

OUTREACH 2017

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

SPRING SUMMER

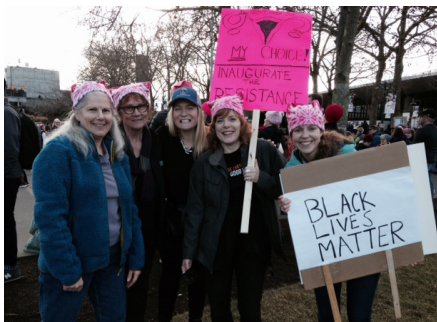


On the March!

WLPPFP Alumnae were out in force for the Women's March.
Take a look at the awesome pictures from Chicago, Seattle,
Austin, Oakland and more.

LAWA Reflections on the March

Here are two reflections on the Women's March from 2016-2017 Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellows.



Sheila Kinaheirwe

In January I got a chance to witness history through the Women's March. At first I thought it was merely a march opposing the Trump administration and its policies but then I later realized that it went further than that. At times because of some of the gains we have made in the sphere of advancing women's rights, we forget that a lot still needs to be done. A number of women actually said that all those women protesting during the Women's March should move to countries like Saudi Arabia or to "Africa" where women had no rights; they should not protest in America because women here are equal to men! I was honestly shocked that women in America actually believe they are equal to men. I was even more irritated that they probably did not take the time to listen to the information that was being shared during the Women's March.

It is so important that now more than ever we continue to inform, educate, spread the word and demand for what is rightfully ours. It really showed me that when women organize and work towards a common goal they are unstoppable! Going forward, I hope that the unified voice will continue and that the critical mass will force the current administration to revise its stance on these policies. If in 2017 a group of men can legislate what women do with their bodies, in the greatest democracy in the World, emerging democracies like mine are surely doomed! I also hope that parents will continue to involve their children in matters such as these and to interest them in becoming activists for the rights and freedoms of all regardless of who they are and where they are from.

Berkenesh Woldeeslassie

Women's March on January 21 was a significant day in the history of global demonstration which showed a clear determination to stand up for human rights and the dignity of women. It was a mix of people from different walks of life. Women, men and children gathered in DC and major cities in the nation and across the globe to march in solidarity for human rights and women's rights. It was for gender equality, racial equality, economic justice, reproductive freedom, for equal pay, paid family leave, labor protections, clean water and air, access to public lands, for an end to police brutality and violence against women.

There was positive energy, solidarity, and diversity in the March. The signs and slogans people were carrying were hilarious and stunning. Some of the slogans carried by marchers that impressed me most are, "The rise of women does not mean the fall of men," and "Our bodies our minds our power." The slogans and signs also showed how creative people are. The March serves as a basis for future activist works.



Fellowship Encounters

I am always delighted to hear of our Fellows and Alumnae finding one another in serendipitous ways. Here is one such encounter as described by soon-to-be WLPPFP **Juliana Shulman-Laniel, 2017-2018**:

I was ecstatic to be offered a fellowship with the WLPPFP, but given my desire to eventually work in Boston (and not DC), I had hesitated a bit in coming to a final decision and in calling Jill with my acceptance. Luckily, I received a bit of a sign from the gods that not only helped me finalize my decision to accept, but also helped me realize that the network of WLPPFP alums was certainly strong in Boston and beyond. The weekend after receiving the offer (and with only a few days left to decide), I rallied in Boston's Copley Square with roughly 20,000 other Bostonians in opposition to Trump's refugee order. As I rallied, I ran into a law school classmate and told her my news that I had just been offered the fellowship. Seconds later, I am tapped on the shoulder by a woman who immediately apologized for eavesdropping, but who said that she couldn't resist. She had been a Georgetown WLPPFP fellow herself and wholeheartedly recommended it! Turned out it was Naomi Mann (2001-2002), who is currently on the faculty at Boston University School of Law. It was amazing that, among this huge crowd, she would happen to walk by at precisely the right moment to help steer me in the correct direction. The next day, I took Naomi's recommendation and delightedly called Jill to accept the offer.



The Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship Program is deeply saddened to report the passing of **Hope Lewis (1986-1987)** in December 2016. Hope was placed with TransAfrica, and went on to make significant contributions to the international human rights field. Hope was a faculty director of Global Legal Studies, and a founder of the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy at Northeastern University School of Law. WLPPFP extends its sympathy to Hope's family and friends.



2016-2017 LAWA Teresa Omondi is seated second from right next to Aram Schvey (US 2008-2009). Agata Pelta (US 2014-2015) is standing second from left.

The Doughnut Magic!!

On Monday, January 30, 2017 at 9.30am, a rainy morning, I arrived at the Center for Reproductive Rights DC office to start my externship. Shortly, I was invited to the board room. I walked into a room full of bright faces filled with smiles. They each took turns to welcome me to CRR and told me how pleased they were to meet me. Everyone had a cup of coffee and there was a box of doughnuts at the center of the table. I was given a cup, and invited to pick a doughnut. Every special occasion was marked with a lunch gathering. These were pleasant but baffling moments, as we simply do not do such things back home in Kenya. It seems minor, but it consistently reminded us all how much the team cared for each other.

For the next three months I had such wonderful experience. Before I knew it, May had come, and it was time to say good bye (with cake!). The care and concern for staff's total wellbeing and not just the results of their projects was heartwarming. This gave me a great feeling I will never forget, and one I hope to give the staff at FIDA-Kenya. Thank you CRR for this life lesson, and thank you LAWA Fellowship for the opportunity.



A movie review of Hidden Figures fit for Twitter from Andy Budzinski (WLPPFP 2016-2017): This empowering movie was honest about limitations & oppression, uplifting the success of badass women of color, & at the same time didn't apologize for the privileged.



Clockwise from top left: WLPPFP Advisory Board Member Prof. Mary Hartnett meets with CEDAW Committee Member Hilary Gbedemah (LAWA 1995-1996), and presents her with an autographed copy of *In My Own Words*, Mary's book written with Advisory Board Member Prof. Wendy Williams and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; Congratulations to our six newest Masters of Law! (not pictured Sheila Kinaheirwe); Gillian Chadwick, second from left, celebrates the signing of Kansas Bill 124, which strengthened consideration of domestic violence in custody proceedings; The 2016-2017 WLPPFPs were delighted to make the acquaintance of Justice Ginsburg; Anthonia Okolie, third from left, and speaking to girls above, educates girls about the dangers of female genital cutting; Congratulations to Beatrice Duncan (LAWA 1993-1994), Justice and Constitutional Advisor, UN Women. Along with the United States Institute of Peace, Beatrice hosted Ensuring Gender Equality in Constitutions: Engaging the Next Generation of Stakeholders. The convening brought together academics, students and practitioners from around the world to share research and discuss progress in women's equality resulting from constitutional reforms. Katie Filous (US 2015-2016) assisted with the planning of the event, and LAWA Founder Professor Sue Deller Ross moderated a panel.

Alumnae Spotlight

Fellowship Alumnae can be found serving their communities and the world. Here are just a few highlights.

Olufunmilayo Adeniyi (LAWA 2015-2016) is currently with a non-governmental organization called Center for 21st Century issues. The Executive Director of the NGO was Olufunmilayo's speaker when she was writing her LAWA thesis on climate change.

Maereg Alemayehu (LAWA 2015-2016) is pleased to announce that she will continue working at the World Bank's Women, Business & The Law project for another six months. She reports that she loves using the research skills she gained as a LAWA Fellow.

After returning to her home country Uganda, **Lillian Andama (LAWA 2014-2015)** is currently representing the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on the Task Force on the Amendment of the Evidence Act. Lillian also represents the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on the Technical Working Group to review the National Action Plan II on the UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma Declaration. Lillian was nominated to represent the Ministry of Justice on the CEDAW Team to prepare Uganda's 8th Periodic Report, and she is representing the Ministry of Justice on the Task Force for reviewing the HIV Testing and Counseling Policy for the Ministry of Health for purposes of reviewing the HIV laws of Uganda and the East African Community.

WLPPFP congratulates **Sundaiway Amegashie (LAWA 2014-2015)** who is now an Associate Chief Counsel for Protests and Objections at the Liberia Revenue Authority. Also worth congratulating is that Sundaiway is now the President of Grand Bassa County Bar Association, which is the most vibrant Bar within the Liberian National Bar Association. Sundaiway has also established a NGO called

LAWA - Liberia, an advocacy organization for the rights of women and children in Liberia. Sundaiway is currently writing an article on traditional/customary marriage, its impact in the Liberian society. In addition, Sundaiway provides pro bono services with the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia.

Lacy Carra (US 2007-2008) reports that she is consulting on gender projects in Africa. She recently finished up two years as the Regional Director for the Africa Yoga Project.

Sherry Cassedy (US 1983-1984) happily continues her mediation work.

Gillian Chadwick (US 2014-2015) provided this update: "I'm working as an associate professor in a family and immigration law clinic at Washburn University School of Law in Topeka. I'm currently serving on the Kansas Judicial Council Family Law Advisory Committee, which provides technical assistance and makes recommendations to the state legislature on issues of family law (including domestic and sexual violence). My students recently testified on a bill that will allow sexual assault survivors a right to a protection order in Kansas and I personally submitted testimony on a bill to clarify domestic violence as a factor in determining the best interest of the child in custody cases." We also congratulate Gillian on her article *Reorienting the Rules of Evidence* about the discriminatory use of sexual orientation evidence in sexual assault cases, which was recently accepted for publication by the Cardozo Law Review. Gillian's article *Predator in Chief: President Trump and the Glorification of Sexual Violence* also got featured on the front page of HuffingtonPost.com.

WLPPFP congratulates **Courtney Chappell (US 2004-2005)** as the new Executive Director for The Center for Asian Pacific American Women, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the enhancement and enrichment of leadership skills for AAPI women across the country.

The roster of WLPPFP Professors grows, as **Courtney Cross (US 2013-2014)** joins the faculty at the University of Alabama School of Law. She will be directing the Domestic Violence Clinic, which provides free holistic civil legal services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

WLPPFP congratulates **Paul Di Donato (US 1985-1986)** as Proteus Fund's new President and CEO. Paul is especially proud to usher in the Fund's new Rights, Faith & Democracy Collaborative which seeks to limit the use of religious exemptions in the areas of reproductive rights and LBGTQ rights.

Hailey Flynn (US 2016-2017) will be headed to New York to join the Center for Reproductive Rights as the Litigation Fellow.

Erika Hanson (US 2016-2017) is delighted to continue her work with the National Women's Law Center's Reproductive Rights and Health group, where she was placed as a WLPPFP. Erika will focus on access to contraception.

Danielle Hawkes (US 2010-2011) is currently the vice-president of the ACLU of Utah. She also served as local counsel for the national ACLU on a queer family law case. She serves on Utah's state bar's family law executive committee and she does legislative analysis for that. In addition to running a

family law practice often focusing on DV and child abuse issues, she does all of her pro bono work in the queer community, frequently doing gender change and queer family law cases. Danielle speaks frequently on community panels and trainings. Last year, she spoke to all of the District, Appellate, and Supreme Court judges in Utah about queer law.

Lori Liebowitz (US 2010-2011) is now the Coordinator of DC's Right to Housing Initiative, which is a collaboration of several legal service providers and the DC Bar Pro Bono Center. Lori reports "It's the perfect job for me, and I'm really excited about the work we're doing."

Elizabeth Liu (US 2005-2006), is now a consulting attorney at the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project.

Lisa Lowenstein (US 2009-2010) is a Senior Associate at Groom Law Group, Chartered. There, she works on health insurance issues, specifically focusing on the Affordable Care Act.

Elizabeth Makumbi (LAWA 2015-2016) has published two pieces, one about inter-racial and inter-cultural dating, and another about natural hair, race and beauty.

DC's loss is Philadelphia's gain, as **Lauren McCulloch (US 2016-2017)** joins Women Against Abuse as a staff attorney.

Joan Meier (US 1985-1986), is the legal director of the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project. Joan has been a nation-wide leader in calling attention to courts' failure to take seriously allegations of child abuse in custody proceedings. The Fellows were also treated to a terrific seminar on secondary trauma led by Joan.

Yamrot Moges (LAWA 2014-2015) is now a Board Member at the Africa Civic Leadership Program.

Jill Morrison (US 1998-1999) is proud to join the national board of If/When/How: Law-yring for Reproductive Justice.

Anthonia Okolie (LAWA 2015-2016) is currently on tour with other female lawyers to sensitise the public about FGM. So far, they have led workshops at four girl's secondary schools.

WLPPFP is proud to announce that **Teresa Omondi (LAWA 2016-2017)** is now the Executive Director of FIDA-Kenya. We are confident that the organization will thrive under Teresa's capable leadership.

Agata Pelka (US 2014-2015) is now State Legislative Counsel at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

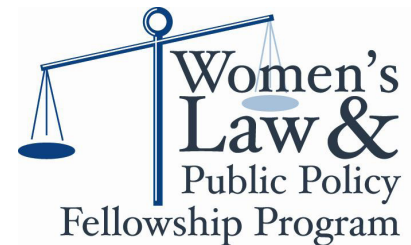
WLPPFP congratulates **Lourdes Rivera (US 1990-1991)** who is now Center for Reproductive Rights' Senior Vice President for U.S. Programs

Quyen Ta (US 2003-2004) reports that she is still practicing at the law firm of Keker, Van Nest & Peters in San Francisco, where she has been since her federal clerkship. She does defense-side complex general civil litigation.

Dunia Tegegn (LAWA 2015-2016), with guidance from **Fanny Gomez Lugo (US 2009-2010)** contributed to *Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics at the Universal Periodic Review*. The report provides an overview on how the Universal Periodic Review has helped to protect LGBTI persons.

Makda Tessema (LAWA 2010-2011) is now a Democracy and Governance Fellow in the African Governance Architecture Secretariat in the Department of Political Affairs at the African Union Commission in Ethiopia. Makda recently came out with a publication titled *Engendering youth for Gender Equality in Africa*.

WLPPFP congratulates **Beccah Watson (US 2012-2013)**, who has a new position at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.



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