Public Services Division at SEIU. Congrats on the promotion Jenny!

We are proud to report that **Jamesina King (LAWA 2001-2002)** is now a High Court Judge, appointed in July last year. In her Honor's own words, "This is a credit to the investment of the LAWA Program in my life, and new LAWA Fellows from Sierra Leone will continue to keep the LAWA spirit alive, protect human rights and promote gender equality."

Maria Jurua Kisumbi (LAWA 2013-2014) published *Access to Drugs at Risk: Securing Access to Medicines for Least Developed Countries in Africa* in *Africa Development*, Volume 42 (2017).

Debbie Loya (US 1983-1984) provides this update: "I retired from my position as Chief Counsel in the San Antonio Field Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development at the end of May. I've been with HUD thirty years. WLPPFP was my first job as an attorney and was a fantastic experience. I'm going to be splitting my time between Texas, where I have been for the last twenty years, and California, where my plans include volunteering with California Rural Legal Assistance."

Elizabeth Makumbi (LAWA 2015-2016) reports "I'm working on very cool projects at Pegasys, including drafting a national climate change strategy and action plan for the Botswana government; developing a marketplace in Uganda into a more sustainable business for women in Uganda and using my legal knowledge to assist the transport network team to draft contracts. Travelling in Africa has exposed me to a lot of sexual harassment and overall mistreatment by overly masculine male officials so I'm assisting the gender unit in drafting a work policy which specifically highlights how young, black, African women are affected by this issue and how line managers can assist us in overcoming or at least developing resilience when it does happen again (because it always happens)." Finally, congrats

to Elizabeth on making the annual M&G 200 young South African Leaders!

Maeve McKean (US 2009-2010) reports that she is now working at the City University of New York's School of Public Health in the Center for Immigrant, Refugee and Global Health Policy. She is creating a Global Health Master's program, as well as working on a US-AID implementation science project, creating better processes for linking evidence to policy and practice. Maeve is also co-chairing, with Former Mayor Anthony Williams, a process to create the Robert F. Kennedy- Democracy Center in Washington, DC.

Monica Mhoja (LAWA 1996-1997) is currently working as the Country Program Director of Landesa Tanzania - securing land rights for the poorest of the poor, especially in rural areas.

Jill Morrison (US 1998-1999) received her LL.M. in Global Health Law, with Distinction, from Georgetown University Law Center. She also taught Reproductive Justice at Georgetown this summer, and was appointed co-chair of the Immigration and Human Rights Subcommittee of the DC Bar's International Law Community.

Prudence Mutiso (LAWA 2017-2018) published a blog post on freedom of expression during her internship with Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights.

Anthonia Okolie (LAWA 2015-2016) has been actively pursuing the solutions she developed in her thesis on Ogiga, a harmful traditional practice that publicly shames women accused of adultery. Anthonia reports, "The LAWA spirit has led me to speak with a handful of 'traditional rulers' in my area about the practice. I have also sent my PowerPoint presentation on my thesis for publication as a handbook to reach out to the younger reading class." In addition to this, Anthonia is working

to make small loans available to local women entrepreneurs through the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Teresa Omondi (LAWA 2016-2017) reports, "FIDA Kenya just opened a gender desk in a very interior village in rural Kenya in memory of a four year old girl who was found defiled and murdered. The assailant is still at large, but we hope someday soon he will be arrested. We have begun a campaign calling for his arrest. Juliet Nyamao (LAWA 2017-2018) was part of the staff who contributed to this building just before she left FIDA. It took more than a year to complete it."

Since December 2017, **Beverline Ongaro (LAWA 2012-2013)** has been working at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Nairobi, Kenya. Reports Beverline, "Among other human rights interventions, I am spearheading programmes on prevention and response to gender based violence, and by extension implementing a four year joint programme for the UN and Government of Kenya on prevention and response to GBV. It is worth mentioning that in conjunction with a former Kenyan judge, I developed this programme in 2016 as a consultancy. I am absolutely delighted to be implementing a programme which affords me an opportunity to bring to fruition a component of my LL.M thesis."

Rachel Oostendorp (US 2014-2015) recently finished two one-year clerkships with the Honorable Adalberto Jordan in the Eleventh Circuit United States Court of Appeals and the Honorable Beth Bloom in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. This past November 2017, Rachel joined the appellate practice at the law firm of Carlton Fields Jordan Burt in Miami, where she assists in appeals and trial support on general commercial litigation matters, as well as constitutional and First Amendment litigation.

Meghan Rhoad (US 2006-2007) has relocated back to NYC to take a job as a segment producer at The Opposition with Jordan Klepper, a new Comedy Central Show that airs after The Daily Show. She reports, "It's quite a career shift, but one that I've enjoyed so far."

Juliana Shulman-Laniel (US 2017-2018) will be joining the Center for Public Health Litigation in Boston as Litigation Counsel where she will focus on taking down big-tobacco. Congratulations on your first post-fellowship position Juliana!

Dunia Tegegn (LAWA 2015-2016) finished her work with the Women's Learning Partnership for Rights and Development where she was involved in supporting its program implementation and monitoring in twenty different countries. She also completed a training with the Political Institute for Women that enhances women's awareness

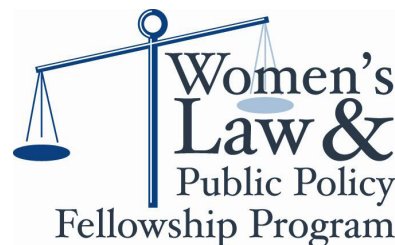
on campaign strategies. Dunia also published an article based on her thesis called Victimized Twice: Wartime Rape in South Sudan is a Women's Rights Violation in Africlaw.com

Marya Torrez (US 2007-2008) began teaching a course on Reproduction and the Law at American University's Washington College of Law.

Katie Wallat (US 2012-2013) has started a clinical teaching in the Civil Litigation Clinic at Denver University's Sturm College of Law.

Behailu Weldeyohannes (LAWA 2013-2014) published his LAWA thesis in the William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law in Volume 24, Fall 2017. It is entitled Reforming Prison Policy to Improve Women-Specific Health and Sanitary Care Conditions of Prisons in Ethiopia. He also spoke at the Journal's annual symposium.

We are saddened to report that Roger Wolf, beloved husband of Judy Lyons Wolf passed in December 2017. Judy served as the Director of WLPPFP from 1988-1998. The Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship Alumnae and Advisory Board would like to express our deepest sympathies to all who knew and loved Roger. The Fellowship has made a donation in his honor to the Maryland Carey Law's Center for Dispute Resolution (C-DRUM), which he founded.



Advisory Board

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Director of the Domestic Violence Clinic and Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center

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