

# OUTREACH

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

2016 - 2017  
**FALL | WINTER**



## *Ready, Set, Go!*

The Fellows get into the swing of things as they begin an exciting new year.

## Meet Our 2016-2017 Women's Law Fellows

We are pleased to welcome our twelve Women's Law & Public Policy Fellows: six Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows and six US Law Fellows. Our LAWA Fellows pursue a Master of Law (LL.M.) degree at Georgetown with an emphasis on women's human rights, while our US Fellows work on gender equality issues at prominent organizations in Washington, DC. All of our Fellows participate together in bi-weekly seminars, trainings, and other events that foster professional development as lawyers committed to promoting gender equality and social justice.



**Andrew Budzinski** joins the Domestic Violence Clinic as a Clinical Teaching Fellow. Andrew earned his J.D. magna cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School in

2014, where he served on the Editorial Board of The Michigan Law Review, and earned his B.A. magna cum laude from Washington and Lee University. Prior to joining the fellowship program, Andrew worked as a staff attorney in the Community Legal Practice Center (CLPC), a legal clinic at Washington and Lee University School of Law, where he represented low-income clients in cases involving domestic abuse, custody and visitation of minor children, and end-of-life planning. In that capacity, Andrew supervised law students enrolled in the CLPC practicing family law and civil litigation. This past year, Andrew served as a law clerk to the Honorable Roy W. McLeese III on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.



**Mirabelle Chi-Okezie** is from Cameroon, but most recently resided in Nigeria, where she was a human rights lawyer at Jeo Agi & Associates Law Firm. There she defended

victims of torture and abuse. She was also a Legal Adviser at Gender Danger, an NGO, protecting the legal rights of women and children. Mirabelle was also a Solicitor and Advocate before the Supreme Courts of Nigeria and Cameroon. She is passionate about ending harmful traditional cultural practices that women in West Africa are subjected to, such as female genital mutilation and breast ironing. Mirabelle earned her LL.B. from University of Buea, in Cameroon in 2004.



**Helen Eyabi** comes to the LAWA program from Cameroon, where she was a Legal Practitioner at the Women's Rights Defense Counsel. She is the founder and head of Eyabi

& Partners Law Offices, where she advanced women's rights, and trained pupil advocates. She was previously a Collaborator at Enonchong Chambers, and Magna Juries Chambers. She is a member of numerous professional associations, and holds a life membership with the International Federation of Women Lawyers. She is deeply concerned with how early marriage and polygamy affect women. Helen received her Post-Graduate Degree Practical Training Course in Law from Nigeria Law School in 2002, and received her LL.B. in English Private Law at University of Yaounde in 1992.



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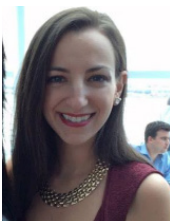
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**Hailey Flynn** is placed at HIPS, a harm-reduction organization serving women in the District of Columbia. Hailey received her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law

in 2016, and her B.S. from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. As a law student, Hailey participated in the Walter Leitner International Human Rights Clinic, where she developed and delivered training on sex workers' rights and worked with trainees to create advocacy plans to address human rights violations against sex workers in Uganda and Mauritius. She interned at the Open Society Foundations, Center for Reproductive Rights, and the Global Justice Center. Hailey's honors include being named a Crowley Scholar, a Stein Scholar for Public Interest, a 2014 Charles H. Revson Law Student Public Interest Fellow, and a Princeton in Asia Fellow. Additionally, Hailey was President of both Law Students for Reproductive Justice and Advocates for Sexual Health and Rights, as well as Notes & Articles Editor for the Fordham International Law Journal where she published her Note, *A Postal Code Lottery: Unequal Access to Abortion Services in the United States and Northern Ireland*. Hailey's fellowship is generously supported by the Ford Foundation.



**Holly Fuhrman** is the Hillary Rodham Clinton Law Fellow with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security. She received her J.D. from Georgetown

University Law Center in 2016 and her Master's in Public Policy from Lehigh University in 2013. During her time at Georgetown Law, Holly served as Committee Chair for the Refugee Assistance Project and as an Articles Editor for the Georgetown

Journal of International Law. She has also held internships at DC SAFE, the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence, Human Rights First, and the American Immigration Council. During her third year of law school Holly was a student-attorney in Georgetown's Center for Applied Legal Studies, where she successfully pursued her client's asylum claim at the Baltimore Immigration Court.



**Erika Hanson** is delighted to return to the Reproductive Rights and Health group at the National Women's Law Center, where she previously served as an intern. Erika

received her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in 2016, and her B.S., *summa cum laude*, from Northwest Missouri State University. During law school, Erika served as the Senior Editor of the Washington University Law Review. Erika also participated in the Washington University Congressional and Administrative Law Clinic where she assisted in the civil enforcement of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section. Additionally, she was a Research Assistant for Professor Pauline Kim, researching and writing on emerging employment discrimination issues, and was a Global Public Interest Law Summer Fellow stationed in Durban, South Africa.



**Sheila Kinaheirwe** hails from Uganda. She received her LL.B. from the University of Pretoria, South Africa in 2009. Prior to joining the LAWA Program, Sheila was the

Assistant Program Officer at the International Republican Institute, which is supported by the United States Agency for International Development and UN Women. There she oversaw programs focused on enhancing

citizen's participation in political processes, and advocated for the meaningful inclusion of women, youths, and persons with disabilities. Sheila also served as the focal point-person for the Governance and Human Rights Task Force, and has previously worked as a Project Officer at the Action for Development Project.



**Lauren McCulloch** is placed at the National Partnership for Women & Families in their Reproductive Health group. Lauren received her J.D. from Drexel University,

Thomas R. Kline School of Law in 2016, and her B.A. from Temple University, Fox School of Business. While in law school, Lauren was a Student Attorney in the Community Lawyering Clinic, Lead Editor of the Drexel Law Review, President of Law Students for Reproductive Justice, and a Drexel Social Theory Institute Fellow. Erika is a committed advocate for reproductive health rights, serving as a Legal Research Assistant for a Senior Policy Advisor at Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH), and interning at the Women's Law Project and the National Abortion Federation. Prior to law school, Lauren was a relationship banker with M&T Bank Corporation.



**Teresa Omondi** joins the LAWA Program from Kenya. In 2004, she received her LL.B., and in 2011, earned her Masters in Gender and Development, both from the

University of Nairobi. Teresa was a part-time lecturer at the University of Nairobi on Gender and the Law. She was also the Deputy Executive Director and Head of Programs at the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Kenya). In this capacity, she was one of the lead counsels in a case demanding that the Ministry of Health reinstate the use of national standards and guidelines on post-

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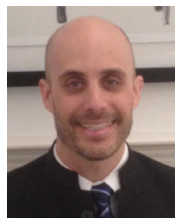
abortion care. Teresa also represented a client sexually assaulted by a sitting Member of Parliament. Teresa previously served as the Executive Director at the Gender Violence Recovery Centre of the Nairobi Women's Hospital, where she ensured free medical treatment and psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence. She was also a gender expert at the United Nations Development Fund for Women.



## Sherina Tibenkana

joins the LAWA program from Uganda, where she was a State Attorney in the Ministry of

Justice and Constitutional Affairs. Her duties included monitoring the implementation of national and international instruments protecting the rights of women, children and people with disabilities. She also helped in public education on legal rights, so they could be understood by the populace, and participated in report writing to the Commission on Human Rights. Prior to that, Sherina was at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, where she was the gender focal point-person, and worked on the protection of children. She received her LL.B. in 1999 from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.



**Brian Tronic** is a Clinical Teaching Fellow with the International Women's Human Rights Clinic. After receiving his J.D.

from Penn Law School in 2010, he clerked for two years in the Vermont Superior Court. He then worked at

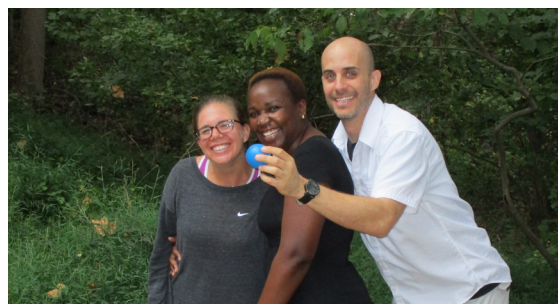
People's Watch, a human rights NGO in South India, through the William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India. His work there included filing complaints with the National and State Human Rights Commissions, drafting fact-finding reports, and assisting with public hearings on human rights issues. After returning to the U.S., he served as the Crowley Fellow at the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice at Fordham Law School. His fellowship project focused on access to justice for the LGBT community in Bangladesh and included teaching an academic class on this issue and developing and leading a two-week fact-finding program in country with his students. Most recently, Brian was teaching academic and clinical human rights courses at Jindal Global Law School in Sonipat, India, with a focus on gender, health, and sexuality.



## Berkenesh Woldeselassie

is from Ethiopia, where she earned her LL.B. in 2003 from Addis Ababa University. In 2004,

she joined the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia as an assistant Judge at the Federal First Instance Court. She also holds a diploma from the Justice Organs Professionals Training Centre. In 2014, she was elevated to the Federal High Court, where she heard criminal cases, including cases involving human trafficking and drug trafficking. Berkenesh was also elected to liaise between the court management and the staff to settle issues that arose between judges. Berkenesh is passionate about the level of women's participation in Ethiopian politics.



The Fellows enjoyed camaraderie, competition, and tons of laughter during their annual retreat to Terrapin Adventures. Our gratitude to LAWA Alumnae Nyanjagi Ally (LAWA 1995-1996) for her generous support.



## To Achieve True Educational Equity, We Must Center Girls of Color

Neena Chaudhry, US 1997-1998



Neena (second from left) joins the First Lady and other girls' advocates, including Rebecca Epstein (US 1996-1997) (fourth from right) who is the Executive Director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality.

Directing the education program at the National Women's Law Center (where I started as a WLPPFP Fellow) has given me the opportunity to work on issues that fulfill the goal I had when I started law school—to advance equal access to education for those who simply because of where they live or the color of their skin are not receiving the opportunities they deserve.

One of the ways in which we are working to increase equity in education is by centering girls of color. Often left out of the narrative, many are facing discriminatory barriers in school. Did you know that African American girls aspire to be leaders more than other groups of girls and rate themselves more highly on leadership skills? Yet many are being pushed out of school as a result of zero tolerance disciplinary policies and delegation of discipline to law enforcement personnel in-

stead of teachers or counselors. Girls of color are being handcuffed, slammed to the ground, kicked out of school, and arrested for things like taking candy off of a teacher's desk, violating dress codes, or talking back. As Monique Morris states in her must-read book *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School*, "Black girls are being criminalized in and by the very places that should help them thrive."

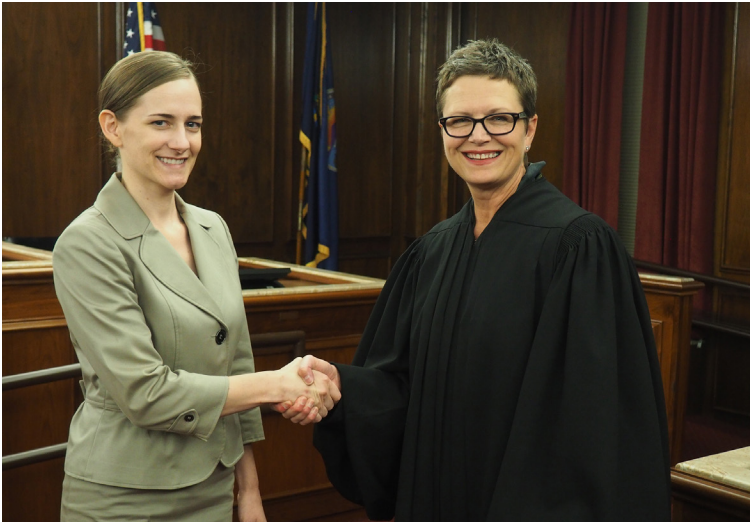
Recent data highlight some of the discipline disparities. Black girls are more than five times as likely as white girls to be suspended from school. American Indian/ Native Alaskan girls are twice as likely, and multiple race girls are nearly two and a half times as likely as white girls to receive one or more suspensions from school. In preschools, yes preschools, Black girls are 20% of the girls enrolled but 54% of the girls receiving out-of-school suspensions.

Research shows that girls of color are being disciplined more frequently and harshly for the same behavior as white girls, often due to implicit biases that punish them for not conforming to traditional notions of femininity. For example, African American girls are often stereotyped as loud or confrontational, leading to their being disproportionately punished for subjective offenses such as "defiance" or "disobedience." In addition, schools are not recognizing that for many girls of color (and for many kids in general), trauma may be underlying their behavior. Punishing them instead of helping them only re-victimizes them or worse, pushes them into the juvenile justice system, where girls are the fastest growing segment of the population.

As part of our work, we are meeting with parents, students, educators and advocates to come up with policy solutions to better support girls of color in school and help them succeed. We know that school personnel would benefit from implicit bias training; that we need more counselors and fewer police in schools; and that culturally responsive, trauma-informed practices would help all students.

We must do better by our black and brown girls. Our country needs their talent and leadership, and they deserve to be treated fairly and with dignity by the people to whom we entrust them.





**Clockwise from top left:** Gillian Chadwick (US 2014-2015) gets sworn in to the Kansas Bar by Kansas State Supreme Court Justice Carol A. Beier (US 1986-1987); The LAVA Fellows were honored to welcome Justice Lillian Tibatemwa (seated center) to Georgetown Law, where she is a guest of the O'Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law; The Fellows and a few alums gathered at Swahili Village for a delicious Kenyan meal; Welcome luncheon keynote Regan Ralph (US 1992-1993), Executive Director of the Fund for Global Human Rights, reminds attendees of the long road to progress, and the work that remains; Fellow Hailey enjoys the welcome lunch with her team from HIPS, Sasanka Jinadasa (center) and Cyndee Clay (right); The Fellows were inspired by both real-life and cardboard role models at the National Women's Law Center's annual awards dinner.

## Alumnae Spotlight

As I hear from current fellows all the time: "it seems like every person I meet has done this Fellowship!" When you take a look at our Alumnae's varied careers and contributions to advancing social justice, both in the US and abroad, you will see why they make such a big impression.

**Maereg T. Alemayehu and Elizabeth Makumbi (LAWAs 2015-2016)** have extended their post-LL.M. training and are working at the World Bank. Maereg humorously reports, "It turns out I don't get bored of sitting for eight hours a day and staring at the computer researching. I think I developed this habit from spending 24/7 at Williams library!"

**Jaspreet Chowdhary (US 2010-2011)** is the Senior Policy Analyst at the 30 for 30 campaign, an organization dedicated to ensuring the unique needs of women living with and affected by HIV are addressed in the national HIV response.

After many years as the Legal Director of Americans United for Separation of Church of State and a more recent stint as a Deputy Chief in the Appellate Section of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, **Ayesha Khan (US 1990-1991)** has launched an Appellate & Critical Motions practice for the Potomac Law Group, a full-service law firm that uses a modern business model to offer clients reduced hourly rates, flat fees, and contingency billing.

**Juliet Hatanga (LAWA 2014-2015)** has contributed to the publication, *Facilitation in the Criminal Justice System, A Systems Analysis of Corruption in the Police and Courts in Northern Uganda*, published by the Institute for Human Security at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University.

Bringing greetings from Barbados **Shari Inniss-Grant (US 2012-2013)** reports "I started in consultancy with governance at UNDP, did work on equity profiles at UNICEF, and engaged in Caribbean feminism as a researcher with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies for two years. I've been working on a project around human rights, sexual orientation and youth-particularly relevant since my country still has buggery laws on the books."

**Pamella Lamunu (LAWA 2015-2016)** provided this update: "I have been posted to the Anti-Corruption Division of the High Court, a specialized court dealing with corruption cases in government and from customs and border protection. It is a bigger assignment with more complicated cases than the ones in the other Courts. While I know it is a challenge for me, I am also humbled that they could choose me for the court. I know that the skills that were emphasized in the LAW Program, such as connecting the dots, paying attention to even the tiniest of detail and more critical analysis, will be very handy. I also pray to God to guide me."

**Fanny Gomez Lugo (US 2009-2010)** is now the Senior Director of International Advocacy & Policy in the Global Initiatives for Human Rights division of the Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights.

**Amelia Vukeya Motsepe (LAWA 2006-2007)** has published: *HIV and the Law in South Africa: A Practitioner's Guide*. The book was released in July 2016 during the International AIDS Conference in Durban South Africa. Congratulations to Amelia on this important work.

**Cherer Shaffo (LAWA 2012-2013)** received an Open Society Foundation Civil Society Scholar Award. For her project, she returned to Georgetown University Law Center to study the model of the International Women's Human Rights Clinic, which is now being ably run by **Kristie Bluett (US 2014-2015)** while Sue Deller Ross is on sabbatical.

**Chai Shenoy (US 2009-2010)** has a new job at USAID as a Gender-Based Violence Advisor.

**Marya Torrez (US 2007-2008)** has accepted a position as Deputy Director of Public Policy at PPFA.

**Cynthia Totten (US 1999-2000)** is National Program Manager at Just Detention International.

**Lisa Wilson (US 2002-2003)** has been promoted to Senior Attorney at the Department of Labor. We know she will warmly welcome **Amelia Bell (US 2015-2016)** who joined DOL in September.



Alumnae Spotlight on Jane Magigita (LAWA 2000-2001)

## Making Equality a Reality for Tanzania Women Traders



Mrs. Jane Magigita receiving the Martin Luther King Jr. Award for her service in advocating for women's rights

Characterized by instability, exploitation and inequality, the informal economy employs over 85% of women working in Tanzania. Despite the enormous number of informal traders in the country, the sector is largely disregarded and overlooked. Jane Magigita (LAWA 2000-2001) recognized this problem and its impact on women. She has spent over 20 years in the women's rights movement, encountering the daily struggles borne by informal women traders. Recognizing the pressing void and the great potential for informal women traders to thrive and flourish if given access to resources and opportunities, she founded Equality for Growth (EfG) in 2008. It is the first organization in the country focusing on the needs of women market traders.

Informal sector women represent millions of families and households relying on them to provide for their basic needs. Despite facing obstacles of gender-based violence, burdens of care, lack of access to resources, capital and land, they are persistent with an incredible spirit to take every opportunity to improve their livelihoods.

Through a multi-faceted approach, EfG has spent the past eight years working to ensure these women are granted the access and opportunities to protect their own interests. In response to the high rates of abuse in informal marketplaces, the organization uses local performance groups to conduct anti-gender based violence campaigns to reach wide audiences within markets to raise awareness of women's rights and engage male traders as advocates. EfG also developed a unique approach to providing free and accessible legal aid services to informal sector workers by training individuals within market groups as Legal Community Supporters and Paralegals. Furthermore, by creating a model for establishing Village Community Banks, the EfG builds economic capacity on savings and business growth while ensuring access to low interest loans.

To see the realization of its vision: an informal sector free from all forms of exploitation and gender, legal and economic barriers, EfG also works to support the formation of women's groups and associations to advocate for their rights and policy change at both local and national levels, as well as mobilize female leaders to ensure women's specific issues and interests are represented. With its unique approach, the organization is being encouraged to share its model of success and expand into additional regions of the country, ensuring market women traders across Tanzania are empowered, organized and given access to resources to advocate for their rights.

To learn more about Tanzania's informal sector and EfG, please visit [www.equalityforgrowth.org](http://www.equalityforgrowth.org).



## Advisory Board

### Deborah Epstein

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

### Marcia Greenberger

Co-President, National Women's Law Center

### Mary Hartnett

Adjunct Professor of Law; Vice-Chair, American Bar Association's Committee on the Rights of Women

### Eleanor Holmes Norton

Congresswoman for the District of Columbia and Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center

### Judith Lichtman

Senior Advisor, National Partnership for Women & Families

### Wendy Williams

Professor Emerita, Georgetown University Law Center