



**GEORGETOWN LAW  
JUVENILE JUSTICE CLINIC  
& INITIATIVE**

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*\*Not barred in the District of Columbia*

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After the excitement of adding new staff at the Juvenile Justice Clinic and Initiative, this academic year has been marked by the joy of watching the continued growth of the Clinic and the Initiative. Kris continues to find a way to do it all – currently serving as the Associate Dean for Clinics and Experiential Learning; leading the Clinic and Initiative; co-teaching the Police for Tomorrow fellowship program (<https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/police-for-tomorrow>); training defenders and prosecutors on implicit racial bias across the country; and writing an amazing book on race & adolescence that will be published by Random House. Eduardo Ferrer remains a Visiting Professor of Law in the Clinic and the Policy Director of the Initiative, supervising Clinic students and leading the Initiative’s efforts to make DC’s juvenile legal system the smallest, best, and most equitable system in the country. Katrechia Banks starts her second year as the Executive Assistant and Program Specialist of the Clinic and Initiative, while also serving as an emotional sounding board and coach for our students and staff. We still miss Ms. Wanda every day, but her memory and legacy is alive and well here.

We are blessed with a great team of fellows this year. Sai Iyer is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Prettyman Fellow in the Clinic, supervising students, teaching class, and managing his own heavy caseload. In the Initiative, we have three amazing fellows. Olajumoke “Jummy” Obayanju, our Racial Justice & Juvenile Defense Fellow, helps drive a number of our national initiatives focused on training and equipping youth defenders to more effectively challenge racial injustice in their individual representation and systemic reform efforts. Rebba Omer, our Juvenile Defense &

Policy fellow, helps coordinate our regional initiatives, particularly the efforts of the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center. Jennifer Ubiera, our Organizing & Advocacy Fellow, helps lead our local organizing and policy efforts. In recognition of her leadership, Jenn was recently selected as a Youth Justice Leadership Institute fellow with the National Juvenile Justice Network.

Wally has taken a leave of absence from the Clinic for the 2019-2020 academic year and has taken his expertise in children's law issues to London where he is the co-director of Georgetown's Center for Transnational Legal Studies (<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/ctls/>). While we miss his physical presence, he still makes time to keep us on point and provide us with invaluable guidance and support from afar.

While youth arrests and petitions in the District remain near recent lows, this year's Clinic class has been busy. Students have conducted numerous probable cause hearings, including one student who argued an initial hearing involving five co-respondents that lasted until 12:30 AM. Thanks to the student's incredible advocacy, his client was able to go home that morning and sleep in his own bed. Another student turned a relatively innocuous motion for return of our client's personal property into a motion to quash a search warrant and suppress evidence that led to the ultimate dismissal of the client's entire case. While there have been no trials yet this year, a number of students are currently preparing for trials scheduled to go before and after the New Year. Our client-centered, zealous representation on behalf of DC's youth remains the heart of our work and influences every project we undertake at the Initiative.

Unfortunately, as was the case when you were all students or fellows in the Clinic, there is always more work to do to ensure that youth are treated fairly by the juvenile legal system in the District and across the country. As a result, the Initiative continues to grow its work at the national, regional, and local levels.

Nationally, the Initiative is proud to have launched two new projects this year. In October, in partnership with National Juvenile Defender Center, we launched "Racial Justice for Youth: A Toolkit for Defenders" (<https://defendracialjustice.org/>). The Toolkit seeks to empower youth defenders with training, resources, and information to fight the over-policing, over-criminalization, and school exclusion of youth of color. Additionally, in January 2020, we will kick off our Ambassadors for Racial Justice Program – a year-long program for defenders committed to challenging racial injustice in the juvenile legal system. We have selected 10 defenders from different states who represent and advocate for system-involved youth.

The Initiative also continues its leadership in training youth defenders across the country. The flagship-training program continues to be the Juvenile Training Immersion Program (JTIP) Summer Academy that is hosted by the Initiative and NJDC every summer. This week-long training held in the District of Columbia is an intensive version of the various trainings that Kris and Eduardo conduct at defenders' offices across the country the rest of the year. Increasingly, progressive prosecutors are asking Kris and Eduardo to train their staff about race, adolescent development, and trauma – three of the four frames we have adopted within our approach at the Clinic.

Regionally, the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center (MAJDC), which is housed at the Initiative, began 2019 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, with a two-day training in Spanish for 18 juvenile defenders from all over the island. While Eduardo found it difficult at times to teach adolescent development and competency to stand trial in Spanish, the defenders in Puerto Rico were incredibly gracious, helpful, and appreciative of the effort to present in their native tongue. Indeed, MAJDC has made it a priority to support the important work of our Puerto Rican colleagues by funding the Spanish translation of three additional lessons from the Juvenile Training Immersion Program (JTIP) curriculum and the production of a "Know Your Rights" brochure used by defenders in detention centers.

In addition to our work in Puerto Rico, MAJDC added 18 new specialized juvenile defense attorney trainers to our region this past year. These attorneys became "certified" JTIP trainers at a three-day training hosted at Georgetown. West Virginia and Puerto Rico now have specialized juvenile defense trainers for the first time.

Locally, our work to reform DC's juvenile legal system and limit the ways in which our youth are pushed into it keep us very busy. We continue to convene two important youth justice coalitions in the District. With the Children's Law Center, we convene the Every Student Every Day (ESED) coalition, which brings together advocates who are working on ending the school to prison pipeline by advocating for increased investments in the education and supports students need to remain in class. We also convene the Youth Justice Project (YJP) coalition, which focuses specifically on shrinking and improving the juvenile legal system itself.

Additionally, with staff from Rights4Girls, Jennifer led a series of monthly community-based workshops for justice system-impacted girls in the District called "The Life of Girls." Each workshop featured a local speaker who explored and unpacked the various pathways into the justice system for girls of color. The goal of the workshop was to provide youth with information about the system itself to support their advocacy on issues they identified as most important. As part of her YJLI fellowship, Jennifer will be launching a new project with FAMM (formerly Families Against Mandatory Minimums) to create and sustain a youth justice organizing and advocacy academy for system-impacted youth. The academy will include trainings on social media, organizing, budget advocacy, storytelling, power analysis, and how to build an issue campaign. In October, the Initiative also hosted three days of events for Youth Justice Action Month to inspire advocacy and activism in youth justice and defense, amplify the voices of youth activists, and educate attendees on the work of local organizations that protect the rights of youth in the District. We hosted an Art and Youth Activism Night, a Free Minds Write Night, and a Career Expo and Panel.

Last, but certainly not least, the Clinic and Initiative have an international reach this year with Wally in London directing Georgetown's Center for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS). CTLS is unique in legal education. It brings students and faculty from twenty partner schools from all over the world to London where they study law and the global interactions of nations, create international friends and contacts, learn from each other, and gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the world's different cultures and approaches to solving legal problems. While in London, Wally is teaching a course on *International Agreements to Protect Children*, and has spent time with members of UNICEF U.K. and ECPAT, an organization fighting against

the trafficking of children, and British university faculty working on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. As much fun as Wally seems to be having in London, he promises to return next year, and we cannot wait to have him back.

While Georgetown Law and a number of local foundations generously support the Clinic and a number of the projects of the Initiative, much of our non-student related work could not be done without your support. We appreciate the gifts from those of you who made and continue to fulfill your multi-year pledges. We are incredibly grateful for that level of support and welcome new multi-year gifts. We also cherish all the support we receive from our loyal alumni. As we continue to grow our reach, your support becomes even more important.

As another year draws to a close and we reflect again on the work, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve the youth of the District and appreciate that this important work brought us all together as a JJC family. The experiences of Clinic – the late-night investigating, the Jordan hearing, supervision, mooted sessions, and the emotional highs and lows that we experience throughout the year – unite us all across class, across decades, and across generations. We love when you visit and love hearing about your marriages, your children, your careers, and your continued service to your community. Please come by and say hello when you are near campus. Never forget that there is a chair always open for you by Katrechia's desk.

Sincerely,

*Kris*

*Wally*

*Eduardo*

*Katrechia*

P.S. – In an effort to keep in greater touch in an increasingly technological age, we are expanding our social media presence. We would love to connect. You can find us at @GeorgetownJJI on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.