

OUTREACH

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

2023-2024

FALL | WINTER



Reunited...

Celebrate some recent reunions,
and meet the awesome
class of 2023-2024!

Reunited...

There's truly nothing like a reunion. As the song goes, it does indeed "feel so good." I was inspired to make this the theme of this newsletter by a visit from a LAWA Alumna, **Elizabeth Makumbi (LAWA 2015-2016)**, who visited campus this August. I had started the summer class with the incoming LAWA Fellows, and they were all touched by the abundance of joy we had during this brief reunion. I see it all the time, and it's one of my favorite parts of the job. **(1)**

Georgetown Law's reunion weekend was graced by **Nadhifa Juma** and **Beverline Ongaro (LAWAs 2012-2013)**, who ventured across the Atlantic to reconnect with their former LL.M. classmates. Their pictures from the weekend's events exude a delight that comes only from having a deep connection to a time and place, and the people who stood by them during the experience (okay, and also not having to Bluebook anymore). **(2)**

There were so many of these reunion moments at our welcome lunch in September, held at the Capital Jewish Museum. Their temporary exhibit "Notorious RBG" made the event even more special, as fellows reminisced about their time meeting her during their fellowships.

- Mary Hartnett beamed as she greeted the Fellows from the years she was the WLPPFP director, and reconnected with Georgetown faculty she hadn't seen for a while in person (thanks Covid...).
- **Regan Ralph (US 1992-1993)** and **Neena Chaudhry (US 1997-1998)** laughed with delight as they caught up on life and shared memories from their time together at the National Women's Law Center. **(3)** In fact, the welcome lunch presented an opportunity for the many WLPPFP alums who work at NWLC to meet each other in person for the very first time, as they've been largely remote. **(4)**
- Members of the Covid class of 2020-2021, **Asess Bhasin, Catherine Cooper** and **Sabrina Bernadel**, who spent most of their Fellowship time together on Zoom, got to see each other IRL.
- **Sharleen Oduor** and **Ramou Jallow (2022-2023 LAWAs)** met the new LAWAs during their July orientation, and made sure to check in with them to see how their classes were going, and if they were following their sage advice.

...and the list goes on.

These reunions, both large and small, are really at the heart of the Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship Program. Please get to know the new class of fellows in the pages that follow, as they become a part of the WLPPFP Family.



Meet our 2023-2024 Fellows

The five US Fellows are building expertise in advancing gender justice, and making invaluable contributions to each of their placement organizations. The five Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellows are making their mark on the Georgetown community, securing teaching assistantships, serving on journals and student organizations, and getting opinion pieces published. These short bios present only a fraction of their accomplishments!



Wubrest Fantahun Adamu joins the LAWA program from Ethiopia. Wubrest is a lawyer with more than five years of experience in providing legal aid to internally

displaced persons, incorporating gender in peace processes, and advocacy for human rights in Ethiopia. She previously worked with the Ethiopian Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and most recently the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Wubrest is a McCain Global Leaders Fellow focusing on peace, security, and reconciliation at the McCain Global Leaders Institution, Arizona State University. Wubrest is also an illustrious member of the Ethiopian Women Human Rights Defenders Network. She received her LL.B. from Addis Ababa University in 2017.



Lawyer and human rights activist **Consolata Joachim Chikoti** joins the LAWA program from Tanzania. She previously worked at the Msichana Initiative Organization as the Programs Manager. Consolata also worked with the Women's Legal Aid Centre to provide women and youth legal services and human rights education. She obtained her LL.B. from

the University of Dar-es-Salaam in 2017, after making her mark as the founder of the University of Dar-es-Salaam Female Students' Association. In 2016, Consolata contributed to the work of Ushiriki Tanzania, a coalition advocating for robust civic participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. She is also a 2018 alumna of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.



The National Health Law Program and the O'Neill Institute welcome **Rolonda Donelson** as the Maeve McKean Fellow. She is a 2023 graduate of

American University, where she worked as a Student Attorney in the Gender Justice Clinic. While obtaining her J.D., Rolonda also co-founded the Women of Color Coalition and served as a Marshall- Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project Fellow. She previously worked as a legal intern at the Center for Reproductive Rights, supporting litigation strategies related to maternal health and conducting research following the *Dobbs* decision. She also interned at Catholic Charities and the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, working closely with clients in both roles. Rolonda speaks Mandarin Chinese conversationally and spent three months in Shanghai, China interning at Businesses for

Social Responsibility. She graduated from Brandeis University with a B.A. in International & Global Studies and Politics in 2020.



Myka Held joins Georgetown University's Domestic Violence Clinic as a Graduate Clinical Teaching Fellow following an impactful career at Legal Aid

Chicago. Myka made history by filing Legal Aid's first-ever Title IX complaint on behalf of a teenage sexual assault survivor. Previously, she supported student sexual assault survivors in Title IX claims as a Staff Attorney at SurvJustice. She also interned at a domestic violence shelter and the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation. Myka has previously volunteered with a rape crisis hotline, and Legal Aid Chicago's Anti-Trafficking Unit. A 2015 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, she also co-founded Advocates Against Sexual Violence, served on the Student Life, Diversity, and Wellness Committee, and worked as the Development Editor for the Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law. She holds a 2009 B.A. in American Studies and Women and Gender Studies from Brandeis University, as well as a 2012 M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies from Loyola University Chicago.



Ashlynn Kendzior is the Human Rights Institute Supervising Attorney and Teaching Fellow. She spent last year as the Clinical Teaching Fellow in

Georgetown's International Women's Human Rights Clinic. Ashlynn previously served as the Robina Post-Graduate Fellow at Gender Justice in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she worked on issues related to LGBTQ+ rights and gender equity with a focus on reproductive rights. She also held a Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellowship at World Without Genocide where she conducted outreach and advocacy to ban child marriage in Minnesota. Ashlynn clerked for Judge Thomas Fraser and Judge Lois Conroy in Hennepin County District Court. She is a passionate advocate for reproductive rights and the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. Ashlynn earned her J.D. in 2018 with a concentration in Human Rights Law from the University of Minnesota Law School. She is a 2014 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish Studies.



Jackline Cherop Menjo, a feminist attorney from Kenya, joins the LAWA program. Jackline received her LL.B. from the University of Nairobi in

2014. She worked as an Assistant Program Officer and later returned as a Pro Bono Lawyer and Mediator at the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Kenya). There she provided legal aid to women in matters ranging from domestic violence, divorce, succession, child custody, and sexual violence, among others. She then joined Midrift Human Rights Network in Nakuru and has worked tirelessly to fight gender-based violence through community advocacy forums, legislative

advocacy in the County Assembly, and legal representation of survivors. Jackline is particularly passionate about the recognition and eradication of Femicide.



The LAWA program welcomes **Furaha Joy Sekai Saungweme** from Zimbabwe. She is the Founder of Africa End Sexual Harassment Initiative, a law reform

and social movement project. She obtained her LL.B. degree from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 2006, and has a Post Graduate Diploma in Socio-Economic Rights from Abo Akademi University, Finland. She spent many years working with the South African Police Service to assist victims of rape and domestic violence. She is an Advisory Board Member at the University of Westminster's FemIDEAS project, *Decolonising Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Higher Education*, and on the Editorial Board of the Berkeley University Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law. She is an alumna of the *Women Leaders for the World*, a project of How Women Lead based in California.



Chelsea Sullivan is the Small, Webber, Spencer Litigation Fellow at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs. She previously worked at

the Special Litigation Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia as a legal intern, supporting incarcerated clients in individual and class action litigation. At Cohen Milstein, Chelsea worked on a fetal protection policy for litigation under the Pregnancy Discrimination Act. She has also held legal internships at the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Equip for Equality, the Disability Rights

Section of the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice, and the Ohio Justice and Policy Center. Chelsea has worked as a personal care assistant for people with disabilities for the past ten years and has a keen interest in disability justice for all. She is a 2023 graduate of the George Washington University School of Law, where she served as a Student Attorney in the Prisoner and Reentry Clinic. She earned a B.A. in Psychology from Saint Louis University in 2017.



The National Women's Law Center welcomes back **Kenna Titus** to the Reproductive Rights and Health Group. As an intern at NWLC in 2022, she carried out legal and

policy research at the intersection of economic policy and racial justice. In 2023, Kenna graduated from the University of Texas School of Law. While there, Kenna served as a Sissy Farenthold Scholar in Reproductive Justice at the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, where she collaborated with attorneys and advocates on issues of abortion criminalization. She also worked as a Student Attorney in the Housing Clinic to support low-income individuals and families navigating both legal and administrative processes. Kenna's other pro bono and activism work included providing support to refugees and incarcerated folks, working as a Research Assistant at the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, and spearheading multiple events at UT Law—including advocacy around abortion rights and a letter-writing campaign against the Texas AG's anti-transgender rhetoric. Kenna holds a B.A. with a focus on History, Literature, and Justice from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, obtained in 2018.



Fabiola Uwera is a feminist attorney joining the LAWA Program from

Rwanda. Fabiola served as a Program Officer at the Center for Justice and Advocacy at Certa Foundation, providing Pro Bono holistic legal assistance to survivors of gender-based violence. Previously, Fabiola worked at Levy Firestone Muse LLP as a translator and researcher investigating the role of the French government in connection with the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. Fabiola co-founded the Digital Kwibuka Initiative, a virtual space for remembrance of the Genocide. She was also a member of the Black feminist collective Sistah Circle, which runs a community library and animates the Rwandan feminist movement, and serves as a Committee member in the East Africa Law Society Research and Publications Committee. Fabiola received an LL.B. from Dar-es-Salaam University in 2016, and holds a diploma in Legal Practice from the Institute of Legal Practice and Development in Rwanda.

Welcome Lunch



Clockwise from top left: **Harini Srinivasan (US 2014-2015)** and **Asees Bhasin (US 2020-2021)**; **Sophia Balemian-Spencer (US 2022-2023)** and **Chelsea Sullivan**; WLPPPF Suporter Sherrell Andrews and the LAWA Fellows; **Lily Milwit (US 2021-2022)**, **Lauren Birzon-Harriman (US 2021-2022)** and **Nikola Nable-Juris (US 2019-2020)**.

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2023 in Pictures



From top left: (1) The Fellows identified the daredevil (Kenna) and the duck fan (Fabiola) at our annual retreat! (2) Taking a break from work and classes at game night. (3) The LAWA Fellows at main campus to see Hillary Clinton. (4) Nicole Joseph (US 2022-2023) and Myka Held bonded as they stood in line for entry into the Supreme Court argument addressing limitations on the right of abusers to possess guns. (5) The Fellows visiting the Supreme Court for oral arguments. (6) The Fellows enjoyed the National Women's Law Center gala.

Alumnae Spotlight

The WLPPFP and LAWA Fellows can be found in almost every sector, building a more equitable and inclusive future. Check out what some of our Alumnae are up to!

Funmi Adeniyi (LAWA 2015-2016) was a featured speaker on *Connecting the Dots to Justice*, a weekly web series.

Lillian Andama (LAWA 2014-2015) contributed to the World Bank's 2023 edition of *Women, Business and the Law*.

The Washington Lawyers' Committee knows talent when it sees it! **Sophia Balemian-Spencer (US 2022-2023)** will stay at her placement organization as Associate Counsel on the Workers' Rights team.

Ahadi Bugg-Levine (US 2000-2001) has been doing incredible work as the Board President of Jespy House, a facility supporting adults with intellectual and developmental disability. Her organization secured the funding to underwrite an expansion of services for their clients.

Sarah Craven (US 1992-1993) delivered the keynote address at the Wilson Center for the launch of *Connecting the Dots: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights as Prerequisites for Global Gender Equality and Empowerment*, a publication of the Population Institute.

MacKenzie Darling (US 2022-2023) is excited to join Physicians for Reproductive Health as the If/When/How Reproductive Justice Fellow, where she will work with **MiQuel Davies (US 2017-2018)**, Public Policy Director.

Veronica Faison (US 2022-2023) is transitioning from her Fellowship role with the Reproductive Rights and Health team to Counsel. She will be working to advance the healthcare rights of care workers.



SMU Professor **Joanna Grossman (US 1995-1996)** was named the 2023 Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, with over 260 hours of work on probate and family law cases! #goals

Ramatoulie Jallow (LAWA 2022-2023) joins the Center for Ethics and Rule of Law (CERL) as the inaugural Mary Frances Berry Fellow. CERL is a non-partisan interdisciplinary institute dedicated to promoting and preserving the rule of law, with research touching on national security, warfare and democratic governance. She will be leading research on civic education in the military, Guantanamo Bay and on the military coups in West Africa and the Sahel.

Lindsay Johnson (US 2022-2023) will continue at the Clooney Foundation for Women on their Waging Justice for Women team.

She has our vote too! **Debra Katz (US 1985-1986)** was named one of the most powerful women in Washington, D.C. by Washingtonian Magazine. She was also honored by the National Women's Law Center for her work representing the survivors of the Washington Commanders.

Ophelia Kemigisha (US 2022-2023) joined the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Alliance Uganda as the Project Coordinator for the Transform SRHR Project. She was also interviewed for the International Jurist about how international law students can thrive at US law schools.

Leah Kiguatha (LAWA 2007-2008) was named to the 2023 Hall of Fame, Real Estate and Finance Lawyers, by *The Lawyer Africa*.

We are proud to report that Her Worship **Pamella Lamunu (LAWA 2015-2016)** was promoted from Deputy Registrar to Full Registrar.

Congratulations are in order to **Lauren McCulloch (US 2016-2017)**, who is now a Custody Hearing Officer for the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania. She says this about her approach: "I bring my 'female sensibilities' to my practice to help me meet people where they are and understand the unstated issues at the heart of the matter. I feel strongly about treating people with dignity especially when they don't know about the court system or what to expect or what is expected of them."

We wish **Jodi Michael (US 1996-1997)** the very best as she steps down as the Vice President for Development at the National Women's Law Center.

Tzili Mor (US 2006-2007) is now the Vice-Chair of the D.C. Bar's International Law Subcommittee on Immigration and Human Rights, joining Chair **Jill Morrison (US 1998-1999)**.

Congratulations to **Beverly Mumbo (LAWA 2019-2020)**, who has been selected as a Rise Up Leader for the November 2023 cohort. Rise Up is a global network to advance gender equity.

Eunice Ndingo (LAWA 2021-2022) is Senior Examiner with the Reserve Bank of Malawi.

Gloria Ngumi (LAWA 2021-2022) provides this exciting update "I now serve as the Catalyst Market Coordinator for Catalyst 2030. My role revolves around facilitating connections between social enterprises committed to integrating sustainability into their production and operational practices, enabling them to access the green market—both locally and internationally—all while advancing the concept of a circular economy. This kind of trade support empowers these enterprises to not only thrive but also fulfill their social and environmental missions by effectively entering and competing in markets that align with their values and goals."



Abigail Nthuba (LAWA 2022-2023) has launched a law firm that will assist women experiencing domestic violence.

Pritima Osman (LAWA 2004-2005) reports, "I am now an accredited mediator where my legal knowledge and expertise, as well as my training and exposure to many, many different types of law and skills are used to bring parties together in an effort to resolve matters, including family law issues."



Congratulations to **Elsy Sainna (LAWA 2013-2014)**, who is the National Lawyers' Association (Kenya) 2023 Civil Society Lawyer of the Year. Elsy is the Deputy Executive Director of the Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Kenya).

Jasmine Sankofa (US 2015-2016) is the new Executive Director at Movement for Family Power. She says of her new position: "I am energized by the possibilities that lie ahead and honored to build on the strong foundation laid over the last five years and shepherd the organization into the future in deep collaboration with directly impacted activists fighting to abolish the family regulation system and to create a world we deserve and know is possible."

Gabrielle Wynn (US 2020-2021) is now with the Department of Transportation, in the Office of the General Counsel.



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