

Accomplishments of 2006-2007 Fellows

Six advocates from the United States and two Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows are participating this year in the numerous 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.

Amelia Vukeya A LAWA Fellow from South Africa, Amelia has successfully earned her Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree, graduating from the Georgetown University Law Center in May. She wrote a major graduate research paper addressing "Polygyny and HIV/AIDS in South Africa: The Fatal Clash between Custom and Women's Human Rights in the Era of HIV/AIDS," which will provide a blueprint for her work with the AIDS Law Project once she returns to South Africa this fall. Amelia has been active in many other activities throughout her fellowship year, including her involvement in Georgetown's gospel choir and her confirmation into the Catholic Church this spring. In addition to all of her speaking engagements detailed on page 4, Amelia spoke about women's human rights and HIV/AIDS in South Africa on a panel at the ABA International Law Section's annual conference, and has been networking with several major Washington, D.C. law firms to develop potential *pro bono* partnerships to support her women's human rights advocacy work once she returns home.

Naomi Schoenbaum

Naomi is spending her Fellowship year with the National Partnership for Women and Families. She recently spoke at a briefing in the U.S. Congress on the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, addressing the importance of this legislation for women. She also spearheaded a sign-on letter from women's groups



Naomi Speaking at a Congressional Briefing

supporting the legislation to all members of Congress, garnering forty signatories. Naomi has authored a new series of e-mail alerts that the National Partnership has recently begun to send out to its members regarding the importance of the current Supreme Court term to women's lives (she even came up with the catchy name, "Of Supreme Import"). She has written numerous reports for the alerts, such as on the *Ledbetter v. Goodyear* employment discrimination case that was recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. She has also been involved in the Partnership's work on several other employment discrimination cases before the Supreme Court. Naomi assisted in drafting a sign-on letter supporting Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act ("GINA"). She has also been conducting a significant amount of work on the Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"). Additionally, Naomi helped write a report for the National Partnership on trends in pregnancy discrimination over the past ten years.

Meghan Rhoad A Georgetown graduate, Meghan Rhoad is currently a Fellow with the National Women's Law Center. She has been very involved with the Center's state tax credit outreach campaign, which strives to educate low-income families about the tax credits available to them by providing local advocates with accurate information and outreach materials. As part of this initiative, Meghan follows state statutory developments related to any state earned income credits, child and dependent care credits and child tax credits. In addition, she has conducted a state-by-state review of each of the credits in order to update the Center's outreach fliers. For another project, Meghan helped draft a memorandum to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on a new form it was developing to allow taxpayers to deposit their refunds into multiple accounts. In response to the Center's concerns regarding the impact the form would have on the rights of non-debtor spouses, the IRS made a number of important changes in the language of the form.

Tzili Mor Tzili is the Teaching Fellow with the Georgetown International Women's Human Rights Clinic. Also a Georgetown alumna, Tzili supervises two teams of students each semester who work with partners in various countries in Africa on impact litigation or legislation to advance women's human rights in those countries. For example, last fall the student groups worked to invalidate a discriminatory provision that exempts rape within a marriage from any criminal or civil liability. The test cases, one in

Ghana and the other in Swaziland, were drafted against the backdrop of pending domestic violence or sexual offences bills that omitted any reference to rape between spouses, though both had such references in earlier versions. For the spring semester, Tzili's students drafted a human rights report and legislation on equal property rights for women in Swaziland. They conducted a fact-finding trip to investigate women's access to inheritance, land and property in Swaziland, interviewing close to 80 people ranging from members of parliaments, chiefs, public interest organizations, international agencies, widows, students, professors, bank officers and government officials. Tzili and her students have worked closely with LAWA alumnae on each of these projects.

Priscilla Huang During her Fellowship with the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), Priscilla has spoken about women's rights in venues across the country, such as the Organization of Chinese Americans and the Japanese-American Citizens League Leadership Conference. She wrote an issue brief entitled, "Immigration Reform and the Impact on Pregnant and Birthing Asian and Pacific Islander Immigrant Women," largely based on the presentation she gave at the National Association of Pregnant Women Summit, which outlined the way that anti-immigrant policies and sentiments have severely



Priscilla Speaking on the Steps of the U.S. Supreme Court

limited the ability of immigrant API women to bear children. She also co-led the training for NAPAWF members during the APA Mobilization this spring about how specific provisions of the current immigration reform bills impact immigrant women. Priscilla serves as co-chair of the Health Taskforce of the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA). She also attended the 51st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women focusing on eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, which emphasized the importance of making girls visible.

Linda Dumba As the first LAWA Fellow from Namibia, Linda wrote her graduate paper on "Using International Human Rights Instruments to Realize Women's Property and Inheritance Rights in the Context of HIV/AIDS in Namibia." She graduated with distinction from the Georgetown in May, earning her Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree and a certificate in International Human Rights Law. Additionally, she was invited to be the first Namibian participant in the week-long Georgetown



Linda Dumba

Leadership Seminar, the School of Foreign Service's prestigious executive education program. Speakers included Chester Crocker, former Ass't Secretary of State for African Affairs (he helped negotiate Namibia's independence from South Africa, so Linda had very interesting conversations with him); Jennifer Windsor, Executive Director of Freedom House, on "Human Rights and American Foreign Policy;" Georgetown Law Professor Jane

Stromseth; Dr. Brad Strickland on the "Economic Impact of HIV/AIDS;" and former CIA Director George Tenet. Linda also gained tremendous insight from the other 35 participants from across the world, noting:

The participants were representative of all sectors of society – the private sector, governments and civil society. And obviously they were very experienced and much older, but that did not deter me at all, and it really made me realize how fortunate I was to be part of that group... I learned a lot from this seminar – what people spend years to learn I was briefed on in one week... I went to the program to learn how to become a leader, but I learned that we are all leaders in our own fields of expertise...

Ann Cammett Ann is the Teaching Fellow with the Georgetown Domestic Violence Clinic. In this capacity, Ann supervises students representing clients who are seeking emergency temporary protection orders (TPOs) and year-long civil protection orders (CPOs). Ann helps the students connect with clients at the local domestic violence intake center, which provides coordinated services to domestic violence survivors. She teaches the students to prepare and file legal paperwork and work with their new clients in order to prepare them for their TPO and CPO hearings. This involves supervising their case strategy, preparation, written drafts, oral advocacy, exhibit collection, and all of the investigation involved in bringing the cases, not to mention coordinating with the U.S. Attorney's office where appropriate – all employing the clinic's "non-directive" method of clinical teaching. She also appears with them as their supervisor in the actual hearings. Ann teaches sections in the seminar portion of the clinic, such as fact investigation, case pickup and case filing. Ann and her students also assist the U.S. Attorney's office to help them prosecute companion criminal cases arising out of assaults upon their clients and related matters such as child support cases. They also assist clients with obtaining resources from the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund.

Diana Aguilar Diana is working with the Public Policy Law and Litigation Department of Planned Parenthood Federation of America during her fellowship year. Fluent in Spanish, Diana has represented her department at two international conferences, one in Peru last fall and one in Colombia this spring. One of her major research projects this year has dealt with an employment discrimination case, where Diana analyzed all of the Title VII Supreme Court cases from the last decade as well as related decisions written by the two new Supreme Court Justices prior to their appointment. In the case at issue, known as *In re Union Pacific Railroad Employment Practices Litigation*, the plaintiff argued that an employer engages in sex discrimination if it covers prescription drugs in its health insurance plan but refuses to cover prescription contraceptives. Diana has also investigated issues ranging from complex constitutional law principles to the standards for granting a rehearing en banc in federal circuit court litigation. She also reports on the activities of the department for an electronic bi-weekly newsletter.



Diana in Colombia with Constitutional Court Justice

Developing Women’s Rights Leaders

Through professional development trainings, seminars on hot-topic legal issues affecting women, and networking opportunities, WLPPFP helps the Fellows who participate in our program to become leaders in the women’s rights movement. Examples of their recent activities include:

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 two-day **Leadership Development Training Retreat** lead by Iris Ioffreda, head of Organizational Learning Associates. The Fellows explored their individual leadership strengths and opportunities for growth, and acquired additional skills in conflict management, effective communication, creative problem-solving, and managing and working with teams.



Fellows with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A seminar on **“Gender-Based Discrimination”** with Christine Webber, WLPPFP alum, partner with the civil rights firm Cohen Milstein Hausfeld & Toll and lead attorney on the Wal-Mart employment discrimination case; Kristen Galles, a nationally recognized Title IX attorney and Co-Chair of the Women’s Rights Committee of the ABA Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities; and Neena Chaudhry, WLPPFP alum and Senior Counsel with the National Women’s Law Center.

A seminar on **“International Women’s Human Rights”** with Nancy Paterson, former prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The



Leadership Development Training for Fellows

Hague, Netherlands; Kathy Selvaggio, Senior Policy Advocate with the International Center for Research on Women; and Elisa Slattery, Legal Counsel for Africa with the Center for Reproductive Rights.

A seminar on **“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; Anne Sommers, an attorney with the American Association of People with Disabilities; and Pat Reuss, a longstanding women’s rights advocate with the National Organization for Women.

A seminar on **“Conducting a Successful Women’s Rights Legislative Campaign”** with Lisa Maatz, Director of Public Policy and Government Relations with the American Association of University Women; and Lisalyn Jacobs, WLPPFP alum and Vice President for Government Relations with Legal Momentum.

A series of three seminars on **“The Fellowship Experience”** led by our current Fellows, who discussed their activities with their placement organizations, shared their multifaceted backgrounds working on women’s rights, exchanged ideas and strategies about what they have learned so far, and envisioned their future career paths advancing the legal status of women in the United States and Africa.

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Additional LAWA Activities

In addition to the programs with the U.S. fellows, our LAWA Fellows also engage in numerous other activities:

The LAWA Fellows spoke at a **Congressional Briefing on “Women’s Human Rights in Southern Africa”** on International Women’s Day (March 8), which highlighted their outstanding graduate research papers. Amelia Vukeya gave a riveting presentation on “Polygamy and HIV/AIDS in South Africa: The Fatal Clash between Custom and Women’s Human Rights,” and Linda Dumba provided a sophisticated legal analysis of “Using International Human Rights Instruments to Realize Women’s Property and Inheritance Rights in the Context of HIV/AIDS in Namibia.” WLPPFP alum **Cynthia Totten (99-00)**, a staff attorney with Stop Prison Rape in California, attended the briefing. Afterwards Cynthia noted, “I really enjoyed the event—the LAWA’s were amazing, and it was great to learn more about their advocacy work and interests.”



LAWAs Speak at a Congressional Briefing

The LAWA Fellows met four of the justices serving on the newly-established **African Court for Human and Peoples’ Rights** at a breakfast sponsored by Georgetown’s Human Rights Institute. The justices are from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Rwanda.

The Women’s Forum at **Covington & Burling** invited the LAWA Fellows to speak about women’s human rights in their



LAWAs with African Court of Human Rights Judges



Linda at Georgetown Leadership Seminar

countries during a luncheon program at the law firm. Many of the Covington lawyers expressed an interest providing *pro bono* legal assistance to the LAWA Fellows once they return home.

The **American Society for International Law** invited our LAWA Fellows to speak about women’s human rights in Namibia and South Africa at a luncheon forum, which attracted representatives from numerous embassies, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and other international organizations.

Amelia and Linda both served as special **Guest Lecturers** teaching classes during a course on international women’s human rights at the Georgetown University main campus.

Constella Futures, a global professional health services company, also invited the LAWA Fellows to speak.

Our LAWA Fellows celebrated their graduation from the Georgetown University Law Center with their Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees at a **Commencement** ceremony featuring Nina Totenberg. They successfully completed courses such as an HIV/AIDS in Africa Practicum, International Women’s Human Rights, International and Comparative Law of the Rights of Women, Intellectual Property and Global Health, International Human Rights, Antitrust, Human Rights Advocacy, International Environmental Law, Constitutional Law II: Individual Rights and Liberties, Trafficking in Persons, International Trade Law, Development Law, U.S. Legal Discourse, Legal Research and Writing for LAWAs, as well as the intensive Foundations of U.S. Law and Legal Education Summer Program. Congratulations Linda and Amelia!



Congratulations LAWA Graduates!

Alum Successes

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 their recent activities:

Mushahida Adhikari (04-05) is helping organize the fledgling South African Women in Law Association, whose basic aim is to create a forum for women lawyers to network and work on strategic issues affecting women in the legal profession in South Africa. She worked as a project manager at a public interest policy organization called the Non-Profit Consortium in Cape Town, which creates a more enabling environment for non-profits in South Africa, before recently joining a law firm.

Law and Advocacy for Women – Uganda (LAW-U), an organization founded and run by LAWA alumnae, won two victories this spring in the Uganda Constitutional Court, which struck down laws discriminating against women in the criminal code addressing adultery and in the law of intestate succession. LAW-U has also recently filed a case against female genital mutilation in the Constitutional Court. LAW-U was founded in 1997 by LAWA alums **Algresia Akwa-Ogojo (94-95)**, **Dora Byamukama (95-96)**, **Esther Mayambala Kisaakye (93-94)**, **Regina Mutyaba (93-94)**, and **Kulsum Wakabi (95-96)**, and was later joined by **Jacqueline Asiimwe-Mwesige (00-01)** and **Emma Ssali Namuli (99-00)**.

Nyanjagi Hadija Ally (95-96) works as a Protection Officer with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Somaliland, spearheading the Protection Working Group comprised of organizations such as the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Development Program (UNDP), and CARE. Among other issues, PWG addresses gender equality, female genital mutilation, gender-based violence, improving customary law responses to rape and sexual violence, and other human rights concerns.

Angela Bean (93-94) practices immigration law and is a certified specialist with her own firm in Oakland, CA. She has won some recent important asylum cases in the Ninth Circuit, *Boer-Sedano*, a gay Mexican asylum case and *Zainabu Osman*, a Somali asylum case. She also taught immigration law at Boalt Hall Law School in Berkeley for a couple of years.

Jean Bruggeman (00-01) writes that Boat People SOS has expanded its Community Against Domestic Violence Program, providing legal and social services to domestic violence and human trafficking survivors in the DC metro and Houston areas. She notes that “We are very concerned about the potential impact of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform measures currently being

debated on immigrants being abused by spouses and employers who control their immigration status. The more we see increased enforcement and reduced options for immigrants, the more power these perpetrators are able to exert.”

Beth Burkstrand-Reid (05-06) is currently teaching Family Law and Sex-Based Discrimination at American University Washington College of Law. She is also a consulting attorney for sex-based discrimination lawsuits, including a plaintiff-side consulting attorney for a major class action case involving sex-discrimination against women prisoners.

After three years of working on reproductive justice policy advocacy at MALDEF and NAPAWF, **Courtney Chappell (04-05)** recently joined James & Hoffman, a small employment and labor firm in Washington, D.C.

Pamela Coukos (95-96) informs us that she has just completed the second year of her Ph.D. program in the Jurisprudence and Social Policy Department at UC Berkeley, taking coursework in judicial politics, social movements, sociology of law, and behavioral economics. For her dissertation, she is studying how courts interpret civil rights law, comparing the relative effects of politics/policy, social movement activity, public attitudes, and legal reasoning over time. She has also co-authored an article in *Emory Law Review* about statistical evidence in Title VII class actions.

Beatrice Duncan (93-94) helped spearhead the recent passage by the Parliament in Ghana of a bill addressing domestic violence in conjunction with other LAWA alumnae through an organization called LAWA-Ghana led by **Sheila Minkah-Premo (94-95)** and **Fitnat Adjetei (93-94)**, as well as alums such as **Angela Dwamena-Aboagye (94-95)**, executive director of The Ark Foundation, a non-governmental organization that advocates for the rights of women and children. Beatrice also co-edited a *Casebook on the Rights of Women in Ghana* published in 2006. In addition, she is completing her dissertation on land tenure, gender and customary law, in fulfillment of her Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom.

Tamar Ezer (04-05) is a Program Officer of the Law and Health Initiative with the Open Society Institute. She spoke on a panel at the Washington College of Law this spring on “Domestic Violence in the Context of HIV/AIDS: Lessons from Africa,” along with **Jane Stoeber (04-05)**.

After eight years working with Senator Ted Kennedy and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, **Holly Fechner (91-92)** has accepted a position with Covington & Burling. She recently spoke at the American Bar Association’s National Conference on Equal Employment Opportunity Law.

Amy Fettig (01-02) recently joined the National Prison Project of the ACLU as Staff Counsel.



WLPPFP Seminar



Tzili Mor in Swaziland with students and LAWA alumni

Juley Fulcher (95-96), Director of Break the Cycle's office in Washington, D.C. informed us that a local television news program featured her organization in a story on teen dating violence in honor of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Week.

Jennifer Goldberg (99-00) sent greetings from the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, where she continues to serve as Supervising Attorney. The Legal Aid Bureau provides legal assistance to low-income clients, focusing on landlord/tenant, consumer/bankruptcy, education and employment law issues.

Debra Katz (85-86) and **Justine Andronici (02-03)** have published two recent articles in *Ms. Magazine*, one on "family responsibilities discrimination" against working mothers and one on abolishing the "she didn't ask" defense for wage discrimination.

Laurie Kohn (98-99) is publishing an article entitled "The Criminal Justice System & Domestic Violence: Engaging the Case but Divorcing the Victim," in the *New York University Review of Law and Social Change*. She co-directs the Georgetown Domestic Violence Clinic along with **Deborah Epstein (90-91)**.

Sindile Kubheka (05-06) continues her work as Chief Executive Director of the Swaziland Skills Centre, an organization institution with over 50 employees and over 200 trainees in three centres situated in different regions in the country. She conscientiously made sure that the intake of women trainees for 2007 has increased substantially through advertising in the media and mobilizing other NGOs to refer young women to SSC for skills development in a bid to equip them with a key to economic independence.

Keneilwe Lekoba (02-03) writes that she is providing volunteer legal services for Kagisanong Women's Shelter. She is also a law lecturer at the University of Botswana, and teaching courses such as Human Rights Law and Gender and Law. In addition, she is part of the research team on Reproductive Choice and Women Living with HIV/AIDS for a prominent public interest legal organization called Women and Law Research Project in Southern Africa (WLSA). She has served as a research associate with WLSA in Botswana since 1992 (with a pause during her LAWA Fellowship), conducting research and advocacy on the rights of women and children.

Mande Limbu (00-01) received her S.J.D. degree (Doctor of Juridical Science) from Cornell Law School in May upon completion of her dissertation entitled *Making Justice More Accessible to*

the Poor, with Special Reference to Women: Introducing Clinical Legal Education in Tanzania.

After her teaching fellowship at the Georgetown Domestic Violence Clinic, **Elizabeth Liu (05-06)** joined Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP), founded by **Joan Meier (85-86)** in 2003, which provides *pro bono* appellate services to survivors of domestic violence.

Jenny Marston (04-05) joined the Bay Area labor and employment law firm of Leonard Carder.

Ruvimbo Masunungure (03-04) was featured in a *Washington Informer* article addressing the economic sanctions imposed in response to Zimbabwe's land redistribution program:

Masunungure said that the "land redistribution [initiative] was not in line with international human rights standards," as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)...[However, as] Zimbabwe struggles with high incidence rates of HIV/AIDS, Masunungure believes customary laws favoring patriarchy make women

Pritima Osman (04-05) is working with the Judicial Inspectorate of Prisons in South Africa, which provides legal services to inmates in order to protect their human rights and monitor the conditions under which they are detained.

She writes: "South Africa comes from a very dark past as far as the treatment of prisoners is concerned. Our prisons were [originally] built to warehouse inmates, not to rehabilitate inmates."

She notes that prisons are now referred to as "correction centers," as the emphasis is on rehabilitation and reformation of inmates. Pritima has kept in touch with **Cynthia Totten (99-00)** who works with Stop Prison Rape in California, and who will be visiting South Africa in October to conduct trainings for Independent Prison Visitor (IPV) program that Pritima runs.

She explained: "IPVs are lay persons appointed by the Judicial Inspectorate of Prisons to check on the conditions of prisons and to see that the human rights of prisoners are upheld. The work of the IPV is vital in achieving the JIoP's oversight role. It also requires insight into the various issues that arise in an environment such as the prisons. One of these issues is prison rape."

Pritima also noted that "I struggled with the idea of looking after the rights of inmates and perpetrators. I had always worked for the victim. However, a conversation with one of my mentors cleared up that issue for me. I realized that human rights are not the sole purview of victims. Our inmates are our people too—no matter how heinous their crime. Our Constitution has afforded protection to all its people. We are a constitutional democracy with an emphasis on the spirit and import of the Constitution. Besides, we do not have the death penalty (thank goodness!) in South Africa, so there is every likelihood that the inmates will be released. My attitude is if we treat an inmate as a person we have a greater possibility of reforming him and his offending behavior. Then we have to start with treating him/her with dignity. Not easy, I know, and I have been accused of being unrealistic and I accept this. But if we all roll over in the face of challenges, we might just as well give up on humanity."

particularly vulnerable to the pandemic. As such, the country should not be banned from global funds for HIV/AIDS treatment, she asserted, because the treatment will ultimately help infected Zimbabwean women sustain better lives. The sanctions placed on Zimbabwe make it difficult to access anti-retroviral drugs. Still a member of the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwean Women Lawyer's Association, Masunungure said the straightjacket placed on Zimbabwe has affected women the most because they bear the brunt of economic hardships. "Women's work, as undocumented as it is, is the backbone of the economies in much of Africa."

Salma Maulidi (94-95) writes from Dar es Salaam: "I met with women from the Zanzibar Women Lawyers Association and a number would like to apply to the [LAWA] programme." Thank you for being a wonderful LAWA ambassador, Salma!

Jill Morrison (98-99) announced that the National Women's Law Center has a new blog at www.womenstake.org (she encourages everyone to register!) featuring **Neena Chaudhry (97-98)**, **Gretchen Borchelt (02-03)**, **Cristina Martin Firvida (96-97)** and herself. In addition to benefiting from the outstanding legal skills of our current WLPPFP Fellow, **Meghan Rhoad (06-07)**, NWLC also gains significantly from the advocacy talents of six WLPPFP alumnae: Cristina is the Director of Government Affairs and Senior Counsel with the Family Economic Security

Program; **Neena**, Senior Counsel, and **Terri Keeley (05-06)**, Law Fellow, and both work with the Educational and Employment Opportunities Program; **Gretchen**, Counsel and **Jill**, Senior Counsel, both work with the Health and Reproductive Rights Program; **Jodi Michael (96-97)** is Director of Foundation Relations; and WLPPFP Board Member **Marcia Greenberger** is NWLC's founder and co-president.

Helen Norton (89-90) is moving from the University of Maryland Law School to a new position as Associate Professor at the University of Colorado School of Law, where she will be teaching constitutional law, employment and employment discrimination, and torts.

Naomi Stern (03-04) recently left her position as the Domestic Violence Staff Attorney with the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty to begin a new position as a Counsel with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Budget.

In July 2006, **Jane Stoever (04-05)** became the Director of the Domestic Violence Clinic and a Practitioner-in-Residence at American University, Washington College of Law. She supervises third year law students as they represent clients in civil protection order cases in D.C. Superior Court. Her students also represent battered immigrants seeking to self-petition to become legal permanent residents under the Violence Against Women Act. Jane co-teaches a clinical seminar and taught Domestic Violence Law to second and third year law students during spring 2007. She writes: "I am grateful for the opportunities provided through the fellowship, and had such a wonderful experience! Thanks for all you do!"

In May, **Maria Beata Tungaraza (96-97)** took a new post as a Women's Human Rights Advisor in Somaliland. She writes: "This will be a challenging job for me in implementing the LAWA training I received from WLPPFP at Georgetown. Somaliland is an Islamic country which is now calling for promotion of women's rights... I will keep you posted of the progress and perhaps see if there are any avenues of securing a chance for Somaliland lawyers to attend the LAWA program."

Elana Tyrangiel (99-00) wrote that she is still at the U.S. Attorney's Office, but as of January 2007, she is now working as a Deputy Chief of the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Section.

As the Senior Human Rights Advisor with the USAID Afghanistan Rule of Law Project, **Belquis Ahmadi (02-03)** (our only non-African LAWA Fellow) is heading the Women's Rights under Islam component for Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP). The goal of ARoLP's Women's Rights under Islam program is to enable both women and men to understand and think critically about the customs, traditions and practices that are currently justified by using narrow and repressive interpretations of Islamic norms and are unjust and degrading to women. The program is working to create a space for public discourse and dialogue among Afghan scholars and scholars from other countries.

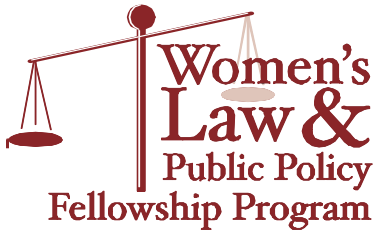
To all of our alums — thank you very much for all of the updates, and please keep them coming — we love to celebrate your accomplishments with you!

NATIONAL SUMMIT TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND HUMANITY OF PREGNANT AND BIRTHING WOMEN



WLPPFP Alums

By **Jill Morrison (98-99)**: I am so proud to report that a fellow alum convened an amazing conference January 18-21 in Atlanta. **Lynn Paltrow (84-85)**, founder of National Advocates for Pregnant Women, brought together over 300 maternal, birthing, and reproductive rights activists along with social justice activists, legal and policy experts and healthcare providers from 37 states, the District of Columbia, Mexico and Canada. We were given a unique opportunity to teach, learn, laugh, cry (and yes, argue) about the issues that impact us all: whether or not to give birth and/or parent, and how these decisions impact social justice, human rights and women's equality. All that was covered, and so much more. The continuing thread running through the conference is that we all need social, legal and economic support to make the best decisions for our own reproductive lives. Every choice — from birthing at home, to terminating a pregnancy, to continuing a pregnancy despite an addiction or illness — can be supported or burdened to the point where the "choice" isn't really a choice at all. At least five other fellows were at the event: **Priscilla Huang (06-07)**, **Angela Hooten (03-04)**, **Lourdes Rivera (90-91)**, **Ikeita Cantu Hinojosa (02-03)**, and me. I am sorry if I missed anyone! Please visit www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org for more information on the organization and the conference. I hope that this isn't a "once in a lifetime" event, and that I will see even more WLPPFP alums at the next one.



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