

OUTREACH

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

2018 - 2019
FALL | WINTER



A New Adventure!

The WLPPFP Class of 2018-2019 enjoyed a day of fresh air, zip-lining and team-building as they kicked off the Fellowship year.

Meet Our 2018-2019 Women's Law & Public Policy Fellows

WLPPFP welcomes four Leadership & Advocacy for Women in Africa (LAWA) Fellows and seven US Law Fellows. Our LAWA Fellows pursue a Master of Law (LL.M.) degree at Georgetown with an emphasis on women's human rights, while our US Fellows work on gender equality issues at prominent organizations in Washington, DC. All of our Fellows participate together in bi-weekly seminars, trainings, and other events that foster professional development as lawyers committed to promoting gender equality and social justice.



Before her appointment as the Clinical Teaching Fellow in Georgetown's Domestic Violence Clinic, **Jabeen Adawi** served as the Victim Legal Network of DC

Project Coordinator at the Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC). There she coordinated ten DC legal service providers to create an enhanced referral network serving victims of crime with any legal needs stemming from their victimization. Prior to joining NVRDC, she had worked for three years as a staff attorney at the Sexual Assault Legal Institute of the Maryland Coalition against Sexual Assault, where her responsibilities included providing civil legal services to survivors of sexual assault. Jabeen is a 2010 graduate of the American University, Washing-

ton College of Law. At American she participated in the International Human Rights Law Clinic as a student attorney, focusing on immigration and refugee law. Jabeen also received her BS in Applied Physics from New Jersey Institute of Technology in 2006. She is Jabeen is a native Urdu speaker and is proficient in Hindi.



Ayaisha Agbor is from Cameroon. Ayaisha became aware of the gender-based discrimination against women back when she was a young girl, and she has actively

engaged herself in organizations and projects devoted to women's rights and welfare since college. Before joining the LAWA Program, she worked with the Chambermaidens

Association, the Samaritan House of Empowerment, and was a project facilitator with the Ajemalibu Self Help, where she advocated for women's rights to land in forest communities. Ayaisha received her Licence en Droit (English Private Law) from the University of Yaounde II in Soa, Cameroon in 2007. She awaits the defense of her Master's Thesis in Development Studies.



In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda is delighted to welcome **Natasha Chabria**. Her Fellowship is generously supported

by the Ford Foundation. Natasha is a 2018 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law, where she was a Teaching Assistant for

Legal Research and Writing and student attorney in the Domestic Violence Clinic. Natasha also served on the Student Bar Association and the Multi-Cultural Law Student Association. She has held internships with the National Institute for Reproductive Health and ACLU Women's Rights Project. Natasha was the Boston Lead Organizer for the Women's March. Before going to law school, Natasha had a career in education, and remains committed to mentoring. She received her BA, cum laude, from Tufts University in 2015, with a major in Peace and Justice Studies, and minors in Education and Linguistics. She is fluent in Hindi.



LAWA Fellow **Keekab Sirgew Gelaw** is from Ethiopia. She has been a part-time lecturer at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia since 2012. Prior to that, she had

held various research and management positions including at the United Nations-mandated University for Peace and the Mission for Community Development program. Keekab hopes that her experience at Georgetown Law will allow her to further her gender-related studies, especially on gender-based violence against women. Keekab earned her both Master's degree and LL.B. from Addis Ababa University, in 2011 and 2008 respectively. She is the 2014 president-elect and former board member of the Association of Women in Business in Ethiopia.

Before joining the LAWLA Program, **Meaza Sirgiw Gelaw** was a Federal Prosecutor at the Federal Attorney General in Ethiopia, where she was born and raised.

Throughout her career, she has worked with many women victimized by sexual assault, violence, or cultural biases against women,

and has come to realize how effective legislation and advocacy could come to their aid. Meaza wishes to strengthen her advocacy skills and learn about women's rights issues from an international perspective during her Fellowship year, so that she can better serve the needs of women back in Ethiopia. Meaza received her LL.B. from Addis Ababa University in 2014.



Rachel Kuenzi joins the National Partnership for Women & Families working in the Reproductive Health & Rights group. Rachel graduated cum laude from

Georgetown University Law Center in 2018. She previously interned with the Legal Voice and the National Women's Law Center where she worked on a variety of issues, including the rights of pregnancy and parenting students, religious refusals, and non-discrimination in health care. At Georgetown, she represented clients in the Domestic Violence Clinic, and conducted research on the medical, legal, and ethical dilemmas facing health care providers serving women who have been subjected to Female Genital Cutting. She was also active in Advocates Against Sexual Violence, If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice, and Outlaw. Rachel graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Scripps College with a BA, dual majoring in Honors Legal Studies and Politics/International Relations. She speaks Italian and Spanish.



Michelle Liu is the Teaching Fellow for the International Women's Human Rights Clinic. Michelle is a 2013 Dean's List graduate of Georgetown University

Law Center. As a Student Advocate in the International Women's Human Rights Clinic,

Michelle drafted an amendment to the Tanzanian Constitution to strengthen women's marital rights. Michelle was an Associate at Linklaters LLP before joining the Hillary for America Campaign. Her work on the Hillary for America Campaign included mobilizing high profile Republican and Independent voters to publically support Clinton's candidacy. Michelle was a Peace Corps volunteer in Kenya, where she assisted in the management of an orphanage, and facilitated discussions on HIV prevention and gender-based violence among young women and girls. Michelle obtained a Bachelors of Business Administration from George Washington University in 2005.



The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace, and Security welcomes **Matt Moore** as the Hillary Rodham Clinton Law Fellow. Matt has extensive

experience researching international human rights and conflict resolution. As a summer associate at the Public International Law & Policy Group, Matt focused on legal issues in Iraq and Yemen. A 2018 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, he was Articles Editor for the Georgetown Journal of International Law and an intern at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Before law school, Matt conducted research on conflict resolution in Medellín, Colombia and interned for the New Yorker magazine. He has published on topics including the history of human rights and Brexit. Matt received his Master's in International Affairs from Columbia University in 2010, and his BA in Politics from Oberlin College in 2004.



The Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs welcomes **Kendall Onyendu**. Kendall is a 2018 graduate of the University of Texas

School of Law, and is the Small, Webber, Spencer Fellow. Kendall has interned with the Brennan Center for Justice in New York and Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, where she had opportunities to work to advance a range of civil rights issues including educational equality, voting rights, and fair housing. At UT, she participated in the UT Law Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic and was a staff editor of the Texas Journal of Civil Liberties & Civil Rights. Before law school, Kendall worked as the Assistant Director of Admissions at the University of Southern California. She received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California in 2011 with a major in American Studies and Ethnicity and her Master's in Organization and Leadership Development from Columbia University in 2012.



LAWA Fellow **Abigail Suwu-Kaindoh** is from Sierra Leone, where she worked as Senior State Counsel at the Law Officers Department of Sierra Leone. She is

committed to improving the lives of rural women by advocating for access to education and business opportunities, as a proactive measure against child marriage, teen pregnancy and domestic violence. At Georgetown Law, she hopes to enhance her understanding of international bi-lateral investment agreements and their impact on women's human rights. She received her LL.B. from the Sierra Leone Law School in 2007.



Tristan Sullivan-Wilson joins HIPS, with the generous support of the Ford Foundation. Tristan is a 2018 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law,

where she concentrated on poverty law and economic justice. She was the chairperson of If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive

Justice, and the Executive Articles Editor of the Northeastern University Law Review. Tristan held Teaching Assistantships with Professor Peter Enrich and Professor Johanna Dennis. She also served as Research Assistant to Professor Wendy Parmet, focusing on public health law and to Professor Emeritus Steve Subrin, focusing on American legal history and development. Tristan has held internship positions with the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, the National Institute for Reproductive Health, the National Women's Law Center, Vermont Legal Aid, and Women Helping Battered Women. Tristan also graduated from the University of Vermont in 2014, with majors in Psychology and Political Science.

Please consider making a pledge to the Cassandra Q. Butts Memorial Endowed Fellowship Fund.

We want to make sure that future generations of women's rights attorneys have the WLPPFP experience.

Visit <https://www.law.georgetown.edu/wlppfp/donate/> to make your gift.

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Clockwise from top left: LAWALumnae Yamrot Moges (2014-2015), Mooya Nyaundi (2012-2013), Jackie Asimwe-Mwesige (2000-2001), and Maereg Alemayehu (2015-2016) bond at the Welcome Luncheon; Neena Chaudhry (US 1997-1998) shares her Title IX expertise at the Luncheon; Professor Deborah Epstein (US 1990-1991) opened her lovely home for our farewell party for the 2017-2018 WLPPFPs; our founding mothers Wendy Webster Williams and Sue Deller Ross were delighted to meet the new LAWALumnae; Abigail Suwu-Kaindoh (LAWALumnae 2018-2019), with Dean Treanor has already mastered the art of networking; the fellows engage in some fun and games during the annual retreat; and the new LAWALumnae made a visit to the African Studies Program on the main campus of Georgetown, where they were welcomed by Prof. Lahra Smith and Kimberly Caparas.



Reflections from my LAWA Year

Pela Boker-Wilson (LAWA 2017-2018)

Many LAWA Alumnae have conveyed to me how impactful the experience is for them. Pela Boker-Wilson did an extraordinary job putting it into words. With her permission, here is a portion of her final report on her participation in the LAWA Program.



I have thought about my Georgetown opportunity and the value that this education has added to my professional career. A couple of weeks ago, I visited the law school campus (Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law in Monrovia, Liberia) and was fortunate to have a conversation with some young female students. They were all fiery and passionate about the law, asking about my Georgetown experience. I found myself responding as if it was a rehearsal for my LAWA thesis presentation. Truth be told, my time at Georgetown Law has given me a new zest for the law. The renewed discipline that came with being a student once more has gone on to shape my work habits and dedication. I have learned to perform tasks with extreme diligence, aiming for perfection from start to finish. Every document emanating from my desk is a true representation of self. As such, I must strive for the same perfection I would desire in an exam or a research paper.

My perspective on legal education and life has also changed. While my current position does not allow me to directly apply what I learned in classes such as International and Comparative Women's Human Rights, or Gender and US Foreign Policy, what the rigorous curriculum at Georgetown enabled me to do is to teach myself whatever I want to know. This ability is what I believe legal education should be at the graduate level. You get to specialize, yet the curriculum is so rich and holistic that it touches on just about every legal issue there is. My Georgetown education has also boosted my confidence. I cannot place whether it is as a result of knowledge acquired, presentation and speaking skills or all of the above. I find myself readily and openly making contributions on issues. In instances where my knowledge of a particular is limited, I patiently ask questions, learn and give feedback. Truth be told, my Georgetown experience has made me a better person. I remain grateful that I could come and acquire the quality of education that I did.

Alumnae Spotlight

Presenting a brief (but impressive) alumnae update. We are delighted that recent LAWAs have taken the initiative to submit their theses for publication, and have had much success. WLPPFP Alumnae are also advocating for mothers, protecting voting rights, and keeping their nations safe and secure. Thank you for all of the terrific work you are doing in your countries and communities to protect and advance the rights of women and girls.

We are so sorry that we did not include **Angelina Atabong (LAWA 2013-2014)** on our long list of LAWA Alumnae contributors to the World Bank's Women Business and the Law 2018. Angelina also reports that she is also involved as an expert in the Global Center on Cooperative Security's project on Governance and Counterterrorism in Cameroon.

Monica Bhattacharya (US 2015-2016) joins **Amelia Bell (US 2015-2016)** at the Department of Labor. Monica reports "I LOVE my new job — the work is fascinating, I feel useful, and the environment is deliciously undramatic."

Pela Boker-Wilson (LAWA 2017-2018) returned to Liberia where she is now the Chief Legal Counsel for the National Investment Commission. Pela reports that although the position is not directly related to women's rights, she was delighted to find that there was a significant opportunity to promote gender inclusivity in government agreements.

Courtney Chappell (US 2004-2005) reports "I am starting a new job as the Advocacy Director at Legal Voice, a feminist organization in Seattle that protects and defends women's and LGBTQ rights through public impact litigation, legislative advocacy, and legal rights education."

Neena Chaudhry (US 1997-1998) is now General Counsel at the National Women's Law Center, and Senior Advisor of Education, where she will continue to utilize her Title IX expertise.

Jaspreet Chowdhary (US 2010-2011) is now the State Legislative Manager at the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center, where she is focusing on the ballot integrity program.

Professor Deborah Epstein (US 1990-1991) was one of the organizers of the Third Annual Gender Justice Colloquium at Georgetown. **Rebecca Epstein (US 1996-1997)** presented on the adultification of girls of color,

and current fellow **Matt Moore (US 2018-2019)**, who is at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, presented his work on intimate partner violence in conflict-affected countries.

Janel George (US 2005-2006) joined the Learning Policy Institute as a Senior Policy Analyst in June 2018, focusing on advancing educational equity for all students through evidence-based policies and practices. She is also continuing to serve as Co-Chair of the American Bar Association's Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Committee, which focuses on supporting lawyers in promoting civil rights, including voting rights. Finally, Janel is a founding member of a new ABA initiative under the ABA's Civil Rights and Social Justice Section focused on addressing legal issues impacting justice for African-Americans.

Vicky Karimi (LAWA 2014-2015) is in Juba, South Sudan where she is Secretary to the National Constitutional Amendment Committee.

We are incredibly proud of **Debra Katz (US 1985-1986)**, who represented Dr. Christine Blasey Ford in the hearings to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Debra was also featured in the Washington Post in September 2018, described as "the consummate lawyer for the #MeToo movement." The article also quoted WLPPFP Advisory Board Member Marcia Greenberger and gave the Fellowship a nice shout-out!

Maria Kisumbi (LAWA 2013-2014) is the Senior Associate for Policy and Government Relations at Humanity United. She is part of the team that supports the foundation's efforts to influence and strengthen public policy on human trafficking and violent conflict.

Jill Morrison (US 1998-1999) had the honor of interviewing Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg at an Equality Salon hosted by the National Women's Party. Jill also moderated a panel on Women and the Supreme Court, hosted by Rep. Don Beyer at George Mason University, and featuring **Emily Martin (US 1999-2000)**, Vice President for Education and Workplace Justice at the National Women's Law Center.

Prudence Mutiso (LAWA 2017-2018) is having her thesis, *Getting to Equal: Resolving the Judicial Impasse on the Weight of Non-Monetary Contribution in Kenya's Marital Asset Division*, published in the Michigan Journal of Gender & Law in the Spring of 2019. She is also working with the African Human Rights Journal to have her paper on Women's Political Participation in the Democratic Republic of Congo published in June 2019.

Rachel Muthoga (LAWA 2010-2011) a Board Member of Moving the Goalposts Kilifi, was awarded the International Olympic Committee's award for Women in Sport in Africa. Congratulations to Rachel!

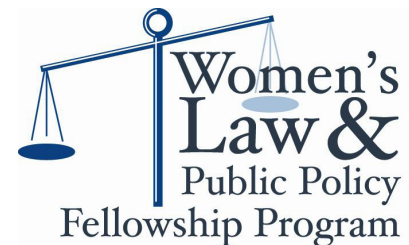
We are delighted to report that **Juliet Nyamao (LAWA 2017-2018)** was awarded the Almami Cyllah Fellowship with Amnesty International-USA. She is working in the Africa Program.

Mooya Nyaundi (LAWA 2012-2013) started a new job with the International Republican Institute working on democracy and governance.

FIDA Kenya won the Democracy Innovation Award 2018! Congratulations to Executive Director **Teresa Omondi (LAWA 2016-2017)**, and her wonderful team!

Jasmine Sankofa (US 2015-2016) was the lead researcher on a Human Rights Watch report on the impact of jailing mothers before trial in Oklahoma. The report, *You Miss So Much When You're Gone*, documents a spiraling cycle of horrific consequences initiated by pre-trial detention, including loss of child custody. The report and video are available at www.hrw.org.

Muluka Shifa (LAWA 2017-2018) reports that her thesis is being published in the William & Mary Policy Review. Muluka was also delighted to serve on a panel at the University of South Carolina on Technology and Access to Justice coordinated by **Aparna Polavarapu (US 2010-2011)**.



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