

## 2008-2009 WOMEN'S LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWS

This year a total of nineteen 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. We have thirteen WLPPFP Fellows who are working on a multitude of women's rights issues at different public interest and governmental organizations throughout the fellowship year. We also have six Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows, who earn a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from Georgetown focusing on international women's human rights, and then participate in a summer legal internship opportunity before returning home to continue advancing women's rights in their own countries. Although each of their fellowship experiences is unique, they all learn together about substantive women's rights issues, explore a multitude of career paths through which they can advocate for women's equality, and develop their advocacy skills through seminars, trainings, networking events and other activities provided by WLPPFP. Some of the highlights of their fellowships are noted below:



### **Aram Schvey**

**(Georgetown's International Women's Human Rights Clinic - IWHRC):** During the fall semester, Aram supervised student projects in the clinic along with IWHRC Acting Director Tzili Mor, who is a WLPPFP alumna. Throughout the year, Aram has also collaborated on several of these projects with the LAWA

Fellows from Kenya, Moza Jadeed, Jane Kamangu, and Janet Maina, as well as with U.S. Fellows Aziza Ahmed and Brook Kelly. For example, one fall project was a legal challenge to Kenyan laws criminalizing HIV transmission. Aram indicated that while the laws were a well-intentioned effort to help control the spread of HIV, the statutes are at best ineffective, and at worst discriminate against women. Women in Kenya are more likely to have HIV than men, more likely to be involved in transactional or survival sex, and less likely to be in a position to negotiate safe-sex practices. The second project Aram supervised was a legal challenge to mandatory-HIV-testing regulations. The regulations in question require HIV testing for pregnant women, based on the notion that pregnant women can be treated and appropriate prophylaxis can be administered to prevent mother-to-child transmission. But while the laws are perhaps motivated by a legitimate concern (promoting the woman's and newborn's health), they violate women's rights under both domestic and international law because they are mandatory and therefore are contrary to the human rights standard and medical principle of informed consent. In November, the entire clinic traveled to Geneva, where they presented the student-written "shadow report" detailing Kenya's violations of women's rights to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. They also observed the review of Myanmar/Burma by the UN Committee overseeing implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Additionally, they had the opportunity to conduct interviews with a number of gender-rights, human-rights, and global-health experts. The clinic participants also met with representatives at UNAIDS and at the World Health Organization, a U.N. official working with the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, an advisor for the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS. They also attended the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights' review of the official governmental report from Kenya. This spring, Aram and Tzili supervised clinical students on projects in Guyana and Washington, D.C., culminating in a report that the clinic presented in April on "HIV & Women's Human Rights: Obstacles to Prevention,

Treatment, & Care at Home & Abroad." The invitation noted that the clinic conducted two parallel fact-finding investigations in D.C. and Guyana to explore the links between women's human rights and HIV/AIDS. Student advocates interviewed dozens of women affected by HIV/AIDS, healthcare providers, NGOs, and government officials. Despite radically different resource levels, both locations exhibit similar HIV rates and gendered dynamics fueling an epidemic in need of a human rights approach. Their research indicated that Washington, D.C., has a severe epidemic with every mode of transmission increasing, and that the trend indicates a greater percentage of women are becoming infected. In Guyana, which is one of 15 special focus countries under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), HIV/AIDS is the number one killer of Guyanese ages 25 to 44. The students presented their preliminary findings and ideas for proposed recommendations. Aram is a Georgetown Clinical Teaching Fellow supported by Georgetown Law.



### **Jennifer Schingle**

**(Bureau of Veteran's Affairs):** Jennifer is working at the Bureau of Veterans' Affairs, researching and submitting cases concerning veteran's benefits. During her Fellowship year, Jennifer completed her initial training and worked with a mentor to gain an in-depth knowledge of the law of veteran's benefits. Jennifer has also researched and written a law review article about post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) resulting from sexual

abuse in the military. She met with numerous government officials and veterans' organizations to conduct her research, and her article analyzes hidden sex discrimination in the way PTSD regulations are written. Jennifer has indicated that, "As they currently exist, combat veterans have the lowest evidentiary standard to meet in order to get benefits for PTSD. Combat veterans are primarily male because women are not [technically] allowed to engage in land combat. The evidentiary standard for proving military sexual trauma in order to get PTSD benefits is higher than the combat standard. Most victims of [military sexual trauma] are female... Furthermore, it is a medical fact that one's chance of developing PTSD after a sexual attack is much greater than after combat. Therefore, although the two regulations are written in a gender neutral way, they favor male veterans and are discriminatory in their effect on female vets." The article expresses concern that these regulations "pose a higher burden of proof for female veterans than

male veterans... In sum, these regulations impose an unfairly high evidentiary standard on women (conceptually equal to the male standard) because they do not consider the unique challenges women face in producing evidence of MST or combat – namely documentation. I make an argument to change the VA regulations and also for Congress to lift the ban prohibiting females from engaging in land combat action.” According to her article:

*Documentation can be especially difficult to obtain with regard to females engaging in land combat action... Historically, women have been banned from assignment to combat roles, and even today the ban exists with regard to land combat operations. However, the theaters of Iraq and Afghanistan have been unlike any almost any other in the history of American war... Cultural sensitivities of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have created unique problems for which female soldiers have been used to solve. For example, female soldiers have been, and continue to be, recruited on missions in order to search Iraqi and Afghan women who, based on traditional custom, are not allowed to be touched by males... These missions require entry into combat zones and female soldiers are trained and expected to fight in combat action if necessary... Despite their heroism in this capacity, these women have not received the recognition or praise that they deserve. This lack of recognition is not only damaging to a female soldier's pride and future military career, it is damaging to her potential to prove service connection should she later be diagnosed with PTSD as a result of the combat action. Lack of recognition may result in the failure to receive a combat action award, or lack of notation of the combat action in her file. Either way, it represents a lack of documentation that may be damaging to her future disability claim with VA.*

Jennifer's fellowship is supported by the Board of Veterans' Appeals.



### Jane Quaye

(LAWA Fellow – Ghana): During the fall semester of her LL.M. degree studies at Georgetown, Jane took the following courses: International and Comparative Law on Women's Human Rights, Advanced Legal Writing for LAWAs, Health and Human Rights, Introduction to International Law, and Alternative Approaches to

International Law. During the spring semester, Jane took International Women's Human Rights, International Human Rights, International Economic and Social Rights, and International Trafficking in Persons. She wrote her major research paper on “Accessing the Formal Justice System in Ghana from a Human Rights Perspective: Making the Case for Victims of Gender-Based Violence.” Another seminar paper focused on “Access to Quality Health Care in Ghana from a Human Rights Perspective: Making Pain Management Relevant for Women in Labour,” which discussed the high incidence of maternal mortality in Ghana that is caused by bleeding and hypertension as a result of poor health care services. Jane indicated that there are times when labor pains, if not managed, can cause severe hypertension leading to pre-eclampsia or other health risks, and that women have a right to be informed about their options regarding pain relief in order to make an informed decision whether or not they need the medication. Jane also made time for non-academic opportunities in her busy schedule. As an Election Protection Officer on Election Day, Jane assisted many first time voters to find their correct polling place and cast their votes. Jane was also very excited to be able to visit the White House when the President of Ghana visited President Bush. Jane was invited to be a guest speaker at the 15th Annual Rebellious Lawyer Conference at Yale Law School with the theme of “The African Public Interest Lawyer – Rebellious Lawyering on the Continent.” Over 150 students attended the seminar when Jane spoke on innovative approaches to community lawyering, including working with community based civil society organiza-

tions providing legal aid and public legal education. Jane also attended the 53rd meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women held in New York City, where the theme was “The Twin Pandemics of Violence against Women and HIV/AIDS.” She noted that “It was a conference for governments to give a status-of-women report in their respective countries, but nongovernmental organizations enriched the process by organizing parallel events as well.” As the Executive Director of the International Federation of Women Lawyers in Ghana (FIDA-Ghana), Jane gave a presentation focusing on how FIDA became involved in advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS, the research FIDA-Ghana has done in the area, and FIDA's plans for the future. Additionally, Jane received an invitation to participate in the Georgetown Leadership Seminar, a week-long forum organized by the Georgetown School of Foreign Service including thirty-seven participants from thirty countries in the world representing both governmental and non-governmental and working in various professional capacities. Jane has an internship with the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown this summer. Her fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



### Mariela Olivares

(Georgetown Law's Domestic Violence Clinic): As the Supervising Attorney for Georgetown Law's Domestic Violence Clinic, Mariela has numerous responsibilities. For example, at the beginning of her fellowship, she handled a complex matter that involved cross-petitions and five separate criminal cases. Ultimately the case was resolved favorably, and she noted that the client

was overwhelmingly pleased. Mariela also supervises the Georgetown law students while they are handling cases through the Domestic Violence Clinic. Following intensive litigation training for the students that took place at the end of August, as well as a number of substantive seminars, the students were able to do their own case pickups at the Domestic Violence Intake Center. Mariela worked with the students at the intake center in their discussions with potential clients. On the day of case pickup, the students also conduct the emergency temporary protection order (TPO) hearings. Mariela works with the students on their written and investigatory advocacy in preparing for their Civil Protection Order (CPO) cases, and she helps the students represent the client in direct examination. She supervises the students through their case preparation, written drafts, oral advocacy, and exhibit collection. Mariela also participates in teaching part of many clinic seminars. For example, she taught a section on cultural competency, an introduction to domestic violence law, a section on visitation and paternity, and she co-taught a class on case-pick up and intake procedures. She also prepared an entire class session on the intersection between domestic violence and immigration law, an area in which she has substantial experience. Regarding non-fellowship activities, Mariela has continued to remain active in supporting Ayuda, where she previously worked, which is a public interest organization that protects the legal rights of low-income immigrants in the D.C. area, focusing on immigration, trafficking, domestic violence and family law issues. She also participated in a domestic violence advocacy day at the District of Columbia City Council building, talking to council staffers about the need for increased funding for domestic violence services in D.C. She is also active with the D.C. Bar Family Law Section, and facilitated a program at the courthouse that brought together representatives from all of the family court branches and D.C. practitioners. The event was designed to give practitioners an opportunity to ask questions from the court representatives and to learn how to represent their clients more effectively in the different branches of the court. Mariela is a Georgetown Clinical Teaching Fellow supported by Georgetown Law.



### Janet Maina

(LAWA Fellow – Kenya): During the fall semester of her LL.M. studies at Georgetown, Janet took International and Comparative Law on Women's Human Rights, Advanced Legal Writing for LAWAs, Human Rights at the Intersection of Trade and Corporate Responsibility, International Trade Law, and Alternative Approaches to International Law. During the spring semester, Janet took International Women's Human Rights, International Trade and Development, Refugee and Humanitarian Emergencies, and International Project Finance. She wrote her major research paper on "Promoting Equality in Kenyan Education through Gender Responsive Budgeting: An International Human Rights Approach." For another seminar, Janet wrote a paper examining "Beyond Rhetoric: Do Corporate Codes of Conduct Address Women's Rights Violations in the Kenyan Cut Flower Industry." Throughout the year, Janet was active in Georgetown Law's gospel choir, Just Praise, and participated in many other activities. At the start of her fellowship she attended an African cultural heritage celebration in Virginia that provided a reflection on the civil rights movement. She has also watched documentary film screenings, such as one focusing on Rwanda and how the country's frustrations with the Arusha tribunal have made it change focus to restorative justice as opposed to retributive justice. Another film addressed modern day slavery touching on the growing problem of trafficking of young girls from poor Asian countries. Last fall she also attended a discussion on the presidential race moderated by Wolf Blitzer at Georgetown Law, noting "to have it moderated by a renowned anchor and to have a panel of distinguished people from the media was an honor." On Election Day, she volunteered on the Election Protection Hotline, fielding calls from voters for over five hours. She had previously received training from the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights, and after the election she indicated: "I went home tired but glad I had helped people and also learnt a lot of new things about the country's electoral laws." The following semester, Janet attended the presentation hosted by the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative on the challenges of human rights reform in Morocco. She also attended LAWA alumna Esther Kisaakye's dissertation defense at American University, and a presentation on Vital Voice's Gender Law Library project. During spring break, Janet traveled with other Georgetown Law students to New Orleans to provide free legal aid to low-income people with legal problems, through volunteering with the Public Defenders' Office. She and the other students organized successful fundraisers to help pay for the trip. She noted that she "also visited Philadelphia on the President's Day weekend and got to see all the historical sites. This was especially interesting for me because I am taking a Constitutional law class. It was interesting to see the various historical items like the Liberty Bell, the grave of Benjamin Franklin, the building that was the capital of the United States between 1790 and 1800. Janet is now interning with Vital Voices Global Partnerships this summer. Her fellowship is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



### Emilia Lobti

(LAWA Fellow – Cameroon): During the fall semester of her LL.M. program at Georgetown, Emilia enrolled in the following courses: International and Comparative Law of Women's Human Rights, Refugee Law and Policy, Governance of Nonprofit Organizations, Advanced Legal Writing for LAWAs, and Pre-Negotiation Strategies and Cross Boarder Transactions. During the spring semester, Emilia took classes addressing Law and Development, International Women's Human Rights, Comparative Constitutional Law, and Women and Politics in Africa. Emilia wrote her major research paper on "Using International Human Rights Instruments to Address Violence Against Women: 'Pullakoh' and Psy-

chological Violence in Cameroon." She also wrote additional research papers in other seminars, such as one addressing foreign multinational corporations who use their sponsorship of non-profit organizations primarily for advertisement purposes in order to maximize their profits, arguably exploiting the organizations who receive comparatively very little benefit relative to the corporations' tremendous financial gains resulting from the relationships. She also wrote a paper on the inability of the Cameroon government to control organized banditry in the northern parts of the country, a situation in which women and young girls are raped and killed, kidnapped, abducted and deprived of their property. Like her LAWA colleagues, Emilia volunteered through the Election Protection program on Election Day, such as assisting voters with disabilities and elderly voters. She participated in other volunteer activities throughout the year as well. For example, Emilia helped to write an affidavit for an asylum seeker from Cameroon. Emilia noted, "This gave me a good experience as it got me involved in intensive research work. This was an opportunity for me to put into practice my knowledge gained through my courses on Refugee Law and Policy, as well as Refugees and Humanitarian Emergencies." Emilia also met Judge Fatsah Ouguergouz who serves on the newly created African Court on Human and People's Rights, and she later expressed that she hopes in the future to become a staff attorney with the court. In December, Emilia took part in an online discussion series on the "Political Economy of Violence against Women: Direct and Indirect Causes and Consequences." The themes for the two discussion sessions were "Identifying linkages between Violence against Women and Specific Rights" and "Assessing the Impact of Economic Globalization and Neoliberal Economic Policies on Violence against Women." The discussions aimed to identify and assess existing research on the political and economic causes and consequences of violence against women, and then to consider possible frameworks for addressing these in international and national policy-making. Emilia was also invited to attend a dinner party at the home of Professor Turkmani Chang Ho, who taught her course on Pre-Negotiation Strategies and Cross Border Transactions. Through the fellowship year, Emilia has continued to respond to action alerts from Women Living under Muslim Laws (WLUML), of which she is an active member. Emilia and her LAWA colleagues also participated in the Cultural Fusion Day sponsored by the student organization Foreign Lawyers at Georgetown (FLAG). She highlighted that "It was quite an interesting event with lot of fun dancing and eating. The cultural display portrayed the global cultural diversity found at Georgetown Law. This is an important event for connecting people." For her summer internship experience, Jane is working with the Africa Study Initiative on Women and Development at the World Bank. Emilia is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



### Brook Kelly

(The Women's Collective - TWC): Through her fellowship with TWC, Brook has worked in collaboration with several other WLPPFP Fellows, including Sandy Han with Georgetown Law's Harrison Institute Health Policy Clinic, Aziza Ahmed with the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), and Aram Schvey with Georgetown Law's International Women's Human Rights Clinic (IWHRC). For

example, she helped organize a project with IWHRC for the clinic students to identify issues concerning women living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS in Washington, D.C., such as domestic violence and lack of adequate housing, which can be addressed by a change in or adoption of new legislation or guidelines. She also served as a supervising attorney for clinical students during the IWHRC's fact-finding trip to Guyana to research women's human rights and HIV/AIDS in that country in comparison to the situation in Washington, D.C. In Guyana, Brook arranged interviews, handled logistics, supervised student interviews, and gave presentations to USAID/PEPFAR personnel, as well as local

NGO's on TWC's model programs and on domestic violence and HIV. She has also partnered with Sandy Han at Georgetown's Harrison Health Policy Clinic, where one of the students examined the effects of the new HHS health provider refusal clause regulations on women living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS and researched other issues affecting women living with HIV/AIDS in Washington, D.C. Brook submitted the comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the refusal clause regulations. Brook has held focus groups meetings at TWC with clients to determine what types of issues are most relevant to them, and she has conducted extensive research on state and federal laws regarding HIV/AIDS. Working in collaboration with organizations including the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) and the National Women and AIDS Collective (NWAC), Brook helped create a talking points memorandum on health care reform to use with constituents at town hall meetings and other venues. She has also represented TWC at numerous meetings, conferences, and events, such as the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership (FAPP) meetings, the Healthy Youth Coalition meetings, and meetings of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). Brook attended a D.C. special needs housing hearing, where she learned that insufficient housing is available for low-income people in the District, as well as the Sister Song membership meeting in Atlanta, GA. While at a presentation at the Kaiser Family Foundation on changing attitudes on HIV, she had the opportunity to talk with Jeff Crowley, President Obama's HIV/AIDS Secretary. Moreover, she has received a full scholarship to attend the annual CDC-sponsored HIV/AIDS Prevention Conference in Atlanta, Georgia in August. She also received a scholarship to the North American Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit sponsored by the National AIDS Housing Coalition, the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. On April 7, Brook was invited to the White House to attend the announcement of CDC 91/2 Minute Campaign by officials in the Obama Administration. She also submitted a draft resolution on women and HIV at home and abroad to Congresswoman Barbara Lee. On behalf of the Women's Collective, Brook testified at a District of Columbia Department of Human Services hearing on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by homeless shelters in the District regarding persons living with HIV/AIDS. She also wrote and submitted final comments: "The Women's Collective Comments on the Proposed Comprehensive Plan For Accessibility of Homeless Shelters under the Americans with Disabilities Act." Brook is a Georgetown Fellow supported by the Ford Foundation.



### Jane Kamangu

(LAWA Fellow – Kenya): During the fall semester of her LL.M. studies at Georgetown, Jane enrolled in International and Comparative Law on Women's Human Rights, Advanced Legal Writing for LAWAs, International Human Rights, Developing Countries in International Economic Systems, and International Law. In the spring, Jane took International Women's Human Rights, International Trade, Developing Countries in International Economic Systems, and International Project Finance. Jane's major legal research paper was entitled "The Principle of Non-Discrimination and Equality Before the Law: A Case Study of Unwed Mothers and Children Born Out of Wedlock in Kenya." In her other seminar classes, she wrote several additional papers, including one on women and trade under the World Trade Organization, and one entitled "Towards a Gender Sensitive Legislative Framework for Traditional Knowledge, A Case Study of Kenya." Jane has indicated that:

*This paper focuses on legal protection of traditional practices such as agriculture, environmental conservation and weaving practiced by women in Kenya. Kenya's Vision 2030, the blueprint for the country's development, recognizes the role of traditional*

*knowledge as a tool for development but does not attribute it to women... Patents have been registered by multinational companies for products and processes developed by women through traditional knowledge such as Kiondo, an African basket, and Kikoy, a multi-coloured fabric woven by women at the coast. I argued for protection of traditional knowledge that is largely a domain of women under the international intellectual property regime and passing similar legislation in Kenya... I proposed legislation that involves women at all levels of decision making in regard to protection of traditional knowledge... Large amounts of monetary and nonmonetary benefits have been paid by multinationals but have been captured by the government. This is wrong, because the true owners... are women, who should therefore be the beneficiaries.*

In addition to her academics, Jane volunteered to help students in the International Women's Human Rights Violence Clinic develop their interview skills. She played the role of a chief/elder and was interviewed by two students on the impact of wife inheritance on HIV positive mothers in Kenya. She also acted as a judge for the students later in the semester, drawing upon her experiences volunteering with the Kenya Women Judges Association. Being familiar with Kenya's legislation, judicial pronouncements, institutions, and challenges of implementation, Jane asked the students questions about the effects of legislation, the forum chosen, and the validity of relief sought. For her summer internship experience, Jane is working with the Africa Study Initiative on Women and Development at the World Bank. Jane is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.

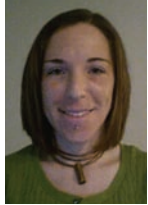


### Moza Jadeed

(LAWA Fellow – Kenya): During the fall semester of her LL.M. program at Georgetown, Moza enrolled in International and Comparative Law on Women's Human Rights, Advanced Legal Writing for LAWAs, Refugee Law & Policy, and Alternative Approaches to International Law. For the spring term, Moza enrolled in International Women's Human Rights; International Trafficking in Persons; International Trade and Development; International Comparative Employment Discrimination; and Women in International Security.

Moza wrote her major legal research paper for the LAWA Fellowship on "The Status of Child Domestic Workers in Kenya: A Violation of Girls' Rights." For her other seminar classes, she wrote several additional substantial legal papers, including "Successes and Challenges in the Fight against Female Genital Mutilation in Kenya: The Case for an Increased Active Role of Health Personnel." She also wrote a paper on the participation of two women (who now are now government ministers) in the peace talks following the 2007–2008 post-election crisis in Kenya, and one on the poor working conditions of workers (70% of whom are women) in the Kenyan Export Processing Zones. In addition to her classes, Moza actively participated in the Georgetown Law Muslim Students Association (MSA), which organized events such as iftaar (breaking the fast) dinners for students. During the fall presidential election season, Moza volunteered to be an Election Protection Mobile Legal Officer with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. She completed the training in October and monitored seven polling stations in Maryland on Election Day, addressing voter's concerns and referring those having problems beyond her expertise to the Election Protection Hotline. Moza also became a First Responder, volunteering to provide support immediately to immigrants who have been detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in work raids before they are able to see an attorney. The First Responder visits the immigrants at the detention centers, advises them on their rights, takes down their stories, and passes the same to pro bono attorneys who will represent the immigrants before an Immigration Judge. Moza completed a four hour training and registered as First Responder to be

called upon as needed. For her post-graduation summer internship, Moza is conducting research pertaining to women's health and human rights with the O'Neill Institute on National and Global Health Law at Georgetown Law. After her fellowship, Moza plans to continue with consultancy work, study Shariah and open a leadership academy for girls in Mombasa, Kenya. She wants to publish scholarly articles on the rights of women in both Shariah and international human rights law, and to educate Muslim women about their rights as provided by these sources. Moza is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



### Erin Hustings

**(National Partnership for Women and Families - NPWF):** Erin started off her Fellowship year by

researching and analyzing the health provider refusal clause regulations published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) last August. She drafted and submitted NPWF's official comments on the regulations, and subsequently wrote a memo ana-

lyzing HHS's response to some of NPWF's concerns. Erin has reached out to lawmakers as well. She educated Congressional staff about the importance of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act – which was ultimately enacted and signed into law as President Obama's first legislation – as well as the Paycheck Fairness Act. She also drafted a manual highlighting significant concerns with an alternative "fair pay" bill that had been offered by opponents. Additionally, Erin has written amicus briefs for NPWF to submit in various lawsuits. For example, she spearheaded an amicus brief in *Harris v. Mayor & City Council of Baltimore*, a sexual harassment-hostile work environment Title VII case, in which defendants were granted summary judgment by the District Court. The decision was troubling in a number of aspects, including that it dismissed the notion that use of inherently gendered slurs satisfied the "because of sex" requirement in sexual harassment cases, and set forth a never-before-seen standard, that cases not involving assault or battery might be actionable only where there was "extreme" conduct directed at the plaintiff. Working with pro bono legal counsel, Erin conducted preliminary legal research, commented on drafts, and drafted the Motion for Leave to File and other technical pieces of the full filing. Since Erin is admitted in the Fourth Circuit, she is the counsel of record on the brief. She is also counsel of record on the brief submitted by NWLC in *Ricci v. DiStefano*. Moreover, Erin has worked on several long term research projects. One was to identify best practices by employers for hiring and retaining welfare-to-work recipients. She examined studies and gathered anecdotal evidence supporting the argument that offering better benefits to lower-income workers helps the employer's bottom line. She is working on this issue in conjunction with the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), which is looking into how Bureau of Labor Statistics numbers might be used to support this theory. Erin is also compiling a report on the cases brought by the employment division within the U.S. Department of Justice under both President Bush and President Clinton. Erin has also been actively involved in the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) Judicial Nominations Group. In this capacity, she has researched judicial nominees and attended Judiciary Committee meetings. Following Justice Souter's announcement of his retirement from the U.S. Supreme Court, Erin conducted extensive research into possible nominees. Upon President Obama's nomination of Sonia Sotomayor, Erin has drafted materials on behalf of NPWF in support of her nomination. Regarding other activities, Erin has organized seminars in conjunction with administrative agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). She has drafted reports of U.S. Supreme Court decisions and upcoming cases to be heard by the Court, which have been distributed to supporters and organizations. Erin hosted a discussion with a group of college women from the Public Leadership Education Network

(PLEN) who were interested in learning more about women's advocacy work. Erin is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow.



### Sandy Han

**(Georgetown Law's Harrison Institute of Public Law):**

As the Health Policy Fellow at the Harrison Institute, Sandy is responsible for working on client projects by supervising clinic students for project completion or completing the work herself. One of the main projects she has worked on is the "O'Neill Top Ten" in partnership with the O'Neill Institute for National and

Global Health Law at the Georgetown University Law Center. This initiative involves analyzing health care proposals for legal barriers or issues in a bipartisan manner. Various experts, mostly from academia, have analyzed legal issues to be addressed in various health care reform proposals. These experts have each drafted individual papers on their respective issues to be combined into one written product in order to help inform the new administration about these issues. Sandy was responsible for coordinating many of the health care reform issues. She headed the segments addressing Definition of Health Insurance, Individual Mandates, ERISA, Insurance Discrimination, and Insurance Discrimination Based on Health Status, and she directly supervised three students with secondary supervision of a fourth student. Sandy has also responded to research requests on ERISA and Insurance Discrimination Based on Health Status. She learned about the two amendments to ERISA specifically concerning women's health issues, the Maternity Length of Stay in 1996 and the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act in 1998, as well as the HIPAA amendments prohibiting discrimination based on pre-existing conditions including any related to pregnancy. Moreover, Sandy and her colleagues launched the Legal Solutions in Health Reform project, which included editing and making available many scholarly papers on various aspects of health reform. Another of Sandy's main projects was to conduct outreach to create a women's issue oriented project for the clinic in the spring. She collaborated with WLPFP Fellow Brook Kelly at The Women's Collective to develop a project with the clinic for the spring semester, examining the health provider refusal clause regulations that came out in December before the Bush Administration left office. They initially analyzed the potential impact on HIV positive or HIV high risk women in D.C. by looking at state equivalents and also stigma or discrimination effects on care with HIV women. Once the regulation was reversed by the Obama Administration, the student was also able to research and write about access to care for women with or at risk of HIV in Washington, D.C. Sandy noted that through supervising the project, she had the opportunity to learn a lot about women at risk or living with HIV/AIDS in D.C., and how disconnected the services seem to be for this population, as well as the fact that the United States does not have a national policy on HIV/AIDS. Sandy is a Georgetown Clinical Teaching Fellow supported by Georgetown Law.



### Katharine Gordon

**(American Diabetes Association):** As a legal advocate at the American Diabetes Association, Katharine helps individuals stop diabetes discrimination and obtain the accommodations and assistance they are entitled to by law. Using the ADA method of educate, negotiate, litigate, legislate, she helps elementary and high school students, college students, workers, and prisoners

learn about their rights and take action to ensure that these rights are respected. She splits her time between providing direct assistance to people who call the ADA helpline and conducting legal research and writing that is critical to confronting discrimination. While diabetes strikes males and females equally, women often are the ones who take the lead in providing care to themselves and their family members. In

fact, two-thirds of the individuals Katharine has assisted have been women, including many mothers who are their child's primary advocate. In these women's stories, Katharine hears their additional struggles to manage their need for health care, for support, and for a dignified workplace, that occur because they are women. For example, one of the most frequent calls for assistance that she gets is related to the implementation of accommodations for children with diabetes. Children with diabetes, under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, are entitled to auxiliary aids and services that will allow them to access a "free appropriate public education." However, many schools are under the mistaken impression that a student is not eligible for a Section 504 plan unless the student's ability to learn is impaired. Therefore they refuse to provide students with the protections that they need to be safe at school. Much of Katharine's work involves working with parents so that they understand the law such that they can educate their school. Moreover, because of the increasing ability of children to participate fully in school, thanks to the Americans with Disabilities Act and the IDEA special education laws, more young people with diabetes are able to attend college. While the Association already has well-developed resources for children in elementary school and high school, it does not have a similar program for post-secondary students. Therefore, Katharine is working on an extensive research and writing project to produce documents regarding the rights of college students with diabetes geared at numerous audiences: lawyers, students, parents, and school officials. This will include information about how students with diabetes can access appropriate testing accommodations for standardized tests. Some of Katharine's research on this subject was published in the ADA's Magazine, Diabetes Forecast. Katharine is also working on a project regarding physical and medical testing requirements of persons with diabetes who have already been hired. The concern is that individuals with disabilities not be subject to unnecessary medical inquiry based on their diagnosis alone. Katherine created a website dealing with reasonable accommodation issues in the workplace. She also created the ADA's first Spanish discrimination packet in light of the fact that there are 4 million Latinos with diabetes in the United States and the rate of diabetes in the Latino community is significantly higher than in other communities. Katharine is also working on several projects in regards to the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008. Katharine is supported by the American Diabetes Association.



### Danielle Delaney

**(National Council of Urban Indian Health - NCUIH):** Danielle's organization was asked to testify before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on health care reform at a hearing for the three national Indian health organizations (NCUIH, National Indian Health Board (NIHB), National Congress of American Indians) to present their joint recommendations. This was the sixth hearing for which Danielle has drafted testimony on behalf of NCUIH. She has also completed a one year transition plan for NCUIH and its member organizations in preparation of the incoming Obama Administration. This document lays out how the national organization intends to move forward with the new Administration and outlines priorities areas in terms of health policy and health reform. To prepare for the transition, Danielle arranged for meetings with various agencies' transition teams and prepared briefs outlining the regulatory action NCUIH found favorable or unfavorable. She also successfully worked with the House Majority Leadership and other Representatives to ensure that the Urban Indian Health Program line item was included in the Continuing Resolution. She has been in charge of educating specific lawmakers about the Health Care for America Now! (HCAN!) project. She also assisted the HCAN! policy committee in developing a comprehensive policy brief that discusses not only health care access issues in terms of insurance, but also actual access to physicians. NCUIH has also begun developing an internet database. Danielle has helped write

contracts, draft MOUs, and finalize negotiations with two universities, several independent researchers, and other AI/AN organizations to provide materials, review, and oversight of the database. The goal of the database is to focus on culturally specific best practices across the medical field from primary care to substance abuse prevention and treatment. Before November's election, Danielle assisted with the Native Vote Project. She worked with the National Congress of American Indians to ensure that urban Indians were included in the Native Vote Project dedicated registering all eligible Native Americans and Alaska Natives. NCUIH helped organize registration drives at 25 urban Indian clinics and Danielle wrote several region-specific facts & myths sheets, distributed registration dos & don'ts, and was on hand to answer election law and registration questions. She also worked with clinics in major urban centers to develop voting transportation and legal protection and with NCAI to develop a Native specific election law hotline for Election Day. She also helped find attorneys and staff centers in Montana, California, Utah, Oregon, and New Mexico. These efforts paid off, and NCUIH is very proud of the Native Vote project as there was a higher than average voter turnout. Danielle also prepared a two hour advocacy and grassroots networking workshop for the annual NIHB Conference in California. Danielle is supported by NCUIH.



### Nancy Chung

**(National Asian Pacific America Women's Forum - NAPAWF):** One of Nancy's major projects has dealt with the HPV vaccine mandate for immigrants and proposed Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations. She drafted the sign-on letter for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) urging for reversal of the mandate, as well as the talking points for the work-

ing group, and has spearheaded numerous conference calls. Nancy has received many inquiries, including a request to be interviewed live for over 20 minutes on a radio show on the west coast by KPFK 90.7(FM) LA. Nancy also drafted the HPV vaccination mandate issue statement for the National Coalition for Immigrant Women's Rights and updated NAPAWF's HPV brief. Nancy also served as the spokesperson on this issue for the health committee of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific Americans at a meeting with U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's outreach staff. She also spoke on a panel for a Training and Access Working Group session, where she discussed how the mandate affected low-income and minority women. After the Obama Administration took office, Nancy drafted a letter to the new acting director of the CDC for the working group made up of dozens of organizations opposed to the HPV vaccination mandate for immigrants. She was also in charge of collecting all the sign-ons and sending the letter. Nancy has also continued the work of previous WLPPFP fellows on a project analyzing possible reproductive and other health problems for workers in nail salons. She has supervised law students in their research of legislation, statutes and strategies for the nail salon project, drafting research questions for the students, reviewing their memos, and holding bi-weekly conference calls with them. She was also in charge of making contacts at different federal agencies to learn what authority, if any, they have over cosmetics or nail salons and what opportunities exist for NAPAWF to work with them on the issue. She also did a lot of work with the National Healthy Nail Salon Alliance, which NAPAWF co-sponsored in Oakland, CA. This was a two day event where nail salon workers, owners, advocates, industries, and state and federal agencies came together to discuss the issues surrounding the health of nail salon workers, owners, and customers, and to develop a prioritized list of research questions that need to be addressed to further this work. Nancy facilitated a group each day to come up with research priority areas. In addition, Nancy is leading NAPAWF's work on the Prenatal Non-discrimination Act, facilitating calls with the working group and the creation of an educational packet about this type of legislation. Nancy has also facilitated many panels and forums for NAPAWF. She was the

guest speaker for one of the workshops at the FUEL Conference at the University of Maryland, where she discussed reproductive justice and Asian Pacific American women with about 20 students. At the Contraceptive Access Summit in New York, she co-facilitated the break-out discussion on “Cultural, Language Access, and Religious Barriers to Access and Use of Contraceptives.” She also attended the SisterSong retreat in Georgia, and was on a panel for the National Advisory Board Meeting on Religious Regulations, where she spoke about the impact of the newly imposed HHS regulations on low income women and women of color. Nancy also spoke at the Sex Selection Values Clarification Meeting held in New York, which addressed different values surrounding sex selection such as reproductive technology and family-planning issues. Nancy gave a presentation on the recent state and federal bills that have been emerging which ban sex selection abortion, and facilitated the closing of the meeting. Nancy also spearheaded a sign-on letter to Senators regarding the State Children’s Healthcare Improvement Program (SCHIP) and was responsible for collecting sign-ons for the letter. Nancy has also contributed to the new NPAWF website and drafts NPAWF’s policy newsletter every month. Nancy is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Moriah Fund and the Huber Foundation.



### **Arlene Brens**

**(National Women’s Law Center - NWLC):** Arlene has researched and edited many of the NWLC’s reports, such as the Getting Organized Update: 2008. This report concerns the unionization of home-based child care workers and provides a summary of the states that have executive orders or legislation that allows home-based child care workers to unionize in that

state. Arlene also completed research for a report on Louisiana’s tiered bonus reimbursement system for child care providers. This research was needed for NWLC’s report on State Child Care Assistance Policies 2008: Too Little Progress for Children and Families. Arlene has also assisted her organization in responding to judicial nominations, attending meetings with the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR) and other members of the coalition on judicial nominations, as well as nominations to positions within the Obama Administration, such as Eric Holder’s nomination to be Attorney General. As another example, she has conducted substantial work on Dawn Johnsen’s nomination to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, and worked to support Johnsen’s nomination and prepare for her confirmation hearing this spring, and sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee detailing NWLC’s support. Arlene wrote a blog for [www.womenstake.org](http://www.womenstake.org) after the hearing. Regarding other matters, Arlene has researched Federal Reserve Board’s amendments to Regulation B of the Equal Opportunity Credit Act, the applicability of these changes to lenders, and how these changes affect lenders. She also researched updates and statutory changes under federal and state law for the earned income tax credit, dependent care tax credit, and child tax credit. In addition, Arlene researched Jane’s law which gives fines and jail time for failing to pay spousal support. Furthermore, Arlene assisted the Education and Employment Team in preparing for the Senate Judiciary Committee’s hearing on Barriers to Justice: Examining Equal Pay for Equal Work. Lilly Ledbetter testified at this hearing and Arlene aided in drafting her oral statement to the Committee. She also wrote a blog after the hearing which discussed her thoughts on the hearing, and has continued to write for the blog throughout the fellowship year, such as one recently concerning the Iowa same-sex marriage decision. One of her blog posts, entitled “Women in the Legal Profession: Underpaid and Underrepresented?”, appeared in the 69th Carnival of Feminists in “This is What a Feminist Blog Looks Like.” Arlene is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Rita Charmatz Davidson Family Fund.



### **Elizabeth Atemnkeng**

**(LAWA Fellow – Cameroon):** During the fall semester of her LL.M. program at Georgetown, Elizabeth enrolled in International and Comparative Women’s Human Rights; Advanced Legal Writing for LAWAs; Global and National Approaches to Reproductive Health and the Law; Alternative Approaches to International Law; International Courts and Tribunals; Pre-negotiation Strategies; and Governance of Non-Governmental Organizations. For the spring term, Elizabeth enrolled in International Human Rights; International Women’s Human Rights; International Trafficking in Persons; Contemporary Peace Keeping and Enforcement: Legitimacy, Legitimacy, and Accountability; and International Trade, Investment and Sustainable Development. Elizabeth wrote her major legal research paper for the LAWA Fellowship on “Customary Law, Widows’ Inheritance Rights and Access to Justice in Cameroon: An International Human Rights Approach of Redressing Gender-Based Violence.” Elizabeth discussed the problem that Cameroon has no law specifically addressing violence against women, and customary courts continue to perpetuate gender-based discrimination. Because the foundations for prohibiting women from inheritance have collapsed, Elizabeth argues it is time for that tradition to be eliminated. Elizabeth’s paper proposes a two prong solution: while legislators should take measures to amend discriminatory customary laws on inheritance and enact laws prohibiting violence against women, advocates should appeal to traditional landowners and customary courts to stop gender-based discrimination and violence. For her other seminar classes, she wrote several additional substantial legal papers, including “Integrating Gender into the International Criminal Courts,” and “Child Rape in Cameroon in the Context of Reproductive Rights.” Elizabeth also aided the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE) with their work on female condoms in Africa. Last fall, she signed an appeal letter to President Bush to extend the distribution of female condoms to developing countries. She also participated in a teleconference promoting female condoms connecting people from throughout the world. Additionally, she attended a presentation by Judge Fatsah Ouguerouz, who currently serves on the newly formed African Court of Human and People’s Rights. This spring she attended a discussion organized by the American Political Association with presentations by representatives from the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI). For her summer work experience, Elizabeth is conducting research on women’s reproductive health and human rights for Catholics for Choice. Elizabeth has indicated that “While at Georgetown I remain the Secretary General of FIDA Cameroon (the Cameroon chapter of the International Federation of Women Lawyers), hence after my return my women’s rights advocacy will continue while I try to bring new impetus to the organization.” Elizabeth is supported by Georgetown Law and the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation.



### **Meredith Asay**

**(Planned Parenthood Federation of America - PPFA):** Through her work with the legal and litigation department at PPFA, Meredith has helped prepare a legal response for the possibility of a very restrictive ban on reproductive health services via a state-level referendum. Meredith was intensively involved in researching the relevant legal issues and meeting with many attorneys working on the issue, as well as obtaining testimonials from women who opposed such bans based upon their personal experiences. Meredith has also been responsible for overseeing the legal and litigation department’s submissions to PPFA’s “Now What” newsletter, which is sent to affiliates, other offices, and organizations. For the newsletter, Meredith worked with her colleagues to prepare concise overviews of any news stories on interesting cases involving reproductive rights and educa-

tion. Meredith was also given the responsibility of detailing her office's activities for PPFA's end of year wrap up book. In December, the Department of Health and Human Services published the final rule on "Ensuring that Department of HHS Funds Do Not Support Coercive or Discriminatory Policies or Practices in Violation of Federal Law." PPFA had previously submitted comments on the HHS proposed rule in September, Meredith and her colleagues were waiting to see if the final rule incorporated any of the suggested changes or comments. Meredith researched various issues relating to potential harm to PPFA and its affiliates that may have been caused by the rule, as well as how the rule addresses other matters. More recently, Meredith has been conducting research into President Obama's nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor, a federal judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, to the U.S. Supreme Court to fill the vacancy left by retiring Justice David Souter this summer. Meredith attended a presentation in May sponsored by the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown Law by Professor Rebecca Cook, a Georgetown Law alumna who serves as Co-Director of the International Programme on Reproductive and Sexual Health Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto. Professor Cook presented a draft commentary on women's health rights addressed in Article 12 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Meredith also volunteered to help with the National Partnership for Women and Families Annual Luncheon in June featuring Valerie Jarrett, who was appointed by President Obama to Chair the first-ever White House Council on Women and Girls. Meredith is a Legal Advocates for Women Fellow supported by the Huber Foundation and the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation.



### Nadia Asanchev

**(Georgetown Center on National Security and the Law):** Nadia attends numerous seminars and events on behalf of the Center on National Security and the Law, such as conference on "The Gender Dimensions of Terrorism: How Terrorism Impacts the Lives of Women," at Rutgers Law School on March 6, 2009. The event was the Women's Rights Law Reporter's 40th Anniversary Symposium, featuring a keynote presentation from Susan Herman, President of the ACLU, and Karima Bennouna, Rutgers Law School professor and visiting professor at the University of Michigan Law School. During the conference, Nadia also met Farhana Ali, who writes on women's activism in mass sociopolitical movements and terrorist networks, such as women in Al Qaeda and the female suicide bomber trend in Iraq and other conflicts. Nadia has explored the possibility of researching other connections between security and women's issues, such as the story in 2007 of how Iran charged women's rights activists with national security violations, repealing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell requirement in the U.S. military, and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. At the beginning of her fellowship, Nadia and her colleagues launched a blog covering national security law news and issues ([www.security-lawblog.com](http://www.security-lawblog.com)). In April the blog had about 4600 hits, plus 190 or so subscribers each day. Nadia has also analyzed the 4th Circuit's en banc decision in the Al-Marri case and wrote a paper entitled "Why the Administration was Correct to Indict Al-Marri" that was released shortly after the case was argued in February. Additionally, Nadia has been involved in a research project pertaining to Britain's use of anti-terrorism laws in Iceland and examining other instances where a government's expansion of list of "terrorist organizations" has had devastating effects on the economy. She has also worked with the University of Sheffield on a project entitled "The Rule of Law and Terrorism." Additionally, Nadia has been substantially involved in the Uighurs detention case. In January, the director of the Center, Neal Katyal, was appointed by President Obama to be the Deputy Solicitor General, and Nadia has

been helping facilitate the Center's work during his transition. Nadia also volunteered her time as a tax preparer for low income people. To become qualified, she completed a 12-hour training, then she worked directly with clients to help them prepare their taxes. Nadia is a Georgetown Fellow supported by Georgetown Law.



### Aziza Ahmed

**(International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS - ICW):** Aziza has been primarily responsible for the ICW's Forced Sterilization in Namibia Project, and in March issued a report entitled "The Forced and Coerced Sterilization of HIV Positive Women in Namibia." With the Southern African Litigation Center and LAWA alum Linda Dumba at the Legal Assistance

Center, Aziza and her colleagues completed a domestic, regional and human rights analysis of the situation in Namibia. They also made a submission to the deputy minister of health stating women have been identified in Namibia who have been sterilized without their consent. Along with the ATHENA network and the Center for Reproductive Rights, Aziza helped draft a letter to the Special Rapporteur on Health regarding the situation in Namibia. She has also worked on laws criminalizing transmission of HIV/AIDS and their impact on women. For example, on behalf of ICW, she submitted a letter to LAWA Alumna Jamesina King, who was then serving as the chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights in Sierra Leone. Her office responded that they were working to redraft the legislation, and Aziza helped ensure that positive women and people living with HIV/AIDS were involved in the drafting process. Additionally, as a result of ICW's forwarding the letter to various listservs, Elizabeth Mataka, the UN Special Envoy on AIDS, responded. She said that thanks to the awareness raised by ICW's letter, she was going to do a press release from her position as Special Envoy on the topic of criminalization, and Aziza helped draft talking points for her. Aziza has also analyzed the draft criminal legislation for Uganda. She is quoted in a booklet entitled "Verdict on a Virus" recently published by ICW, International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Aziza gave presentations on criminalization of HIV transmission and how criminalization laws will affect women this spring at the AIDS, Sex, and the Law Conference held by the International Center for Research on Women in Mexico, as well as last fall at the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. Prior to the fall conference, she was also selected to review abstracts for the International AIDS Strategy. She has created a fact sheet on women and criminalization to be distributed in the ICW newsletter and wrote a longer article for Reproductive Health Matters. Along with current WLPPFP Fellow Aram Schvey and the International Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya (FIDA-Kenya), Aziza helped organized a project in conjunction with the Georgetown International Women Human Rights Clinic, on AIDS criminalization laws in Kenya. Aziza has also paired with current WLPPFP Fellow Brook Kelly at The Women's Collective to work on a project addressing the rights of vulnerable women in Washington, D.C. focusing on sex workers in the D.C. area. Additionally, Aziza has published a blog on Reproductive Health Reality Check. Aziza and ICW also partnered with UNAIDS and others in the Washington, D.C. area to host two World AIDS Day events, one at the National Press Club geared towards getting attention on the issue, and the other as a local-global dialogue at Busboys and Poets as an outreach to the D.C. community. Aziza is a Georgetown Fellow supported by the Ford Foundation.

## CULTIVATING WOMEN'S RIGHTS LEADERS

Through networking opportunities, professional development trainings, colloquia on hot-topics in women's legal issues, and other programming, WLPPFP helps our Fellows continue to develop as leaders of the women's rights movement. Examples of the activities of our 2008-2009 Fellows since our last newsletter 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 meeting with **Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton** on Capitol Hill 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 **Valerie Jarrett**, Senior Advisor and Assistant to President Obama and head of the White House Council on Women and Girls.



*Professor Wendy Williams Presenting on the Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

- A colloquium with **Professor Wendy Williams** on “**The Legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**,” who shared inside stories and the history of legal battles for women's equality from her forthcoming biography of Justice Ginsburg that she is co-authoring with Mary Hartnett (both Wendy and Mary are on the WLPPFP board).
- A set of trainings on “**Leadership and Team-Building**” by **Lauren Dubin**, who provided a personalized analysis for each Fellow based on the **Myers-Briggs** test results, as well as interactive exercises for all of the fellows to learn together about group dynamics.



*Fellows at WLPPFP Seminar*

- An interactive training on “**Public Speaking and Communication Skills**” with **Chris Jahnke**, Founder and President of Positive Communications.
- A colloquium on “**Advocating for the Rights of Women Living with HIV/AIDS**” by **Terry McGovern**, Program Officer with the Ford Foundation, and founder and former Executive Director of the HIV Law Project.
- A colloquium on “**Violence Against Women**” with **Janese Bechtol**, (WLPPFP Alum, 1998-99) Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit in the D.C. Attorney General's Office; **Nora O'Connell**, Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs with Women Thrive Worldwide; **Kiersten Stewart**, Director of Public Policy with the Family Violence Prevention Fund; and **Alex Arriaga**, consultant and former Managing Director of Gov't Relations with Amnesty International, Special Assistant to President Bill Clinton, and Senior Advisor in the State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.
- A training on the “**Principles of Fundraising**” with **Regan Ralph**, Executive Director of the Fund for Global Human Rights (WLPPFP Alum, 1992-93); **Shira Saperstein**, Deputy Director/Program Director for Women's Rights and Reproductive Health with the Moriah Fund, and **Jacqueline Nolley Echegaray**, Associate for International Programs with the Moriah Fund.
- A series of colloquia 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.



*Fellows with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg*



*LAWA Fellows Celebrating Graduation Day*



*LAWA Fellows with Virginia Military Institute Cadets*

## ADDITIONAL LAWA ACTIVITIES

Our LAWA Fellows have participated in numerous additional activities organized by WLPPFP this spring, such as the following examples:

- Participating in **workshops** on writing resumes and cover letters, networking, interviewing skills, computer skills, developing effective Power Point presentations, using Excel, etc.
- 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.
- Attending a symposium on **Reproductive and Sexual Health and the African Women’s Protocol** at Washington & Lee in Lexington, Virginia.
- Presenting their LAWA papers for a class on international women’s human rights taught by **Professor Johanna Bond** (WLPPFP alum, 1998-99) at **Washington & Lee School of Law**.
- Visiting the **Virginia Military Institute** and meeting female cadets, after studying the VMI sex discrimination case written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
- Speaking about women’s rights in their countries and possible future collaborations at a meeting hosted by the pro bono counsel and chair of the Women’s Forum at the law firm of **Covington & Burling**.
- Lecturing at the Georgetown University main campus during for undergraduate students in the **International Women’s Human Rights Seminar**.



*LAWA Presentation at Washington & Lee*



*Fellows participating in WLPPFP Colloquium*

- Meeting with **Mark Blackden**, Consultant on Gender, Entrepreneurship and Markets with the **International Finance Corporation**; and with **Mary-Hallward Driemeier**, manager of a **World Bank** regional study on Gender, Law, and Business in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Attending the **Initiative for Inclusive Security’s** Annual Policy Forum Luncheon hosted by Ambassador Swanee Hunt.
- Our LAWA Fellows were also featured in an article on the Georgetown Alumni Online website discussing the new **Georgetown Africa Interest Network (GAIN)**, which has been convened by Scott Taylor, director of African Studies in the School of Foreign Service, and Charles DeSantis, associate vice president of faculty and staff benefits. The article highlights that “More than 300 faculty, staff and students from 75 different departments across all of Georgetown’s campuses are involved in research, teaching and programming with an African emphasis, and the work they are doing spans 24 different countries on the continent.” Georgetown alumni are encouraged to join the network by sending an e-mail to [gain@georgetown.edu](mailto:gain@georgetown.edu) with your name, class and year, and any specific interest you have concerning Africa. See <http://alumni.georgetown.edu/default.aspx?page=NewsEvents20090529>.

## OTHER HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to board member **Mary Hartnett**, who received the Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law from the International Law section of the American Bar Association. LAWA Fellows **Jane Kamangu** and **Jane Quaye**, WLPPFP alumna **Regan Ralph**, board members **Wendy Williams**, **Judy Lichtman**, and **Marcia Greenberger**, and Executive Director **Julia Ernst** also attended the celebration.

Congratulations to board member **Marcia Greenberger**, Founder and Co-President of the National Women’s Law Center, upon receiving the Arabella Babb Mansfield Award from the National Association of Women Lawyers at their annual event in New York City.

We are grateful to all of our 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!

## ALUM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WLPPFP celebrates the continued achievements of our outstanding alumni, who strive to improve the lives of women and their families throughout their careers. Our alums 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:

- **Diana Aguilar (2006-07, U.S.)** continues to serve as an Associate Staff Attorney with the Public Policy Litigation & Law department at Planned Parenthood Federation of America.
- **Patience Akenji (2007-08, Cameroon)** wrote in March that “I have been invited by Vital Voices to attend a seminar in South Africa, Cape Town at the end of this month. Vital Voices is funding a project with Women in Alternative Action (WAA) Cameroon (my connection), on Sexual Harassment and HIV/AIDS among women and young girls.”
- **Jackie Asiimwe-Mwesige (2000-01, Uganda)** works for Wellspring Advisors as their Uganda-based consultant, monitoring their current grantees in Uganda, updating them on trends in the program areas they fund, as well as prospecting for new grantees. “It’s a great job,” she highlights.
- **Abiodun Baiyewu (2007-08, Nigeria)** has started a new position at the Centre for African Policy & Peace Strategy ([www.thinkafrica.org](http://www.thinkafrica.org)).



*Jane Quaye Speaking  
at Yale Law  
Conference*

*LAWA Congressional  
Briefing on  
Women’s Human  
Rights in Africa*



*Georgetown Law Cultural Festival*

- **Claudia Center (1992-93, U.S.)**, who is a Senior Staff Attorney for the Legal Aid Society -- Employment Law Center in San Francisco, California has received the 2009 Paul G. Hearne Award for Disability Rights from the American Bar Association Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law.
- **Courtney Chappell (2004-05, U.S.)** is currently the Advocacy Manager at the D.C. Employment Justice Center, a community based organization that seeks to promote workplace justice. Since joining the EJC in January, Courtney has testified several times before the D.C. Council and conducted workshops on accessing unemployment insurance and workplace discrimination. On a personal note, Courtney and her husband have started the adoption process through Korea, and are very excited about becoming new parents. Congratulations Courtney!
- **Terisa Chaw (1985-86, U.S.)**, Executive Director of the National Employment Lawyers Association/The Employee Rights Advocacy Institute For Law & Policy, recently hosted NELA’s 20th Annual Convention in Rancho Mirage, CA.
- **Janet Chung (1997-98, U.S.)**, Legal and Legislative Counsel, let us know that her organization has a new name, Legal Voice (formerly the Northwest Women’s Law Center) and revamped website at <http://www.legalvoice.org/>.
- **Phumzile Dlamini (2003-04, Swaziland)**, after serving for several years as a Program Officer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in South Africa, is returning to Swaziland to continue her public interest work.



*Aram Schvey recently spoke about women’s human rights to students participating in the Global Young Leaders Conference (GYLC) sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC)*



*LAWA Fellow Moza Jadeed Graduating with Distinction*



*LAWA Fellows and Friends at Georgetown Cultural Festival*



- **Janel George (2005-06, U.S.)**, Legislative Assistant with Congresswoman Donna Edwards, was featured with Tim Gunn of Liz Claiborne in an article at <http://www.wwd.com/fashion-news/fashion-scoops/bewitching-jewelry-mrs-o-is-a-no-tim-gunns-tips-2127653?full=true>.
- **Karen Getman (1985-86, U.S.)**, has co-authored a chapter on “Pluralists and republicans, rules and standards: conflicts of interest and the California experience” in a book entitled *Conflict of Interest in Public Life: Cross-National Perspectives*. She is an attorney with Remcho, Johansen & Purcell in California, which specializes in constitutional and public policy litigation.
- **Angela Kelley (1988-89, U.S.)** recently accepted a new position as Vice President for Immigration Policy and Advocacy at the Center for American Progress. She previously worked as Director of the Immigration Policy Center with the American Immigration Law Foundation, which provides accurate information about the effects of immigration on the U.S. economy and society. Prior to that, she worked as Deputy Director at the National Immigration Forum, spearheading its legislative, policy, and communications activities. She started her career as WLPPFP Fellow through a Davidson Fellowship with Ayuda, a local services agency in Washington, D.C. representing low-income immigrants on immigration and family matters, and remained with Ayuda as a staff attorney.
- **Leah Kiguatha (2007-08, Kenya)**, and attorney with Musyimi & Company Advocates, sent greetings to everyone.



*LAWAs at African Women's Protocol Symposium, with Johanna Bond, Charles Ngwenwa, Rebecca Cook, Bernard Dickens, and others*

- **Jamesina King (2002-03, Sierra Leone)**, recently wrote “Hope you and your family as well as work are fine. I am doing fine and currently finishing a 3 month human rights implementation program at the University of Nottingham in the U.K. It has been a good time for me to reflect, refresh and also rest. I will be returning back to Sierra Leone to continue my work in the Human Rights Commission in two weeks time. My tenure as Chair has expired as it is on a rotational basis among commissioners. My term as Chair was very challenging but also very fruitful and I gained a lot of experience.”
- **Hope Lewis (1986-87, U.S.)**, Professor at Northeastern Law School, has been elected to the Executive Committee of the International Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools. She is also serving as a member of the Program Committee for the 104th Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law (in D.C., March 2010). Hope is working with her co-author, Professor Jeanne Woods, on the second edition of *Human Rights & the Global Marketplace: Economic, Social, and Cultural Dimensions* [http://brill.nl/product\\_id31326.htm](http://brill.nl/product_id31326.htm). Her blog posts appear regularly on the IntLawGrrls international law professors' site <http://www.intlawgrrls.blogspot.com/search/label/HL>. She would love to hear from WLPPFP'ers!
- **Christie Love Hill (2005-06, U.S.)**, staff lawyer at Advocates for Children of New York, was featured in the New York Times this spring celebrating her marriage to Rev. J. Lee Hill, Jr., who is the youth pastor at Riverside Church in New York. Congratulations Christie!



*WLPPFP Alum Hope Lewis*

- **Jenny Marston (2004-05, U.S.)** wrote: “The only thing that I have to report is I am getting married!!! August 8 to Jon Lavietes. Otherwise, still living in San Francisco and working as in-house counsel for IBEW Local Union 1245 and enjoying it.” Congratulations, Jenny!

## Salma Maoulidi (Tanzania, 1994-95) sent the following biography and update:

A Graduate of Law from Georgetown University and University of Dar es Salaam majoring in women's law and human rights, Salma has over 15 years experience in women's movement building. In 1997 she founded Sahiba Sisters Foundation, a women's development network with members in 13 regions in Tanzania. Sahiba's mission is building women's leadership and organizational capacities as a way to facilitate engaged citizenship. Salma also has extensive consultancy experience in the East Africa region working on issues of organizational development, leadership development, and reproductive health and rights/HIV/AIDS and gender based violence.

She uses her activist engagements to research and write about women's contemporary realities mostly looking at issues of women's leadership in the community, in religious life and in institutions. Her particular research focus is Zanzibar and the influence of culture- be it legal or religious on women.

Salma has authored a number of articles in journals on religion, gender and law. Also she is a regular contributor to public intellectual forums like Pambazuka and a columnist for The African and more recently Daily News on legal and policy issues. Salma belongs to a number of feminist and women's networks including Femnet, Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML), the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) and the Gender and Education Office (GEO), a subsidiary of the International Council for Adult Education where she represented African Civil Societies at the Regional Preparatory Meeting on CONFINTEA VI as well as at CONFINTEA VI.



*'94-'95 LAWA Alum Salma Maloudi with LAWA Fellows*

1. During my stay at the Institute for Research on Women (IRW) at Rutgers, I did two papers- different but part of a continuum. My overall theme is "Between Law and Culture." In the first paper, I explore how the law was used to shape the female subject at different points in Zanzibar's history, while the second paper explores the complexity of legal reform in a highly politicized environment and the influence of religion not only in the legal framework but also in identity politics. Specifically the area of reform I look at is matrimonial relationship and how to deal with the question of joint property- in many ways an extension of my LLM at Georgetown.
2. In the past few years I have undertaken three important researches- on Gender Based Violence, on Marriage Practices and on Access to Justice, working in collaboration with the Ministry, ISIM and ICJ Kenya. Here too I not only report on findings but engage in advocacy or provide issues for advocates by looking at the gap between women's lived realities and policy and legal frameworks.
3. Lastly, part of why I am here at the IRW is my research on women in Zanzibar. This is a project that is very dear to me but I am still grappling with it. In many ways it is a political act to give voice to women who have "carried: the Zanzibar culture but whose voices and experiences are suppressed. My main areas of concentration are Women in Broadcast Media 1950 to the present; Women's Education; Women and Religious Life; Notable Female Figures of early 20th Century Zanzibar. I am reorganizing a lot of the information I have managed to collect, and I hope to actually publish the first ever book on women in Zanzibar by a Zanzibari woman!

- **Cristina Martin-Firvida (1996-97, U.S.)** is now Director of Government Relations (Economic Security) with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).
- **Lisalyn Jacobs (1990-91, U.S.)**, Vice President for Government Relations, Legal Momentum **Sally Goldfarb (1983-84, U.S.)** Professor, Rutgers University School of Law and former Senior Staff Attorney, Legal Momentum and **Juley Fulcher (1995-96, U.S.)**, Director of Policy Programs, Break the Cycle; Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University; and former Consultant to Legal Momentum on VAWA Reauthorization, participated in a symposium celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act sponsored by Legal Momentum and the Georgetown Journal of Gender & Law, where Vice President Joseph Biden gave the keynote presentation and received an award for his leadership in enacting VAWA. Incoming WLPFPF Fellow, **Jessica Heaven (2009-10, U.S.)**, Symposium Editor of the Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law, helped organize the event.
- **Scholastica Jullu (2000-01, Tanzania)** sent greetings to everyone.

## Beatrice Duncan (1993-94, Ghana) sent the following update:

My work is located in the African Centre for Gender and Social Development, with responsibility for providing technical advice and support to the ECA and African States in gender in the context of social development. This primarily involves support for the utilization and dissemination of the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) which is a recently developed tool of the Centre aimed at assisting African countries to monitor the extent of their implementation of international conventions affecting women and the girl child. This includes the BPFA, CEDAW, the African Women Protocol and the MDGs. This is a step forward in my study of international comparative law which Sue taught when I was at Georgetown from 1993-1994, because it provides on the spot comparative opportunities to assess progress being made by countries with respect to these obligations. I can assure you that the LLM programme of the Fellowship will be my central inspiration as I carry out my duties.



*Question from the Audience at the LAWA Congressional Briefing*

- **Joan Meier (1985-86, U.S.)**, the Founder and Executive Director of DV LEAP (Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project) and Professor of Clinical Law at George Washington University Law School, let us know that DV Leap was awarded a Washington Area Women's Foundation Leadership Award this spring for their work on appeals on behalf of victims of domestic violence. She also highlighted that **Elizabeth Liu (2005-06, U.S.)** is DV LEAP's staff attorney and played a significant role in helping them receive this honor.
- **Tzili Mor (2006-07, U.S.)**, Acting Director of the Georgetown International Women's Human Rights Clinic, organized a discussion at Georgetown Law with Michaela Clayton, director the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa, who is a founding member of Namibia's Legal Assistance Center (LAC) and former colleague of **Linda Dumba (2006-07, Namibia)**. Among the participants, **Brook Kelly (2008-09, U.S.)**, with The Women's Collective and several incoming WLPPFP fellows also attended.
- **Harriet Musoke (2000-01, Uganda)** and **Tinyade Kachika (2007-08, Malawi)** both participated in a two-day meeting in Rome convened by the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) as part of 22 legal experts from around the world who endorsed an initiative to build the capacity of governments to deal with infectious and non-communicable diseases that threaten the health, safety and economic viability of people and their countries.
- **Jill Morrison (1998-99, U.S.)** has recently joined the Board of Directors of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, which "brings the moral power of religious communities to ensure reproductive choice through education and advocacy. The Coalition seeks to give clear voice to the reproductive issues of people of color, those living in poverty, and other underserved populations".



*WLPPFP Seminar*



*WLPPFP Alums Rachel Rebouche and Marya Torrez at National Partnership Luncheon*

- **Pritima Osman (2004-05, South Africa)** is currently the National Manager of Legal Services for the Judicial Inspectorate of Prisons in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **Lynn Paltrow (1984-85, U.S.)**, Executive Director of National Advocates for Pregnant Women (NAPW), recently helped an immigrant pregnant woman gain release from prison. A U.S. district court judge had previously extended her sentence to ensure she remained in prison for the duration of her pregnancy because she was HIV positive. Lynn and other attorneys filed an emergency amicus brief on behalf of 28 public health experts, advocates, and organizations, providing legal and public health information challenging the incarceration of pregnant women because of their HIV-positive status.
- **Rachel Rebouché (2006-07, U.S.)** is working as an Associate Director of the Adolescent Health Program at the National Partnership for Women and Families. She recently presented a paper at a symposium at Washington & Lee Law School on "Reproductive and Sexual Health and the African Women's Protocol."
- **Meghan Rhoad (2006-07, U.S.)**, who is a researcher with the Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch, recently published a report entitled "Detained and Dismissed: Women's Struggles to Obtain Health Care in United States Immigration Detention," which she presented at a Congressional Briefing in June.
- **Jacqueline (Jackie) Scott (1994-95, U.S.)** has recently started a new position as Senior Program Manager at the National Academy for State Health Policy.
- **Marion Stillson (1987-88, U.S.)** sent greetings from Reston, Virginia. She is retired, after enjoying a rewarding career as a public interest lawyer, and she had received the Breaking Barriers Award by the American Association of University Women in 2005 for breaking barriers in equal rights and disability rights and serving as its president.

*Terry McGovern  
Presenting on Women's  
Rights and HIV/AIDS*



*Meredith Asay and  
Friend at National  
Partnership Luncheon*



*Julia Ernst, Moza Jadeed (LAWA-Kenya), Belquis Ahmadi (LAWA-Afghanistan Alum), Janel George (WLPPFP Alum)*

## HARRIET MUSOKE (2000-01, UGANDA) SENT A REPORT ON A CONSULTATION MEETING IN ROME ON PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

A public health law consultation meeting organized by the International Development Law Organization, the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University and the World Health Organization was held in Rome, Italy from 26th to 28th April 2009. The consultation meeting drew 25 experts from inter-governmental organizations, academia and non-governmental organizations [including LAWA Alum **Tinyade Kachika** (2007-08, Malawi)].

This is the first meeting of its kind and it constitutes an initial step forward to begin to strengthen work on public health law globally. The main objective of the meeting was to identify gaps and opportunities in public health law, consider the roles and activities of respective institutions and develop approaches for networking and capacity building.

At the end of the consultation meeting, it was recommended that drafting instructions to States should be prepared identifying areas of public health that must be included in national public health laws. It was further recommended that networks focused on particular components of public health law should be created and cooperation between them made very active. In order to build expertise, it was recommended that public health law as a course should be introduced at universities. Advocacy was considered very important and it was recommended that civil society should be sensitized about public health as that they can demand their governments to fulfill its obligations. Inter-governmental organizations especially the World Health Organization was charged with the duty to spearhead fund raising for activities for networks to deal with public health law promotion.

At the end of the meeting various people were charged with the responsibility to draft guidelines for governments to use when enacting public health laws. I was privileged to be chosen to prepare the guidelines for the East and Central African region while working together with Ms Adila Hussein who is in charge of the Southern Africa region. Please contact me with any suggestions or comments on [hmusoke@hotmail.com](mailto:hmusoke@hotmail.com).

- **Cynthia Totten** (1999-00, U.S.), Program Director with Just Detention International, spoke at a conference at UCLA on "Gender Injustice: The U.S. Prison System as a Form of Gender Violence" in April.
- **Amelia Vukeya** (2006-07, South Africa) has been awarded an invitation by the UNESCO Chair & Institute of Comparative Human Rights at the University of Connecticut to participate in the fifth annual International Leadership Programme: A Global Intergenerational Forum, to be held August 1 - 9, 2009 in Storrs, Connecticut. The Forum seeks to empower young leaders by involving them in finding solutions to emerging human rights problems, and nurturing individuals to be effective leaders in the field of human rights.
- In mid-June, **Mary Wyckoff** (1988-89, U.S.) finished up a 3-week work trip to Nepal to conduct an evaluation of a legal assistance programme for internally displaced persons. Prior to that, she had recently returned to the US after working for more than 12 years in the former Yugoslavia, most recently with the OSCE in Croatia as the Head of Rule of Law, focusing primarily on national war crimes accountability. After a long time out of the country, Mary is now based in New Jersey as she tries to re-settle in the US and is currently looking for US-based work.
- **Marya Torrez** (2006-07, U.S.), along with other Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic alumni, founded a new public interest legal organization called D.C. Lawyers for Youth (DCLY). According to its website: "The purpose of DCLY is to improve the Washington D.C. juvenile justice system through advocacy, direct service, and the dissemination of information."

*Jane Quaye Speaking at the UN Commission on the Status of Women Meeting*



*Speakers at WLPPFP Colloquium on Violence Against Women*

### 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!

### TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS:

Your contributions are crucial for WLPPFP's continued success. To make a donation, please visit our website at:  
[www.law.georgetown.edu/wlppfp](http://www.law.georgetown.edu/wlppfp)

Thank you for your generous gift!

## Linda Dumba Chicalu (2006-07, Namibia) Sent an Update on Forced Sterilization in Namibia



I am the project lawyer for the Aids Law Unit (ALU) of the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC), a public interest law firm based in Windhoek, Namibia. The LAC's main objective is to protect the human rights of all Namibians. It has four major units or projects which focus on different areas of work: the Human Rights and Constitutional Unit; the Gender Research & Advocacy Project; the Land, Environment and Development Project; and the AIDS Law Unit. The LAC only takes on public interest cases, which will have a wider impact on the community than just assisting the individual concerned. Such a case may establish a new legal rule, which will change the law for the entire country or address a discriminatory policy or practice. Or it may attract attention to a problem that is affecting many people. Examples of cases taken up by the Legal Assistance Centre include:

- the forced sterilization of HIV positive women in public hospitals without their informed consent,
- the right of a student to return to school after her child was born,
- the right of an accused in a complicated criminal trial to obtain legal aid,
- the right of a widow to keep the land she lived on during her marriage after the death of her husband,
- the right of an HIV-positive person not to be dismissed from employment based on their HIV status.

The focus of the AIDS Law Unit is on the infringement of civil and political rights on the basis of HIV status, and the denial of socio-economic rights which both increases vulnerability to HIV and impacts negatively on health outcomes. Discrimination and other HIV and AIDS rights issues are addressed on a number of levels and by various means, including policy formulation and research for law reform, litigation, advocacy, education and training, networking, publishing and provision of basic client services of such as legal advice and referral.

In February 2008, the Aids Law Unit established the Forced Sterilization of HIV Positive Women in Namibia Project. The project was conceived out of a number of complaints received from HIV positive women alleging that they were forcibly sterilized at public hospitals in Namibia due to their HIV positive status. To date the LAC has documented twenty such cases. Litigation proceedings have commenced in eight of these cases. We have applied for hearing dates in six of these cases obtainable on June 17, 2009. Once the hearing dates are secured, we are hoping to have these six initial cases in court between October and November 2009. [Linda is collaborating with WLPFPF Fellow Aziza Ahmed at the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW)]

The forced sterilization of HIV positive women in Namibia is an emerging human rights issue, the extent of which is yet to be discovered in Namibia and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Namibia has thirteen regions, and the twenty cases documented thus far are only from two regions within the country. There is a clear need to conduct further research on the issue to document the extent of the violations. Apart from the ongoing litigation, the ALU has also designed a training manual on the issue. The purpose of the manual is to train women who are the victims of this practice and the medical professionals who are the perpetrators of this practice in both the private and public health care sectors on the sexual and reproductive health rights of their patients, to empower women on their rights and to create awareness on this gross violation of women's human rights.

I am directly responsible for the Forced Sterilization of HIV positive women in Namibia Litigation Project. Namibia is the first country to document this practice in Africa. This is one of our youngest and latest projects, which has received a lot of press in recent months, particularly at the most recently held Southern African Legal Assistance Network (SALAN) 15th Year Anniversary Celebrations which were held in Windhoek, Namibia and hosted by my organization from May 24 - 28. This is also one of the new projects that were adopted at the SALAN meeting. The idea is to source funding to conduct a nationwide research on the issue in Namibia, which research will then be duplicated in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. We have also made a submission to the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Minister of Health and Social Services, detailing the issue and asking for a meeting and for specific steps that the government should take.

## Evelyn Nassuna (1999-00, Uganda) Recently Sent Greetings from Uganda

I am working as the country program manager for Lutheran World Relief in Uganda. LWR is an American Non Profit that is engaged in Development work in over 35 countries in the world. I represent it here in Uganda. My work mainly involves identification of both implementing and funding partners for LWR in Uganda and strategy in Uganda is to build the capacities of communities for sustainable livelihoods through training and provision of technical assistance and linking them to strategic partners such as credit financing institutions.

I also started at a non profit organization with other professional ladies known as Wanita Emas which literally translates into "Women of Gold". We came together to learn and become financially literate. Having met several times, we realized that most of members of our society do not have personal financial management skills much as they might have their professional skills. On this note, we decided to focus on providing financial literacy training to members of the community, starting with teens and young adults. We also plan to get into provision of affordable housing to low income earners through an innovative product that allows a person to own a property using the same amount of money that they pay in rent. All this is in the formative stage and we are looking for partners. Our third objective is to advocate for inclusion of financial training in the Uganda school curriculum.

My daughter Tamara that I had while I still a LAWA fellow will be turning 10 this September.

## Beatrice Sam (1998-99, Ghana) was quoted extensively in two recent articles:

### “WILDAF PETITIONS PRESIDENT MILLS,” MAY 29, 2009, GHANA NEWS AGENCY (GNA) (EXCERPT):

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) Ghana on Thursday petitioned President John Evans Atta Mills to constitute Affirmative Action Policy Committee by the end of 2009 and take steps to implement its recommendations. It also urged the Government to take steps to achieve the campaign promise of 40 per cent representation of women in decision-making positions by 2012. Addressing a press conference in Accra to highlight the reasons for petitioning President Mills, Ms Bernice Sam, National Programmes Coordinator of WILDAF, said the suggestion was one the ways that the Government could use to redeem the promise.

“On the 2010 District Assembly Elections and appointments, we call on Government to develop a policy that half of the 30 per cent quota for appointees will be women. Additionally there should be concrete measures - public awareness; capacity building and support for campaigns - to encourage and support women, who contest the District Assembly Elections,” Ms Sam said. She said figures on nominated and appointed women into public and political offices were worrying, adding that out of 75 Ministers and Deputy Ministers only 15, representing 20 per cent, were women.

“Three out of a total of 25-Member Council of State are women; on a 10-member Economic Advisory Council, none is a women; Police Council has only one woman out of 11 and out of 170 nominated Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives only 11 are women. Two out of that have lost. One awaits her fate in Shama District,” she said. Ms Sam said the reminder became necessary because somewhere in February this year, WILDAF met the Government and presented a directory with lists of qualified women, who were in top positions and whose rich potentials could be tapped for national development...

### WILDAF SLAMS GOV'T FOR EXCLUDING WOMEN IN ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL BY MASAHUDU ANKIILU KUMATEH | POSTED: THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009 (EXCERPTS):

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) Ghana has slammed the government for not including women on the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) set up by the government on Tuesday. According to WiLDAF, there were competent women economists who could serve on the council, saying it was not only men who had the wisdom to advise the President on economic issues. The National Programme Coordinator of WILDAF Ghana, Ms. Bernice Sam, stated this at the launch of the Rural Empowerment Programme in Accra yesterday. She added that the government had failed woefully to honour promises made to the Ghanaian women in the run-up to the last general elections... Ms. Sam observed that despite women's contribution in agriculture, especially women in rural areas, they continued to encounter serious violations of their rights in their communities. She mentioned forced marriage, female genital mutilation, levirate and violence against women, among others... Ms. Sam indicated, “In order to maximize the chances to achieve the MDGs, it is important to ensure that women effectively enjoy their rights that are recognized. This is only possible if they know these rights, and demand their respect by individuals and government officials who are responsible for the implementation of basic human rights.”

## Belquis Ahmadi (2002-03, Afghanistan) Met with Congressional Women's Caucus

Belquis Ahmadi heads the Women's Rights under Islam Program of the USAID-Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP). In May she met with members of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues who were part of a Congressional delegation visiting Afghanistan and investigating violence against women in that country. In June Congresswomen Donna Edwards and other members of the Women's Caucus invited Belquis to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to brief them and NGOs about actions that they can take to help support the rights of women in Afghanistan. Congresswomen Susan Davis, Judy Biggert, Carol Shea-Porter and Ann Kirkpatrick also attended the briefing. Coincidentally, **Janel George**, who is a Legislative Assistant with Congresswoman Donna Edwards, helped arrange the meeting, which current LAWA Fellow **Moza Jadeed** and Executive Director Julia Ernst also attended. The invitation sent by Congresswoman Edwards highlighted:

Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards would like to invite you or the appropriate staffer to an important meeting regarding women's rights in Afghanistan. Recently, she returned from an eye-opening visit to Afghanistan with a delegation of women Members of Congress led by Congresswoman Susan Davis. While in the country, they met with several officials and advocates working on expanding the rights for women in Afghanistan.

One of these women, Belquis Ahmadi, will be visiting Washington, D.C. the week of June 1, 2009. Ms. Ahmadi has worked with USAID-Afghanistan Rule of Law Project. She served as a senior human rights advisor and headed the Women's Rights Under Islam Program...

Ms. Ahmadi is an expert on women's rights under Sharia law. Congresswoman Edwards has invited her to join her for a meeting with Members of the Congressional Women's Caucus, congressional staffers, and representatives from women's rights and human rights organizations that work internationally... The meeting will focus on women's rights in Afghanistan under Sharia law—specifically the support that is needed for Afghan women, domestic violence and violence against women in the country, and the work in which Ms. Ahmadi is engaged.



*LAWA-Afghanistan Alum Belquis Ahmadi  
with Congressional Women's Caucus  
Members*

Judge Rita Charmatz Davidson (1928-1984), for whom WLPPFP's Davidson Fellowship is named, was devoted throughout her life to championing progressive causes, particularly advancing the rights of minorities and the poor. Continuing her legacy, the Davidson Fellowship encourages new lawyers to enter public-interest law with a particular focus on disadvantaged women.

Judge Davidson's mother and father immigrated to the United States from eastern Europe in the early 1920s, and she grew up in Brooklyn, NY. She was an excellent pianist and attended the Julliard School of Music for several years during high school. She went directly from high school to Goucher College, finished in three years (Phi Beta Kappa), and was just twenty when she started Yale Law School (one of 12 women out of 196 students). After graduation, she practiced law in Washington, D.C. and in Montgomery County, MD. She became very active in the Democratic Party, and served as chair of the Montgomery County Board of Appeals and the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission.

Judge Davidson was a pioneer in almost every facet of her career. She spearheaded a line of firsts, becoming the first zoning hearing examiner in Montgomery County, Maryland's first woman in the Governor's Cabinet, and the first woman judge on both Maryland's Court of Special Appeals and the Court of Appeals (the highest court in the state). Judge Davidson was frequently the solitary dissenter on cases involving civil rights, defending social justice with tremendous fortitude and humor. As Secretary of Employment and Social Services, she worked tirelessly to make government more responsive to those in need, particularly women and children, and spurred the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women in her department.

Judge Davidson's untimely death in 1984 due to cancer cut short her illustrious career. She was survived by her husband and law school classmate Judge David Davidson (now retired), former Chief Administrative Law Judge for the National Labor Relations Board, and her children, Minna and Leo. A colleague stated during her memorial services that "she perceived the law, not as an inert, immovable mass, but as a living malleable substance that could and should be shaped and molded by the courts to fit the needs of the people. Rita believed that the law should be that which best served the interest of society."<sup>1</sup> Of her judicial methodology, a former law clerk noted:

*The intellectual honesty the Judge demanded of herself made it impossible to label her politically. She was neither "liberal" nor "conservative;" she was deciding cases. The precedents would control her decision once two criteria were met: she had to be sure she knew what the precedents meant, and she had to be sure that they still fit the requirements of the social conditions. She understood the job of the common law judge as finding ways to solve people's problems in a real world. To do that, one needed cases to know what other judges had said about the same kinds of problems when they tried to solve them. One also needed to be certain of the facts in the case at hand. To Judge Davidson, this was a rigorous exercise demanding exquisite care; the record was dissected and the evidence examined, reexamined and re-reexamined. The record alone was inadequate for her purposes, however, since a judge in 1984 never saw the same context as a judge in 1884 or 1964. Whatever made the continually changing social context different had to be examined. When she perceived differences that were determinative, she would try to reformulate the rule of law to solve the new problem. Many would call this activist judging; to her, it was the heart of the common law process.<sup>2</sup>*

Judge Davidson was well known for her brilliance, courage, eloquence, integrity, compassion and dedication. She received the Hannah G. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women, as well as an honorary doctorate given to her by her alma mater Goucher College, among many other accolades. She was a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Women's Bar Association and the National Association of Women Judges. In 1985 Judge Davidson was posthumously inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. As a fitting tribute, the Maryland Women's Bar Association established the Rita C. Davidson Award in her memory, which is given annually as their highest award.

Judge Davidson's legacy will remain an inspiration to young public interest lawyers for generations to come. Over the years, the Rita Charmatz Davidson Fellows have followed in her footsteps, advancing the rights of disadvantaged women through their fellowships with organizations such as Ayuda, the National Partnership for Women and Families, and the National Women's Law Center. For example, Angela Kelley, who was the first Davidson Fellow providing legal services to victims of domestic violence with Ayuda in 1988-1989, recently joined the Center for American Progress as Vice President for Immigration Policy and Advocacy. She previously served as the Immigration Policy Center Director with the American Immigration Law Foundation, and as the Deputy Director of the National Immigration Forum. Lisalyn Jacobs, who was the second Davidson Fellow with the Women's Legal Defense Fund (now the National Partnership for Women and Families) in 1990-1991, now serves as Vice President for Government Relations with Legal Momentum (formerly the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund). Lisalyn has also worked at the U.S. Department of Justice as Chief of Staff of the Civil Rights Division and as Special Council to the Director of the Office of Violence Against Women.

As another example, Emily Martin, who was a Davidson Fellow with the National Women's Law Center in 1999-2000, now serves as Deputy Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Women's Rights Project. More recently, Rachel Rebouché was the 2007-2008 Davidson Fellow with the National Women's Law Center, and she now serves as Associate Director of the Adolescent Health Program at the National Partnership for Women and Families. Arlene Brens is the 2008-2009 Davidson Fellow with the National Women's Law Center.

The accomplishments of the Davidson Fellows in advancing the rights of disadvantaged women during their fellowships and throughout their careers remain a lasting tribute to the memory of Judge Rita Charmatz Davidson.

1 The Honorable Richard P. Gilbert, "Memorial Services for the Honorable Rita C. Davidson, Associate Judge, Court of Appeals of Maryland," Annapolis, MD, Maryland Reports, vol. 302, West Publishing Company, 1985.

2 Professor Karen Czapanzkiy, "Memorial Services for the Honorable Rita C. Davidson, Associate Judge, Court of Appeals of Maryland," Annapolis, MD, Maryland Reports, vol. 302, West Publishing Company, 1985.

