


# OUTREACH

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

2020 - 2021  
**FALL | WINTER**



*May her  
Memory be a  
Blessing*

## Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Tribute

*This newsletter is dedicated to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The Justice was a longtime friend of the Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship Program, and spent time each year with the fellows over tea. It was my pleasure as the Program Director to bear witness to her impact on these young women and men who have decided to devote their careers to advancing equality and justice.*

*Included are pictures from many of our teas, as well as some other pictures and words in tribute to the icon we affectionately call RBG. I know that many of our Fellows were simply too bereft to write anything. I hope that these remembrances inspire you to continue the work of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Her memory is indeed a blessing.*



Marya Torrez, seated fifth from right

### **Marya Torrez (US 2007-2008)**

I'm so grateful that I had the opportunity to be in her presence and thankful for all she did to pave the way and create a better world for us to live in. I met RBG first at our tea, and then a second time was when I was sworn into the Supreme Court bar as part of my Georgetown Law ten-year reunion. After the swearing in, we went back to a room where our families were and waited for one or more Justices to come speak to us. This is how my partner describes it:

I remember this day so vividly. Marya was sworn into the Supreme Court Bar, along with many of her Georgetown alumni. Chief Justice Roberts walked in waving his arms as if to say "Hey! Look at me! I'm here!" He was given a cordial welcome. Then Justice Ginsburg walked in. There were audible gasps. Everyone instantly started beaming. Some cried at the honor of being in her presence! You can see the expression on their faces when she first walked in.

## Lynn Paltrow (US 1984-1985)

Over the years, and primarily because of the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program, I have had several opportunities to meet with Justice Ginsburg. One of these times was immediately following a Supreme Court oral argument on a case I had filed, helped to try and continued to work on after starting National Advocates for Pregnant Women; *Ferguson v. City of Charleston*. We won that case with Justice Ginsburg among the six- member majority. That was the case challenging the Medical University of South Carolina's policy of secretly searching pregnant patients (almost all of them Black) for evidence of drug use. If they tested positive, hospital staff turned their confidential medical information over to the police and coordinated their arrest. These patients were taken out of the hospital in chains and shackles, some still pregnant, others still bleeding from just having given birth. While the holding of the Supreme Court decision is typically squeezed into a fairly narrow legal box, I think of it as one that stands for the broad proposition that all medical patients, including pregnant women, are fully protected by the 4th Amendment's prohibition on unwarranted searches and seizures.

As many people know by now, in her early years, Ruth Bader Ginsburg brought the challenge that resulted in the Supreme Court's first decision recognizing that the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause applies to women and prohibits discrimination (at

least sometimes) on the basis of sex. That case, *Reed v. Reed*, successfully challenged an Idaho state law that specified that "males must be preferred to females" in appointing administrators of estates. The decision held that the law's preference for men was arbitrary and unconstitutional.

That decision, however, was just the beginning. Justice Ginsburg knew that full protection for women under the equal protection clause would not exist unless the Courts recognized that the Constitution also prohibited discrimination based on the capacity for pregnancy and pregnancy itself. So, she looked for and found a case that would expose and address this discrimination. That case was *Struck v. Secretary of Defense*.

Susan Struck was serving as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, when, as a single woman, she became pregnant. The Air Force, however, had a strict rule: terminate the pregnancy or face immediate discharge. It was a perfect case for exposing the scope of the government power to control and coerce women because of their reproductive capacity. Indeed, thousands of women were thrown out of the US military because they continued their pregnancies to term.

Although Ginsburg lost her challenges to the policy in the lower federal courts, the U.S. Solicitor General believed the Air Force might lose in the Supreme Court. As a result, he ad-

vised the military to withdraw Captain Struck's discharge and to change the rule so that pregnancy would no longer be automatic grounds for discharge. That is what the Air Force did, making the case "moot" and preventing it from continuing and being decided by the Supreme Court.

Why do I tell you all this? Because that Court has still not recognized that government efforts to control and coerce women in relationship to their pregnancies and pregnancy outcomes — including abortion — are prohibited by the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause. It is why so many prosecutors and legislators believe there are no constitutional limits on their power to use pregnancy as a basis for locking-up women. It is why National Advocates for Pregnant Women must continue to fight on behalf of so many people including Latice Fisher and Chelsea Becker.

As someone who considers herself a "daughter-in-law" of Justice Ginsburg, I will continue to be part of that fight. And in these times when it is so easy to despair and to focus on division, I ask you to continue to fight not only in memory of Justice Ginsburg, a white, Jewish woman, but also the extraordinary, brilliant Black lawyer and theologian Pauli Murray who developed the legal strategy Ginsburg used to persuade the Supreme Court to recognize that the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause protects women.



National Women's Party Equality Day Celebration, August 2018.



## Justine F. Andronici (US 2002-2003)

I went to law school because of Justice Ginsburg.

As a young feminist organizer and activist, I learned about her brilliant strategy as an advocate attorney with the ACLU Women's Rights Project. I wanted to be like Justice Ginsburg, to use the law and to help advance equality.

Sitting in the room with Justice Ginsburg during my post-graduate fellowship with WLPPFP was truly one of the most powerful influential moments in my career. Justice Ginsburg had recently recovered from a bout of cancer, a fact that was not at the time widely known. She entered the room where we met with her at the Supreme Court, and a feeling of awe and gravitas swept over our small group. As she sat gingerly and spoke quietly about her path to the Supreme Court, she told the story of her history. She spoke of how she had been treated as a woman lawyer who couldn't get a job after law school, and about how far we have come since then. She described her work at ACLU Women's Rights Project, her step by step, case by case, strategic approach to individual cases to change the meaning of the Constitution to include women.

It was clear Justice Ginsburg felt it was critically important to tell us, a group of young and eager women's rights lawyers, how it was that we got where we were. As a young lawyer acutely aware of continued inequalities and the challenges we faced, I also cherished throughout my career another piece of advice she offered that day. She told us she believed dwelling in anger in the face of injustice was a "waste of energy" telling us that she coped with the hostility to her as an advocate for women's rights by being the best lawyer she could be.

Her last comments to us during that meeting are also seared into my mind, especially now. Towards the end, I asked her what she thought

the most important equality battles for our generation of women's rights lawyers would be. I expected her to talk about equal pay, or continued problems of race and gender-based employment discrimination. Instead, she said that the roll back of our reproductive rights would be the most crucial battle we faced. She talked about the lack of meaningful reproductive freedom for poor women and women of color, and the significant trend in the Court eroding the Roe and Casey decisions, explaining that without reproductive freedom, equality for women was not possible.

The next time I had the privilege of being in Justice Ginsburg's presence was at the storied Sewall Belmont House, the home of the National Women's Party during the final days of the suffrage movement, in the Summer of 2018 at an event which I was truly honored to suggest and help to organize. As I watched the Justice take the stage and listened to her quiet brilliance once again, I was reminded of that day long ago when I met her as a young lawyer. There was a profound respect in the energy of the room as she once again offered her answers to each question with a very precise explanation of our legal history.

Listening that day, it felt as if Justice Ginsburg was once again, trying to make sure each of the leaders in attendance truly understood what it took to get where we are, case by case, step by step. I found myself reflecting deeply on my own career, hoping I was doing enough, as she mentioned the work yet to be done to guarantee equality for women. She talked that day about the work ahead, noting the absence of an Equal Rights Amendment - the lack of a Constitutional guarantee for equality on the basis of sex, and the lack of meaningful reproductive freedom for poor women and women of color. For me, Justice Ginsburg's history, life and legacy isn't about the past, and it isn't just about dissenting, it is about understanding our history but always looking forward to making justice and equality under the law meaningful and real, for all of us.



## Beth Burkstrand-Reid (US 2005-2006)

*Just after this photo she asked me to please sit down. "We've had a heart attack in the Supreme Court before but I don't think we've had a baby." She then talked about the need for a new generation of women's rights activists. Lola was born just after —5 weeks early. We always joke that she heard Justice Ginsburg and came running.*

## Moza Jadeed (LAWA 2008-2009)

*announced that some of the Kenyan LAWA Alumnae held RBG Memorial Proceedings on Friday, October 9th*

## Neena Chaudhry (US 1997-1998)

*Thank you Justice Ginsburg for your life's work, which helped make our careers possible. Your generosity of spirit and the time you gave to the fellows will stay with us always. We are honored to stand on your small but mighty shoulders and vow to continue the fight.*

## Michelle X. Liu (US 2018-2019)

"Don't worry," said Jill, "if you have the baby early, you can join us for tea next year." The Director tried to assure 8-months pregnant me that, no matter what, I would not miss the annual capstone event of the Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship Program—a private tea party and conversation with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at the Supreme Court. My due date loomed dangerously close to the date of the RBG tea. But, not to be outdone by his older brother who had met Hillary Clinton while in utero back in 2016, my son Max waited obediently to make his debut to the world two days after our tea with RBG. Mine was the last fellowship class to enjoy such a privilege.

Much of the impetus behind my work in advocating for international women's human rights can be summed up in the spirit of Justice Ginsburg's mother's advice to her: "Be independent." Around the world, many women and girls are socially, economically, and legally dependent on men—much like many women in the United States were just a few generations ago and, in some ways, still

are today. In many countries, women and girls are prohibited from pursuing an education; from owning, managing, or inheriting property; from making decisions relating to their sexual and reproductive health; from being an equal partner in marriage or from seeking divorce; and from accessing justice as survivors of sexual abuse, just to name a few. These legal restrictions relegate women and girls to second class citizens based on their sex and subjugate their position in society such that they become dependent on others for the realization of their fundamental rights.

But some of these laws are changing.

In 2018, Ireland—a country where over three-quarters of its citizenry is Catholic—amended its Constitution to remove the constitutional recognition of a fetal right to life and to allow legislators to legalize abortion. Similarly, the Parliament of Malawi in the coming months is set to debate the repeal of its 150-year-old law that criminalizes abortion in nearly every circumstance. Just last year, the High Court of Eswatini (a country in Southern Africa) ruled that the common law doctrine of marital power—"the right of the husband to rule over

and defend the person of his wife," including disposing of her property at his will—violated the country's constitutional guarantee of equality for women. If this spousal dynamic seems shockingly archaic, bear in mind that a husband's right to marital power over his wife's property was the law of the land in Louisiana as late as 1980.

These legal changes are only a few examples of the work being done by women's rights advocates around the world to remove systemic barriers for women and girls in claiming their rights to equality and non-discrimination, health, life, and dignity, among others. Only by removing these barriers can women and girls around the world become equal and truly "independent."

"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time," said the late Justice. As a trailblazer for women's equality in the United States, Justice Ginsburg also became an icon for women's rights advocates globally. The realization of women's human rights is work that takes commitment, collaboration, and time. And, on her shoulders, the work continues.



## Christine Webber (US 1993-1994)

I so appreciated Justice Souter's remembrance, which noted that Justice Ginsburg was one of the greats before she ever joined the Supreme Court. It was the sort of litigation she did with the ACLU Women's Rights Project that defined what I wanted to do when I went to law school. So when my fellowship began with a welcome lunch featuring Justice Ginsburg as keynote, I was over the moon. While I didn't get to talk to her then, I was thrilled again years later to have the chance to join a tea with the Fellows, and ask her a question.

I asked her to name her favorite opinion, and favorite dissent, thinking loudly the whole time "VMI, it has to be VMI; and Ledbetter, or maybe Shelby County, no, say Ledbetter." Her answer was indeed VMI and Ledbetter. The VMI decision practically adopted the ERA by proper reading of the 14th Amendment. Few justices get to accomplish something so consequential – especially sweet as it was the fitting conclusion of the line of cases she started her career by litigating. I am personally attached to Ledbetter, a case in which I'd written an amicus brief, because it's so central to my work in employment law. Bad decisions and powerful dissents have inspired legislative changes before, but rarely so swiftly and thoroughly as with the passage of the Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Would that all her dissents draw an equally prompt correction.

In the week following her death, I noticed that many of my friends had changed their Facebook profile pictures to be a picture of Justice Ginsburg. But what particularly delighted me is that they had mostly chosen different pictures of her (personally I went with a picture of her from her ACLU days, as I will always be a litigator at heart), so for a short while at least, my FB feed was enough, because there were nine, nine RBGs (#whenthearenine). It was a privilege to be

able to participate in the public visitation at the Supreme Court last week. Her memory will be an inspiration and blessing to millions, but I will borrow a variation on that seen on Twitter: May her memory be a revolution.

## Jamesina King (LAWA 2001-2002)

I want to express my condolences to the WLPPFP family for the loss of one of our greatest mentors. I will remember her as a fighter and a very humane person who knew what it meant to give of her very best to effect change and transformation in her generation. The last time I saw her was when I attended the 2013 celebrations organized by the Fellowship and again I was inspired by her speech and just marveled at her splendid career achievements and service to humanity. Well she is a life worth celebrating and I am very honoured and very grateful to have met her. May she rest in peace.

## Jen Caballero (US 2012-2013)

I still can't quite wrap my head around the fact that she is no longer with us, or the abundance of who she was and what she gave while she was here. I have never been so certain that I was among the truly unique when she walked into that room for our tea, and I have cherished the presence of mind she shared for all my days since. I actually have \*so much\* RBG schwag it incites affectionate chiding from friends of mine. I truly, and sadly, look forward to mourning and lifting up her greatness with the WLPPFP community.

## Yamrot Henok (LAWA 2014-2015)

For so many of us RBG was an inspiration and a real-life superhero. I am forever grateful for her selfless dedication to women's rights and social justice. It is sad that she has died after a long and good life dedicated to women's rights and social justice, and tragic that so much of

what she worked for and achieved is now at risk. But it's our fight now, and that is what she would want us to do. We should fight so that her legacy continues to live in the work we do. RBG, may your soul rest in a supreme power!!

## Mirabelle Chi-Okezie (LAWA 2016-2017)

Adieu to a trailblazing champion of women's rights! Thank you Ruth Bader Ginsburg for helping to propel women's rights to the forefront of political agendas, bringing attention to why gender equality across all industries is key. You are a powerful example of a woman who lived her beliefs and wasn't afraid to voice them. Your actions and values have produced generations of fearless women who will honour your memory by continuing your life's work – fighting for justice and gender equality. Personally, as a working mom, I will most especially remember you for your shining example of work-life balance. Your legacy will live on in the countless women you inspired!

## Kaboneke Zamu (LAWA 2010-2011)

*You cannot believe the gap left by this death of an icon. We shall always remember with unbound fondness.*

## Beatrice Akua Duncan (LAWA 1992-1993)

*I learned many things from Justice Ginsburg. The greatest of all is that it is possible to be small in stature, humble and unassuming and yet achieve great heights and impact your world in a magnificent way.*



## Emilia Nuiselie Lobti (LAWA 2008-2009)

On arriving in the United States in 2008 for the Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellowship, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was one of the personalities the Executive Director of the program wanted the Fellows to interact with at all cost. The tea with the Justice was necessary and served as a valid introduction of the main purpose of the program, and motivation for the LAWAs. I personally admired her profound personality, her calmness, and valuable advice which I took seriously during my stay in the program. It was a privilege for me to study one of her landmark decided cases, *United States v. Virginia*, which I applied in most of my analyses and briefs on the international protection of women's rights. She is my role model in contemporary gender equality struggles. She is gone, but her legacy will be remembered forever.

## Prudence Mutiso (LAWA 2017-2018)

I do recall a particular event when GULC hosted her to discuss *My Own Words* with her official biographers, Professors Mary Hartnett and Wendy Williams. She beamed with pride discussing gender equality, particularly the case of *United States v. Virginia*. As a lawyer working to advance gender equality in Kenya, the issues she litigated on remain present day challenges here. I continue to draw inspiration from her work as a litigator and a Supreme Court Justice. As I re-read *My Own Words*, I am still in awe and I know her work SHALL continue.

## Monica Bhattacharya (US 2015-2016)

Our tea with Justice Ginsburg will forever be one of my most cherished memories. She was warm, gracious, and contemplative as we discussed the role of her now-notorious dissents and the unique privilege and

responsibility of being Women's Law & Public Policy Fellows — of being lawyers — in our evolving society. I can hardly yet reflect upon the enormity of this loss, or the possibility for personal and professional self-determination I owe to Justice Ginsburg. I do, however, feel both humbled as an inheritor of her legacy and galvanized to “fight for the things that [I] care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join [me].”

## Beverly Mumbo (LAWA 2019-2020)

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the champion of advocacy for women's rights. Prior to joining Georgetown my knowledge and appreciation for RBG was limited. However, after attending her lecture on October 30th 2019 at Georgetown Hart Auditorium, and hearing her speak, I was drawn to her brilliance and passion for women's rights. I have gone on to read about her and have been greatly inspired to continue in the fight for equality. The strides and opportunity she created for women is comparable to no other.

She also demonstrated that you need not come from a notable background to make change in society. Anybody can be the necessary change if they are passionate and work hard to achieve their goals. This is extremely encouraging to young girls. The women's rights movement and the world has lost an icon. We only hope that we can fill her shoes. Shine on your way, RBG!

## Margaret Johnson (US 1995-1996)

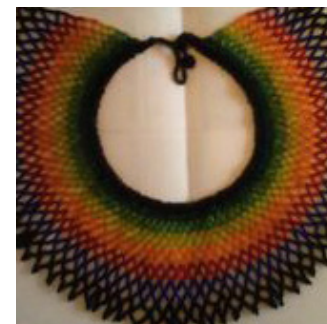
I am so grateful for her support of the WLPPFP program. When I was accepted into the Fellowship I was so happy because I felt that others saw me, really for the first time, as someone who could contribute in the area of gender justice and that I was given a wonderful opportunity to be surrounded by like people from whom I could learn and

collaborate. I still feel that way today. The work by noted alums from this program continues to influence my thinking and work, and I am lucky to consider so many of them dear friends.



## Christine Webber (US 1993-1994)

*This is me with my RBG dissents blanket. The picture is made from the text of her dissents in Epic Systems, Hobby Lobby, Ledbetter, Masterpiece Cake, and Shelby County.*



So thank you to Justice Ginsburg for helping to create and support this path so we can have this amazing community and do this work. I was grateful to serve as co-alumni director for WLPPFP in the 90s with Johanna Bond. In that role we served to help organize the 25th Anniversary Celebration of WLPPFP and Justice Ginsburg was our Keynote speaker. My mom, who was around the same age as Justice Ginsburg, attended the celebration with me. At the end of the evening, Wendy Williams, Judy Lichtman, and Marcia Greenberger made sure that my mom and I got to meet Justice Ginsburg. I remember my mom wanted to tell her thank you because my mom, as an early feminist psychologist, faced a lot of barriers and appreciated so much what RBG had done.

## **Twasiima P. Bigirwa (LAWA 2019-2020)**

I did not have the pleasure of meeting the Great RBG in person as previous fellows did. We had imagined that we would have another time, perhaps as alumnae to sit with her after the pandemic was over and she was fully back on her feet. However, I remember hearing her speak during her last visit to Georgetown Law, accompanied by Hillary and Bill Clinton last fall and being amazed that she was still so willing to fight for what she believed in. She was inspirational in so many ways, not only because she set the bar so high, but because she accepted her flaws, apologized when she realized her mistakes and asked us all to believe that we can indeed live in a more just and equitable world.

## **Desiree Luckey (US 2019-2020)**

Being a 2019-2020 WLPPFP Fellow was truly an adventure. Transitioning from in-person meetings to Zoom calls, the uncertainty of our employment prospects, and the delayed commencement ceremony that robbed our LAWAs of their well-earned celebration distinguish our cohort from any other in WLPPFP history.

Due to the pandemic, we also missed having tea with Justice Ginsburg this Spring. As a highlight of the program, I'd been bragging about this opportunity to anyone who would listen to me talk about WLPPFP in the months preceding. Once it was clear that it wasn't going to happen this year, we held onto the hope that Jill would allow us to join the 2020-2021 cohort when they had the opportunity to meet Justice Ginsburg.

In a year of COVID-19, racial injustice, and an economic crisis, the passing of Justice Ginsburg is amongst the most profound losses of 2020. In addition to the massive implications for our democracy, her death also highlights some of the smaller and more personal losses that we've experienced over the past six months. While we won't get to enjoy tea with her or celebrate our graduates in the usual way or guarantee that we'll ever all be in the same place again at once, I feel such gratitude for my fellow Fellows. We built a beautiful family and even in the most trying times, we found ways to connect and support each other throughout.

This is a huge, devastating blow for all of us. But after spending a year in community with some of the most resilient, kind, and intelligent advocates for gender justice, I am encouraged. Just as committed as Justice Ginsburg was to equality, I know a whole gang of women who are just as committed in their own ways. We have big shoes to fill, but I am confident that WLPPFP alumnae—a group that now includes my cohort—will step in and step up. We have no other choice and no better way to honor her legacy.

## **Regina Mutyaba (LAWA 1993-1994)**

The loss of Lady Justice Ginsburg has left a permanent dent on our hearts. She was admired by many people especially women. She will be greatly missed by many of us.

LAWA Ghana mourns with people in the United States of America the passing away of a formidable jurist who fought to promote the rights of women in her country and in the world. As students of the Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellowship, who studied at the Georgetown University Law Center in the 1990s and early 2000s, we were attracted to her judgements in which she pushed to promote the rights of women. May She Rest in Peace.

## **Elizabeth Atemnkeng (LAWA 2008-2009)**

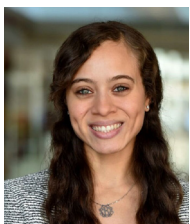
*We thank God for the opportunity, moments, and rich experiences Justice Ginsburg shared with us LAWAs. Her departure has created a big vacuum that will be hard to fill. She was a great inspiration and a mother to us all. Adieu Justice.*





## Meet our 2020-2021 Fellows

WLPPFP is delighted to welcome (virtually!) our two LAWA Fellows and seven US Fellows.



The National Women's Law Center welcomes **Sabrina Bernadel** as their Equal Justice Works Fellow. Sabrina is deeply invested in transforming the ways in which our

education systems support young people—particularly Black girls, and those who are disproportionately adultified and marginalized by academic institutions. As COVID-19 forces schools to reassess what is “essential” for learning, Sabrina's fellowship year will be dedicated to challenging schools to divert resources away from criminalization, and toward student socio-emotional supports. Sabrina has demonstrated her commitment to improving the lives of young people through her work at the Health Justice Alliance at Georgetown University Law Center, where she is 2020 graduate. She has also held internships at Advocates for Children of New York and the U.S. and New York Departments of Education. Sabrina will use the skills and insights gained from these positions to make schools safer for girls.



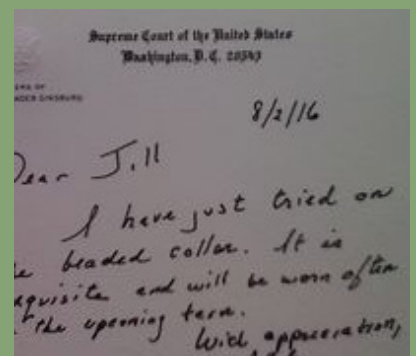
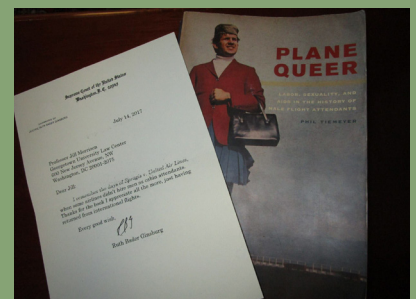
**Asees Bhasin's** experience in gender justice is cross-cultural and firmly rooted in civil and human rights law. She has previously monitored trials at a rape court in New Delhi, and has researched Canadian sexual assault laws at King's College London. During her last winter break at Georgetown University Law Center (where she obtained a joint J.D. and L.L.B. in 2020)

she visited the Dilley Family Detention Center to help women and children asylum seekers prepare for credible fear interviews. She was also a Student Attorney in the International Women's Human Rights Clinic where she undertook a fact-finding trip and co-authored a human rights report on legalizing abortion in Malawi. Asees will spend her fellowship year at the National Partnership for Women in Families, working with the Reproductive Rights Group as a step towards a career in public policy and impact litigation for international women's rights.



Prior to becoming a LAWA fellow, **Heather Chidarara** practiced for over ten years as a human rights lawyer and women's rights advocate in South Africa and

Zimbabwe. There, she has litigated on behalf of women seeking access to housing and equitable distribution of assets in family law proceedings. Driven by a desire to realize economic justice and challenge the ways in which patriarchal norms marginalize women in her community, Heather has advanced women's rights in her representation of women in custody, domestic violence, and divorce cases. Heather earned her Bachelor of Laws in 2010 from the University of Fort Hare in East London, South Africa. Her LAWA research will help deepen her understanding of South African housing law in order to develop strategies for actualizing women's housing rights.



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The Georgetown International Women's Human Rights Clinic is delighted to welcome **Catherine Cooper** as the 2020 Clinical Teaching Fellow. Since

graduating from Harvard Law School in 2014, Catherine has worked tirelessly to advocate for human rights and gender justice. As a fellow with the Africa Section of the Center for Reproductive Rights, she supported domestic litigation and advocacy with U.N. and regional mechanisms to advance women's rights. Catherine later worked as an international legal advisor at Justice Base in Myanmar on the rights of women and ethnic minorities, including access to citizenship. Before joining the Clinic, she served as counsel at the Public International Law and Policy Group, providing technical assistance to civil society organizations in East Africa and Myanmar.



**Rehim Baharu Elala** is a human rights attorney and women's rights advocate based in Ethiopia. Before obtaining his law degree from the University of

Gondar in 2011, he was already dedicated to challenging local norms surrounding men's involvement (or lack thereof) in feminist organizing. First advocating for gender equality at his school's legal aid office, Rehim went on to assist in landmark cases that established more equitable approaches in divorce proceedings in Ethiopia. His commitment to improving Ethiopia's legal and cultural protections for women and children continues today. In addition to litigating cases on behalf of survivors in his community, Rehim's role at the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission involves monitoring the living conditions of children forced to live in prison with their incarcerated mothers. This experience will inform his research during the LAWA Fellowship, which will focus on potential

strategies for eliminating childhood incarceration and building pathways for women's political and workforce participation in Ethiopia.



**Kathryn Menefee**, a 2020 Georgetown graduate, joins the National Women's Law Center's Income Security team this year, where she will work to reduce

gender and racial inequalities in the federal tax code. A firm believer in the potential for tax justice to further racial and gender justice, Kathryn plans to increase public literacy and interest surrounding the tax code with the goal of dismantling some of its discriminatory underpinnings. She looks forward to mobilizing her experience at Negotiation Works and the Human Rights Campaign toward strengthening community support of—and engagement in—issues relating to women and tax justice issues. She will also draw on her experience at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of the Interior's Office of Civil Rights to bolster support for tax equity issues with Congress and the Administration, and to advance state and federal tax policy proposals that will reduce economic disparities.



**Malorie Palmer** joins Aequitas, where she will be working to improve access to justice in gender-based violence and human trafficking cases. Malorie is driven

by a fierce commitment to preventing and prosecuting sex crimes. Graduating with a joint J.D./M.S.W. (Masters in Social Work) from Indiana University's McKinney School of Law in 2020, Malorie has already approached this issue from multiple legal vantage points. Whether seeking civil protection orders at Indiana Legal Services, or convictions on behalf of survivors of gender-based violence at





Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council, Malorie draws on her M.S.W. to deliver more than legal outcomes. She connects her clients to the care and services they need in order to access meaningful relief. Her fellowship year will be spent refining her skills as an advocate for survivors, and learning from others in the field in order to effectively reduce gender-based violence.



The Georgetown Domestic Violence Clinic is proud to welcome **Shanta Trivedi** as their 2020 Clinical Teaching Fellow. Shanta comes to

Georgetown after years of representing clients in custody, divorce, and domestic violence proceedings. A 2008 graduate from Boston University School of Law, Shanta's career is driven by a commitment to building pathways to justice for women. Her work at the Brooklyn Defender Service and Sanctuary for Families led her to write about the violence of family separation and gender-bias in the American judicial system. In her previous position as teaching fellow at the University of Baltimore, Shanta supervised students representing clients in family law proceedings, and wrote prolifically on the topics of family separation and women's rights. Shanta plans to dedicate her fellowship year to furthering her path into feminist academia and mentorship.



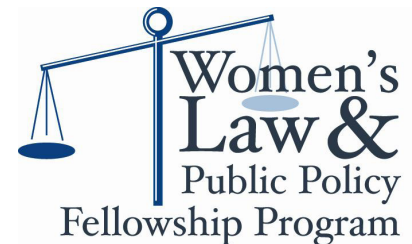
The Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs welcomes **Gabrielle Wynn** as this year's Small, Webber, Spencer Fellow. Gabrielle

obtained her J.D. at the University of Miami in 2020, where her participation in the Human Rights Clinic led her to Estonia. There, she researched and advocated against the forced

removal of Estonian children from mothers with chemical dependencies. As part of her work for the clinic, she submitted a report to the U.N. about these human rights violations. Recommendations she helped to draft were later adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Domestically, Gabrielle has interned at the Center for Reproductive Rights, centering her work on reducing racialized disparities in maternal healthcare access. She looks forward to using her fellowship year to deepen her understanding of how to effectively combat institutionalized racism and sexism from an intersectional legal framework.

## In Memoriam

*The Fellowship mourns the loss of **Maeve McKean (US 2009-2010)**, who passed in a tragic accident in April, along with her beloved son Gideon. Maeve had recently returned to Georgetown as the Executive Director of the Georgetown University Global Health Initiative and was excited to collaborate with the Fellowship Program. Her warmth and sparkling personality will be sorely missed.*



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