

# OUTREACH

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

2025

**SPRING | SUMMER**

## **Women's Law & Public Policy and LAWA Fellows *Ku Chalo!***

**LAWA Fellow Bwalya Chisanga inspires the audience at  
graduation! Check out her remarks on page 2.**





**Jill C. Morrison**  
Executive Director

There's nothing I love more than graduation season. It is a time for the Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows to reflect on all they have accomplished in such a short period. Once again, the graduation festivities featured a LAWA Fellow at the podium, selected to address her classmates during their section's ceremony. I was touched, as many professors commented on what an impactful and inspiring message Bwalya Chisanga delivered. Here are just a few excerpts:



*In Zambia, we have a phrase - "Zambia Ku Chalo." It means "Zambia to the world." It is a celebration of stepping beyond what we have become accustomed to and accomplishing greatness. But more than that, it speaks to readiness, boldness, and an unwavering spirit to leave an indelible impact wherever we might be.*

...

*The hardest thing I've ever faced was losing my mother to COVID-19 in 2021. There have been moments I've felt completely hopeless. But through my grief, I've learned something powerful: that in our darkest moments, even when we are at our greatest loss, the bravest thing we can do... is simply try. To show up, even when we feel broken. To ask for help. And to keep trying. I share this, not because it's unique to me, but because all of us, in one way or another, have faced hardships. And we will face many more. As lawyers, our work will shape lives. Whether in big law, public interest, policy, or academia, we must rise to the calling.*

...

*It has been said: to whom much is given, much is expected... We have been privileged. Because of this, we don't get to be ordinary. We have a duty to be extraordinary. It's not about "self." It's about "impact" – about others. And especially as lawyers! The world right now has enough people thinking only about themselves. It desperately needs us to be extraordinary - to lead with love, compassion, and courage.*

...

*As we step forward from Georgetown Ku Chalo, may we always ask ourselves:  
"What will happen to others when I do what I do?"  
And when in doubt, may we always choose the extraordinary path.*

*Thank you.*

Thank YOU, Bwalya, for the reminder that it is truly a privilege to do work that has the power to impact people's lives. This is something that our Alumnae do not take for granted. Read about some of their work starting on page 3. Women's Law & Public Policy and LAWA Fellows *Ku Chalo*!

## Alumnae Updates!

In these days when inspiration is in short supply, look no further than the amazing WLPPFP and LAWA Alumnae, who are making a difference in their communities and around the world.

Publication Alert! **Wubrest Adamu (LAWA 2023-2024)** authored *It's No Longer Shrinking, It's Being Crushed: Why the Closure of Civic Space in Ethiopia Should Matter to the U.S.* for the Amnesty International Blog, where she is the Almami Cyllah Fellow.



Congratulations to **Angelina Atabong (LAWA 2013-2014)**, who completed a three-week human rights exchange program sponsored by the State Department. Angelina will use

her findings to engage Cameroonian judges, lawyers, and civil society actors in strengthening collaboration in investigating, documenting, and prosecuting human rights violations.

**Pela Boker-Wilson (LAWA 2017-2018)**



continues her work on the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, with a recent review of Kenya's legal aid initiatives, and a

critique of indigenous land rights and abuse of migrant workers.

We are so proud of **Megan Challender (US 2015-2016)**, who received the Fairfax County Democratic Committee's Lynda Robb Community Service Award for her work to protect democracy in Northern Virginia.

Thought-leader **Consolata Chikoti (LAWA 2023-2024)** published commentary in the *Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Global Health Now Newsletter*, entitled *Beijing+30: A New Generation Needed to Advance Women's Rights*.



Our warmest congratulations to **Deborah Epstein (US 1990-1991)**, who was awarded Georgetown Law Center's 2025 Frank F. Fleegal Excellence in Teaching Award. The Fellows got to experience some of her classroom magic when she joined us for our annual seminar on domestic violence in D.C.



**Rebecca Epstein (US 1996-1997)** launched the Center for Gender Justice and Opportunity's *Adultification Bias Bench Card*, a critical tool to reduce implicit bias and ensure that Black girls are treated more fairly in the justice system.

**Emily Gabos (US 2024-2025)** will join the chambers of Judge Anita Brody, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania as a judicial clerk.

**Liliana Garces (US 1998-1999)** was a co-author on a very timely piece of scholarship published in the *Journal of Higher Education* entitled, *"We're on Our Own Out Here": Faculty Member Responses to Legislative Threats to Academic Freedom and Scholarship on Race*.



**Janel George (US 2005-2006)** joined the LAWA Fellows for a dynamic workshop on building and working with coalitions. Thank you, Janel!





**Ngenarr-Yassin Jeng (LAWA 2021-2022)** and **Ramou Jallow (LAWA 2022-2023)** connected in Nairobi for the launch of Solidarity for African Women's Rights' Maputo Protocol Toolkit for Young Change-makers. Ramou moderated the launch, and Ngenarr moderated the young change-makers panel discussion.

**Anjela Jenkins (US 2011-2012)** is Senior Director of Global Inclusive Health Advocacy at Special Olympics.

**Scholastica Jullu (LAWA 2000-2001)** is now a Director at the Justice and Empowerment Organization.

**Debra Katz (US 1985-1986)** was the keynote speaker for the University of Pennsylvania Women's Association's annual Carrie B. Kilgore dinner. Her lecture was about Carrie Kilgore, a suffragist and the first woman admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar. Debra also published an article on the same subject in *Ms. Magazine* titled *An Unsung Heroine of the Suffragists Can Show Us How to Deal with Failure*.



George Washington University School of Law Clinic Dean **Laurie Kohn (US 1998-1999)** (on the right) received the 2025 Distinguished Associate Dean Award. She is also the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Development, Graduate Programs & Online Learning.



**Rachel Muthoga (LAWA 2010-2011)** celebrated International Women's Day with a discussion of the role of women in Digital Public Infrastructure.



**Prudence Mutiso (LAWA 2017-2018)** contributed her expertise to an O'Neill Institute panel entitled, *South-South Dialogue: Lessons and Strategies from the Global South on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*.



Congratulations to **Teresa Omondi (LAWA 2016-2017)**, who was named one of the top 50 in-house lawyers in Kenya (Governance and CSO category).

**Lynn Paltrow (US 1984-1985)** was quoted in a N.Y. Times opinion piece about the country's birthrate. "If you look at other places in history, coercing women to have babies doesn't work...Women will do whatever they need to do to protect not only their own lives and health but the family that they're responsible for."

**Aparna Polavarapu (US 2010-2011)** has joined the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas as a Professor of Law.

**Kaitlyn Powell (US 2024-2025)** is joining her placement organization, the Center for Gender Justice and Opportunity.

Check out *The Nation* for insightful analyses of reproductive rights law by **Rachel Rebouché (US 2007-2008)**. Her most recent article is titled, *This Supreme Court Case is About More Than "Defunding" Planned Parenthood*.

**Lourdes Rivera (US 1990-1991)**, President of Pregnancy Justice, shared her brilliance at Georgetown Law's annual Supreme Court Term in Review.

**Claire Shennan (US 2024-2025)** will continue at the Bazelon Center as a Fellow.

**Muluka Hussen Shifa (LAWA 2017-2018)** published a chapter in a Turkish textbook, *Trademark Law in its Different Aspects*, entitled *Marking Territories: Unraveling the Starbucks-Ethiopia Coffee Trademark Battle*.



Congratulations to newly minted Cohen Milstein partner **Harini Srinivasan (US 2014-2015)**! Harini is in the Civil Rights & Employment Litigation practice and co-chairs the firm's Hiring and Diversity Committee.



**Hilda Stuart (LAWA 2012-2013)**, 4th from right, participated in a dialogue hosted by UN Tanzania, as part of the campaign *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence*.

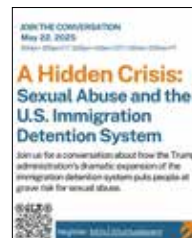
Congratulations to **Erika Sussman (US 2001-2002)**, Executive Director of the Center for Survivor Agency & Justice. Her organization successfully petitioned the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for rulemaking on coerced debt. As Erika explains:

*For too long, our consumer financial system has placed the burden of addressing coerced debt on individual survivors, penalizing survivors for their own victimization, and holding them responsible for debt that is not their own. With its notice of rulemaking, the CFPB has taken a powerful step forward in addressing this systemic abuse, opening pathways to economic security and physical safety for survivors across the nation.*

**Jessi Leigh Swenson (US 2010-2011)** is stepping down from her position at the National Partnership for Women & Families to try her hand at creative writing. We can't wait to curl up with your bestseller, Jessi!



One last SCOTUS rally with Mike before **Marya Gassman Torrez (US 2007-2008)** departs PPFA for retirement in Lisbon, Portugal! The reproductive rights movement is grateful for your decades of work, Marya!



**Cynthia Totten (US 1999-2000)**, Deputy Executive Director of Just Detention International, hosted a webinar on how the Trump Administration's expansion of immigration detention is putting people at risk of sexual abuse, entitled *A Hidden Crisis: Sexual Abuse and the U.S. Immigration Detention System*.

You know it's a world-class symposium when **Shanta Trivedi (US 2020-2021)**, **Lily Milwit (US 2021-2022)** and **Margaret Johnson (US 1995-1996)** are at the podium! The University of Baltimore School of Law's Center on Applied Feminism held its 2025 Symposium, with the theme *States and the Battle to Secure Reproductive Freedom in a Post-Dobbs World*. Shanta also joined **Joanna Grossman (US 1995-1996)** on a panel at the American University Washington College of Law Symposium entitled *Adolescent Access to Reproductive Health Care Post-Dobbs*.





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(1) The 2023-2024 Fellows joined the current fellows for our meeting with Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. (2) LAWA Alumnae Mooya Nyundi (2012-2013), Maria Jurua (2013-2014) and Tina Alai (2012-2013) connect in Nairobi. (3) Susanna Birdsong (US 2013-2014) at the Supreme Court. (4) 2024-2025 Fellows Ally, Delesiya, Thanaa, and Barbara enjoy the National Partnership for Women and Families gala

## LAWA Thesis Presentations

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 LAWAs on successfully completing their theses, and delivering captivating presentations to both virtual and live audiences.

**Sandra Ahamya**

*She Works Hard for Her Money: Ensuring Legal Protections for Ugandan Women Receiving Funding for Their Low-Value and Informal Enterprises*

**Bwalya Chisanga**

*"That's inAPPropriate!": Strengthening Zambia's Cyber Laws to Combat Online Harassment of Bana-Mayo Politicians*

**Barbara Aromo**

*The Fraying Basket: Ensuring Legislative Protection of the 35% Gender Quota in South Sudan*

**Mary Musoni**

*Ctrl + Alt + Delete: Rewriting Rwanda's GBV Law to Confront Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence*



The LAWAs were hosted by the George Washington University Institute for African Studies and Gender Equity in International Affairs Initiative.



## 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

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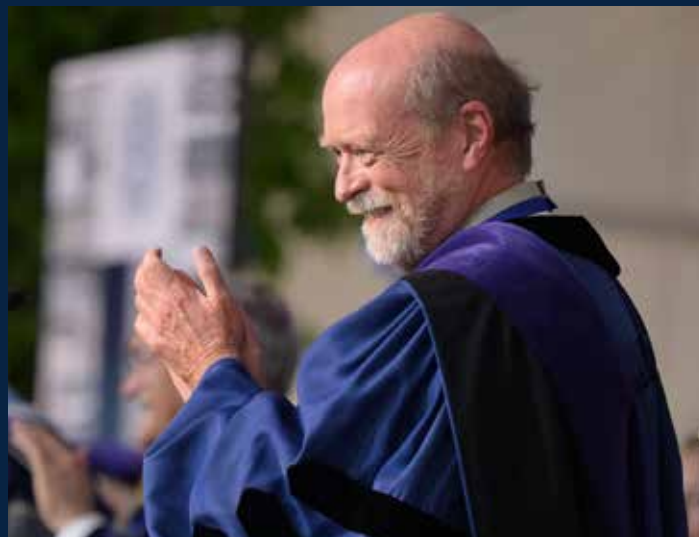
Senior Advisor, National Partnership for Women & Families

**Wendy Williams**

Professor Emerita, Georgetown University Law Center

# Save the Date

We will welcome the Women's Law & Public Policy and Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellows at a luncheon on Monday, September 8th at 12:30pm. The keynote conversation will feature Lynn Paltrow, founder of National Advocates for Pregnant Women (now Pregnancy Justice).



The Women's Law & Public Policy and Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa Fellowship programs extend our best wishes to **Bill Treanor** as he steps down from his position as Dean of Georgetown University Law Center. We are grateful for his leadership and 15 years of support for our Fellows and Alumnae!



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