

# OUTREACH

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

2023

**SPRING | SUMMER**



***Pride & Joy***

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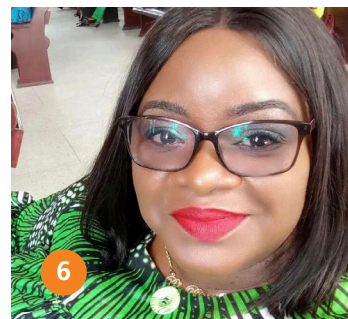
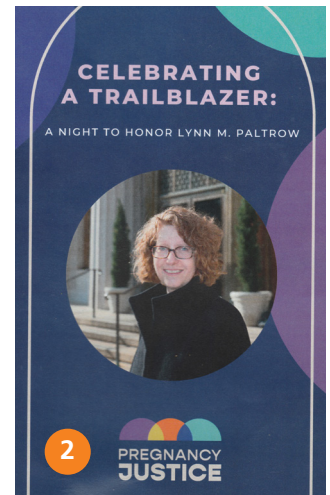
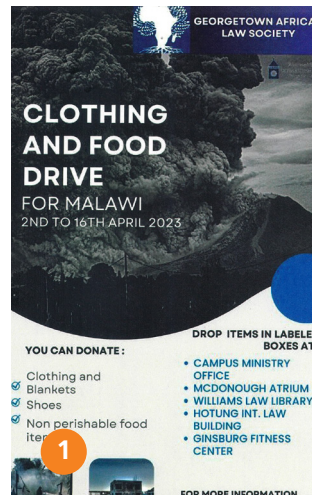
The theme of this newsletter is Pride & Joy. The “joy” part should be pretty obvious. Just look at 2022-2023 Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellows the on the cover! Check out their thesis topics on page 7, and visit our website for the recording of their captivating presentations. In their spare time (ha!) the LAWAs also helped to relaunch the Georgetown African Law Society, and organized a food and clothing drive for Malawi following a devastating cyclone (1).

I am also immensely proud of the accomplishments of the US Fellows as well. At the Clooney Foundation for Justice, **Lindsey Johnson** laid the groundwork for the organization's flagship project; building the capacity for strategic litigation by African human rights lawyers. **Sophia Balemian-Spencer** at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs teamed up with **Mackenzie Darling** at HIPS to do “Know Your Rights” trainings for local dancers in public adult entertainment venues, a group especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. In addition to working with the students in the Georgetown Clinic to obtain protection orders, **Nicole Joseph** is developing scholarship analyzing the harmful impact of *Dobbs* on those experiencing domestic violence. And speaking of access to reproductive health care, **Veronica Faison** at the National Women's Law Center has been identifying how religious refusals further limit access to abortion care.

The WLPPFP Alumnae are a constant source of pride and joy as well. **Lynn Paltrow (US 1984-1985) (2)** was honored as she steps down from the position as the Founding Executive Director of Pregnancy Justice (formerly National Advocates for Pregnant Women). I had the joyful experience of seeing some WLPPFP Alumnae including, **Mary Whisner (US 1984-1985)**, and **Sara Burns (US 1983-1984) (3)**. Imagine my joy to learn that another WLPPFP alumnae, **Lourdes Rivera (US 1990-1991) (4, with Jill Morrison)** will carry on this critical but often overlooked aspect of Reproductive Justice.

And of course, the joy was overflowing when I reunited with some LAWAs Alumnae in Nairobi, Kenya (5). We were hosted by **Teresa Omondi-Adeitan (LAWA 2016-2017)** and **Beverly Mumbo-Otieno (LAWA 2019-2020)** at their beautiful offices the African Women Educationalists. They shared their memories of their time at Georgetown Law, and the amazing work they've done since graduation.

Finally, proud is too mild of a word to express my feelings about **Pela Boker Wilson (LAWA 2017-2018) (6)** becoming the newest member of the United Nations Commission on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The world will benefit from her brilliance and dedication to advancing racial justice.



## Alumnae Spotlight

The WLPPFP and LAWA Fellows are always tackling new ventures and finding innovative ways to advance gender justice. Check out some of their activities here!

**Nyanjagi Ally (LAWA 1995-1996)** who completed her assignment in Baghdad, Iraq in June 2022 is now the Assistant Representative (Protection) stationed in Kampala, Uganda.

**Robyn Carr Baggetta (US 2007-2008)** is Senior Counsel with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

**Sabrina Bernadel (US 2020-2021)** is now Counsel in the Education & Workplace Justice team at the National Women's Law Center.

**Asees Bhasin (US 2020-2021)** is at the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University. She is heading the Evidence Equity Project, which seeks to examine how race informs evidentiary standards and determinations. Asees also published *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health and Its Devastating Implications for Immigrants' Rights*, with the Petrie-Flom Center at Harvard Law School.



Congratulations to **Johanna Bond (US 1998-1999)**, who is the new Dean of Rutgers Law School. She also published a book, *Global Intersectionality and Contemporary Human Rights*.

**Hon. Dora C. Kanabahita Byamukama (LAWA 1995-1996)** reports "I am a Member of FemWise - Africa, a network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation. I am currently working with UN Women on a judiciary gender policy for Uganda, after developing a resource and training manual on gender responsive adjudication for the judiciary with the support of IDLO. I have also been engaged as a UNFPA Consultant developing a strategic plan for the Regional Women's Forum of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) which focuses on Women, Peace and Security. In a nutshell, I am still putting all the information, skills, and network acquired from LAWA to use, and am very grateful for the opportunity."



Top: The LAWA Fellows present at the School of Foreign Service, African Studies Department on Georgetown's Main Campus. Above: The 2022-2023 Fellows after attending oral arguments at the Supreme Court.



*We are very sad to report that Eli Evans, one of the visionaries and earliest supporters of the Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship, passed July of last year.*

**Bonnie Carlson (US 2019-2020)** has published *Keeping Guns in the Hands of Abusive Partners: Prosecutorial and Judicial Subversion of Federal Firearms Laws* in the Brooklyn Law Review.

**Nadine Chabrier (US 2007-2008)** is Senior Policy Counsel with the Center for Responsible Lending.

**Emily Chapuis (US 2009-2010)** is Deputy General Counsel with the United States Copyright Office.

Viva Las Vegas! **Courtney Cross (US 2013-2014)** will be designing a new law clinic at UNLV.

**Dr. Angela Dwamena-Aboagye (LAWA 1994-1995)** is the Executive Director of The Ark Foundation.

**Rehim Elala (LAWA 2020-2021)** is in Cairo as a Resettlement Expert with UNHCR Egypt.

**Sinsi Hernández-Cancio (US 1995-1996)** is now the Vice President for Health Justice at the National Partnership for Women and Families.

**Jenny Hunter (US 2004-2005)** continues to provide invaluable insight at PoPville and Balls and Strikes on workers' rights issues, including the livable wage for tipped workers and the right of unionized workers to strike.



Welcome back **Margaret Johnson (US 1995-1996)**! Margaret was in Australia doing a Fulbright Fellowship. Her research project was "Comparative Menstrual Justice in Australia and the United States."

Congratulations to **Maria Jurua (LAWA 2013-2014)**, who has been promoted to Director of Policy and Government Relations at Humanity United. She notes "In this new role I co-lead our Policy and Government Relations team that is responsible for influencing governments and multilateral institutions in pursuit of policy change and regulatory action that cultivate the conditions for enduring peace and freedom."

**Brook Kelly-Green (US 2008-2009)** has joined the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation as the Senior Director of the Gender and Reproductive Equity Portfolio.

**Sheila Kinaheirwe (LAWA 2016-2017)** recently transitioned to a Lead role with the Mastercard Foundation. She reports "I am currently the Program Lead for Gender and Safeguarding. Looking forward to this next step in my career journey."

**Debbi Pollock Lindenberg (US 1992-1993)** is the Executive Director of Capital for Children.

**Emilia Nuiselie Lobti (LAWA 2008-2009)** is a Protection Officer at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Rwandan Operation.

**Desireé Luckey (US 2019-2020)** joined the Reproductive Health Initiative for Telehealth Equity & Solutions as a Policy Analyst.

**Lauren McCulloch (US 2016-2017)** is excited to join the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania as a Custody Hearing Officer.

**Dunia Mekonnen (LAWA 2015-2016)** reports: "I was interviewed by VOA on the recent decision of SCOTUS on *Roe v. Wade*. I provided my analysis of the decision from an international human rights law perspective. I argued that the narrow interpretation of liberty by SCOTUS is not aligned with what is contained under international human rights law but also contravenes the court's own analysis 50 years ago."

**Lily Milwit (US 2021-2022)** joined Equal Justice Under Law as a staff attorney. She is also teaching Reproductive Justice at the University of Baltimore Law School. None other than **Margaret Johnson (US 1995-1996)** put the call out for qualified candidates, and the WLPPFP network came through. Word has it that Lily is FABULOUS!

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**Jill Morrison (US 1998-1999)** received the 2022-2023 Fahy Teaching Award for Graduate Programs. She also published an article in the *Howard Law Journal* (co-authored with **Anna Reed**) titled, *Taking Food from the Mouths of Babes: WIC's Punitive Treatment of Low-Income Mothers Who Won't or Can't Breastfeed*.

**Prudence Mutiso (LAWA 2017-2018)** is a Legal Advisor for Africa at the Center for Reproductive Rights-Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya.

**Mooya Lynn Nyaundi (LAWA 2012-2013)** is now at the Open Society Foundation as the US-Africa policy lead in the advocacy and campaigns team.

**Anna Reed (US 2021-2022)** is the Director of Legal Services at the Elephant Circle, where she works to secure birthing spaces free from violence and coercion.

**Naomi Rodriguez (US 2021-2022)** is an Attorney at the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (DC-Metro Region).

**Aram Schvey (US 2008-2009)** is a Senior Congressional Advisor in the Office to Monitor & Combat Trafficking in Persons at the US Department of State.

**Cherer Aklilu Shaffo (LAWA 2012-2013)** adds to the considerable LAWA presence at the UN, reporting that she is now with the UN Women Ethiopia Country Office, working as a Program Officer for Gender and Elections under the Women in Leadership and Governance Program.

**Katie Wallat (US 2012-2013)** works for the Colorado Center on Law and Policy, doing anti-poverty advocacy work.

**Julia Zabbu (LAWA 2021-2022)** is doing advocacy work for the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa.



Left: The LAWA Fellows enjoying the annual awards lunch for the Washington Lawyers' Committee.

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Top: These LAWAs certainly deliver! Sheila Kinaheirwe (2016-2017), Beverly Mumbo-Otieno (2019-2020) and Teresa Omondi-Adeitan (2016-2017) gather in Kigali, Rwanda at Women Deliver. Above left: Vasu Reddy (US 2013-2014) and Sinsi Hernández-Cancio (US 1995-1996), and right: Emily Martin (US 1999-2000) and Jessi Leigh Swenson (US 2010-2011) at the National Partnership for Women and Families party.

## Save the Date

We will welcome the WLPPFP and LAWA Class of 2023-2024 on Monday, September 18th, at noon with a lunch at the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum, which is hosting an exhibit: *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*. Director Emerita Mary Hartnett will provide brief remarks at this special event, which marks 40 years of the US program and 30 years for LAWA!

## LAWA Thesis Topics

The LAWA Fellows presented their theses at the main campus, to USAID, and to a global audience on Zoom. Visit our website to see the video of their fascinating presentations.

**Abigail Nthuba** - "The Cow has Eaten in Our Field": Reforming the Cultural Practice of Tshenyo (payment of damages for pregnancy out of wedlock)

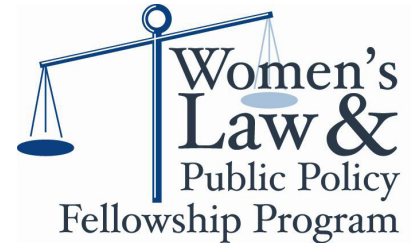
**Ramatoulie Isatou Jallow** - Peace By Piece: Building a Gender Sensitive Conflict Prevention Framework in Botswana

**Ophelia Kemigisha** - We ARE Family: Expanding Uganda's Legal Framework to Protect the Property Rights of Women in Different Family Arrangements

**Ashah M. Mwanga** - Qadhi Conundrum: A Case for Formalized Qadhi Courts in Uganda to Advance Family Justice for Muslim Women

**Ingrid Ashaba Ogwang** - For Mothers, Lovers and Daughters: Mitigating Bias in Local Leaders' Adjudication of Land Matters Under Uganda's Customary Tenure System

**Sharleen Awuor Aduor** - Appreciation or Appropriation?: Legal Strategies to Safeguard Artisan Women's Intellectual Property Rights in Kenya.



## Advisory Board

### Deborah Epstein

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

### Marcia Greenberger

Co-President Emerita, National Women's Law Center

### Mary Hartnett

WLPPFP Director Emerita and Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center

### 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

