Sen. Patrick Leahy Delivers 17th Rauh Lecture

On Tuesday, June 16th, after a breakfast reception, United States Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) delivered the 17th annual Joseph L. Rauh Jr. Lecture to a standing room only crowd of 200 at UDC’s Window Room. Leahy, who as Chair of the Senate’s Judiciary Committee would preside over the confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor three weeks later, shared his views on the Sotomayor nomination, the nomination process and the political situation. His talk was filmed by C-SPAN which made the tape available on its website by the afternoon. He was introduced by Rauh Professor of Public Interest Law, Wade Henderson. UDC President Allen Sessoms, School of Law Foundation Chair Michael Rauh, and UDC-DCSL Dean Broderick all made brief welcoming remarks.

At the conclusion of Senator Leahy’s remarks, he took questions from two of the more than 20 members of the entering Class of 2012 who were in attendance, and he accepted the Dean’s Cup from Dean Broderick.

(See story and photos, pages 4-5)

Dean Annamaria Steward Elected to Head BADC!

UDC-DCSL Dean of Students, Annamaria Steward, will be the first African American woman president of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia (BADC), a 138 year old legal organization. She served in numerous positions including Director, Treasurer and Chair of the Young Lawyers Section and as a Board member, Secretary, and is currently Treasurer of the BADC.

Congratulations, Dean Steward!

John Brittain to Teach at UDC-DCSL!

Renowned civil rights attorney and former Thurgood Marshall School of Law Dean John Brittain has joined the UDC-DCSL faculty as a Visitor for academic year 2009-2010. Brittain comes to UDC from the D.C.-based Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law where he served as Chief Counsel and Senior Deputy. Dean Shelley Broderick says, “John Brittain is a true and life-long advocate for justice, particularly in the areas of civil rights and civil liberties. He is a seasoned litigator, a gifted teacher, and an inspiring public speaker. We’re incredibly fortunate and thrilled to have him join our faculty!” Welcome, Prof. Brittain!

(See John Brittain’s bio, page 41)
## Inside This Edition of the Advocate . . . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dean’s Corner</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Patrick Leahy Delivers 17th Rauh Lecture</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struggle to Vote Symposium</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion Wright Edelman’s BADC Talk</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Amendment Debate</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Whistleblower Assembly</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Access Denied” with Nan Aron</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Eco/Justice Cafes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Justice Panel</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Summer Fellowship Fair</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Summer Fellowship Auction</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Fellowship Placements</td>
<td>16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Katrina Legal Services</td>
<td>18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Organization Leaders</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDC-DCSL Clinic Highlights</td>
<td>20-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Housing and Consumer Clinic</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic</td>
<td>21-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- HIV/AIDS Clinic</td>
<td>23-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Community Development/Small Business Clinic</td>
<td>25-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Immigration Law Practicum</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Legislation Clinic</td>
<td>28-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean’s Fellows Photos</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Honors Convocation</td>
<td>32-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black History Month Photos</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Class Awards Luncheon</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrister’s Ball Photos</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Services/Placement Notes</td>
<td>37-38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Photos, Alumni Notes</td>
<td>38-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Faculty and Staff</td>
<td>40-41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above from left: Senator Patrick Leahy, the 17th Joe Rauh Lecturer, shows off his Dean’s Cup; D.C. Rep Eleanor Holmes Norton at the Law Review Symposium; and D.C. Appleseed Director Walter Smith at the Law Review Symposium.

Above from left: EPA scientist, Dr. Bill Hirzy; “Katrina Surgeons”; Barbara Arwine.  Below from left: our award-winning Director of Financial Aid, Nailah Williams and Kaleia Edmundo, ’09; Mazi Ucheomumu, ’09; and FERC Chair Jon Wellington, ’75.
On June 5, 2009, the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association acquiesced in the establishment of a part-time program at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. Hallelujah! The program will commence August 10, 2009 with a founding class of about 25 students.

ABA approval came after more than a year of planning, which commenced during spring semester, 2008. I want to thank our amazing team for their leadership and hard work: Academic Dean Ann Richardson and Professor Laurie Morin who planned the four-year curriculum; Admissions Dean Vivian Canty, Dean Annamaria Steward, and the entire student services staff who developed student services, programs and activities; Librarian Roy Balleste and IT Director Lewis Perry, who with library staff identified library and technology initiatives; and Dean Janice Washington who worked with me on the four-year expense and revenue budget. Our team was greatly aided by Rene DeVigne, Dean of Students at G.W. School of Law, our stalwart consultant.

Many members of the faculty participated in planning sessions, particularly regarding the curriculum, including the clinical program. Ultimately, the faculty voted unanimously on September 24, 2008, in support of the application to the ABA. The entire community worked hard to impress Christine Smith, Associate Dean at William Boyd Law School at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, who served as ABA Site Inspector in January of 2009. I had the honor of representing the School of Law in the April hearing before the ABA Accreditation Committee which took place in New Orleans, and the June hearing before the ABA Council of the Section in Indianapolis. I am told that in both votes our support was unanimous.

I am confident that our part-time program will be a great success. It is premised on three critical assumptions:
1. A commitment to enroll part-time classes whose profiles – test scores, grades, demographics and goals – are comparable to that of students in the full-time program.
2. The quality of the School of Law’s academic experience – courses and clinic – for all of its students will not be compromised.
3. Part-time students will participate fully in the School of Law community; they will have access to all student services and educational opportunities and be fully integrated in the student body, its organizations and activities.

Members of the UDC-DCSL community recognize that operating a part-time program will stretch human and financial resources, requiring a lot of hard work by everyone. Why then did the UDC-DCSL community undertake this effort?

The answer is simple. A part-time program will allow UDC-DCSL to more fully meet its dual statutory missions to “recruit and enroll students from racial, ethnic and other backgrounds traditionally underrepresented at the bar,” and to “represent the legal needs of low-income residents of the District of Columbia through the School’s legal clinics.”

Applications rose by 35 percent this year with an extraordinarily talented and diverse group of 1,600 applicants vying for 125 seats. We will continue to be the most diverse school in the nation with half of our students coming from population groups underrepresented at the bar.

During academic year 2008-09, UDC-DCSL students provided 85,000 hours of legal services on behalf of the District of Columbia’s most vulnerable residents, including men, women and children affected by or infected with the AIDS virus; children with special education needs; tenants fighting illegal rent increases and tenant organizations seeking to purchase and renovate their buildings; seniors, immigrants, small business entrepreneurs and many others. Students in the part-time program, like those in the full-time program, will participate in the mandatory Community Service Program and in two mandatory clinics. The part-time program, when fully implemented, will add 100 students who will provide a minimum of 36,000 additional hours of desperately needed legal services per year, and most likely many more.

The UDC-DCSL community is deeply committed to providing an affordable and accessible legal education to a diverse student body – the members of which are in turn committed to serving those most in need who could not otherwise afford legal representation – through UDC-DCSL’s comprehensive program of clinical legal education. Our hope and our expectation is that UDC-DCSL’s full- and part-time programs one day soon will serve as models for legal education and that tax payers and citizens everywhere will clamor for substantial required clinical service on the part of all publicly funded or subsidized law schools.

I will keep you posted on the part-time program.

Enjoy this edition of the Advocate!

- Shelley Broderick
On June 16th, 2009, a standing room only crowd of 200 students, alumni and friends attended the 17th annual Joseph L. Rauh Jr. Lecture by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. (See story on page 1)

C-Span covered the event and you can view Sen. Leahy’s speech by going to http://www.c-span.org/ and typing “Leahy University of the District of Columbia” into their search box at the upper right of the home page.
On Friday, March 27th, the David A. Clarke School of Law held its annual Law Review Symposium entitled The Struggle to Vote: the Right to Political Self-Determination in the District of Columbia and Beyond.

The program looked at recognition under International Law of a right to political self-determination and explored the D.C. vote through that lens. Two panels presented different aspects of this issue. The morning panel began with Dr. Seigfreid Weissner of St. Thomas University, giving a keynote address about indigenous peoples and their struggle for recognition and a political voice in several parts of the world. Mr. Luqman Barwari from the Kurdish National Congress and Mr. Timothy Cooper of World Rights then addressed the audience. Mr. Barwari discussed the plight of the Kurdish people who have been seeking representation in the governments of Iraq, Turkey, Iran and Syria for decades. Mr. Cooper discussed his decade-long effort to litigate the issue of D.C. voting rights in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and described his new strategy to pursue domestic litigation based on customary international law. The morning program concluded with a lively conversation between Dr. Weissner and Mr. Cooper, moderated by DCSL 2L Katherine Tackett, regarding the application of international law concepts to the practical question of D.C. voting rights. The panelists and the audience spoke about the ways that an international
law perspective can revitalize the long debate about the political voice of the citizens of the District and about the challenges and advantages of pursuing international litigation in domestic courts.

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton began the afternoon program with a rousing address expressing her hopes for a political voice for the people of the District and her indignation at the tactics being used to disenfranchise those citizens. The afternoon panel was moderated by DCSL 3L Elizabeth Crow and included: Wade Henderson, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Walter Smith, Executive Director of the D.C. Appleseed Center; Johnny Barnes, Executive Director of the National Capital Area ACLU; Ilir Zherka, executive Director of D.C. Vote; and At-Large

D.C. Councilmember Phil Mendelson. These participants are the leading lights of the long struggle to secure political freedom for the citizens of the District. Their discussion focused on the current state of the D.C. House Voting Rights Act and the state of the political rights of D.C. citizens.

Both panels were well attended and resulted in lively discussions amongst the panelists and the members of the audience. Many different opinions were expressed but all of the participants shared the view that the citizens of the District deserve a real voice in their government and that all possible solutions should be explored. At this critical moment in the history of the struggle for representation for the citizens of the District, the Symposium provided a forum for the leaders of that effort to talk about their progress and to consider a new perspective.

- John White, ’09

Above, applause. Below, from left: Liz Crowe, ’09: Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton holding the School of Law’s Pathfinder Award with Dean Broderick.
School of Law News & Events

Marian Wright Edelman BADC Talk

Each year, UDC-DCSL hosts the Bar Association of the District of Columbia’s (BADC’s) annual Neglect and Delinquency Practice Institute for attorneys appointed by the D.C. Superior Court to represent children in abuse and neglect cases in Family Court.

This year’s Institute featured a keynote speech by Marian Wright Edelman, the founder and CEO of the Children’s Defense Fund, who addressed various topics covered in her latest book, *The Sea is So Wide and My Boat is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation*. Ms. Edelman remained afterward to meet attendees and to autograph book copies.

2nd Amendment Debate

UDC School of Law students and friends packed Room 201 for a Second Amendment debate hosted by the UDC Federalist Society Chapter on April 2nd, 2009. The debate featured Walter Smith, from D.C. Appleseed, and Clark Neily, from the Institute for Justice, two lawyers who were closely involved with the recent U.S. Supreme Court case District of Columbia v. Heller. UDC Law Professor Matthew Fraidin moderated the discussion.

A common misnomer concerning the Second Amendment, which both sides immediately agreed on, is that it requires choosing between gun rights or gun control rather than finding a common ground that reaches across the policy divide. The thoughtful presentation of opposing views allowed the audience to realize that the divide is not insurmountable. "People seemed interested and attentive and asked very good questions, I thought," commented Walter Smith. "I really appreciated the chance to come discuss the issue at UDC," added Clark Neily. Many students said that the debate was a positive experience and very informative on a topic that is often muddied; some felt the debate was one of the best events of the year.

The debate was made possible by cooperation between the UDC School of Law administration, the UDC Student Bar Association and the Federalist Society. Dean Shelley Broderick, who serves on the Board of D.C. Appleseed, assisted by suggesting and inviting Walter Smith to participate in the debate. The National Federalist Society assisted previous UDC Federalist Society Chapter President Jerad Tomac in inviting Clark Neily to participate.

For the past seven years, Mr. Smith has been the Executive Director of D.C. Appleseed, a non-profit, public interest organization that works with pro bono lawyers on various issues facing the national capital area. Before coming to D.C. Appleseed, Mr. Smith was the Deputy Attorney General for the city and before that a longtime partner at Hogan & Hartson. At Hogan, Mr. Smith served for four years as the full-time partner in charge of the firm’s pro bono program. His areas of practice have generally been litigation and public policy, and he has argued several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and various federal appellate courts. Last fall, Legal Times named him one of the "90 Greatest Washington Lawyers of the Last 30 Years."

Mr. Smith has worked on the gun issue as well as the D.C. voting rights issue, which is now tied to the gun issue. Smith submitted a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in Heller on behalf of D.C. Appleseed as well as the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, the Federal City Council and the D.C. League of Women Voters. The brief argued that the Court should give great deference to the enactments of locally elected legislatures regarding how to best balance the right of self-defense in the home and the need to protect public safety.

Mr. Smith also testified before the D.C. Council on revising the District’s gun laws to accommodate the Heller decision.

Mr. Neily joined the Institute for Justice as a senior attorney in 2000. He litigates economic liberty, property rights, school choice, First Amendment and other constitutional cases in both federal and state courts. Most recently, in his private capacity, Mr. Neily served as co-counsel for the plaintiffs in District of Columbia v. Heller. In conjunction with the landmark Heller decision, Mr. Neily is leading the Institute for Justice’s effort to revive the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by filing strategic amicus briefs in Second Amendment incorporation cases. Before joining the Institute for Justice, Mr. Neily spent four years as a litigator at the Dallas-based firm Thompson & Knight, where he received first-chair trial experience and worked on a wide variety of matters including professional malpractice, First Amendment and media-related matters, complex commercial cases and intellectual property litigation.

The Institute for Justice believes that besides the right to keep and bear arms, the Privileges or Immunities Clause can be understood to protect a variety of economic liberties, including the right to earn a living and own property, that do not receive significant judicial protection in modern times.

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the debate, the UDC Federalist Society is planning additional debates. Stay tuned!
Seeking an End to “Dark Ages”

Thanks in large part to the largely alumni-led Government Accountability Project, whistleblower protection lawyering is an integral part of the DNA of our graduates. For four days in March more than 100 members of the whistleblower community – whistleblowers, employee rights advocates and congressional allies – strategized for the final push in a ten-year campaign to bridge the gap between false advertising and genuine freedom of speech. The National Whistleblower Assembly, “Ending the Dark Ages: Turning on the Lights Together,” sponsored by the Make it Safe Campaign, www.makeitsafe.org, combined inspirational speeches, networking, training, and congressional lobbying.

The assembly kicked-off at UDC-DCSL on Sunday, March 9, with motivational Yes We Can talks by Dr. Jeffrey Wigand, tobacco industry whistleblower and subject of The Insider, and Coleen Rowley, FBI Whistleblower and Time’s 2002 Co-Person of the Year. Prominent air security whistleblowers like air marshall Robert MacLean headed a national security panel. A domestic surveillance panel spotlighted Thomas Tamm, former DoJ attorney on the full scope of warrant-less wiretapping. They highlighted the indispensable role of national security whistleblowers to defend both public safety and civil liberties, making the case to end a loophole exempting them from existing federal whistleblower law.

Whistleblowers were buoyed by champions like Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO), who provided a rousing keynote address, and Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), whose remarks pledged to finish overhauling the Whistleblower Protection Act for federal employees this year after a ten year campaign. After hostile judicial activism, that law has degenerated into a trap that rubber stamps retaliation in over 99% of cases. The congressman wasted no time. The day after the conference ended, he reintroduced House WPA legislation passed in the stimulus but rejected by Senate conferees. At the Tuesday congressional awards ceremony Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) pledged comprehensive corporate whistleblower legislation to institutionalize six new piecemeal laws passed since the 2006 elections for workers ranging from defense contractors to truck drivers to retail commerce employees regulated by the Consumers Products Safety Commission.

Some two dozen participants then visited over 75 congressional offices to lock in follow through commitments.

The conference featured theme-based workshops to strengthen solidarity between whistleblowers and NGO’s in food, drug and airlines safety, medical fraud, mortgage fraud and disaster accountability. Experts led training sessions on media advocacy, legislative advocacy, tactics to run bureaucratic gauntlets at agencies implementing current whistleblower laws like the Office of Special Counsel for federal workers and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for corporate employees, and “street-law” for new rights since 2006. It concluded with a living history day where whistleblowers could make a record by bearing witness with their stories.

- by Shanna Devine, who organized the 2009 Whistleblower Assembly for the Government Accountability Project (GAP), and her father, Tom Devine, ’80, GAP’s Legal Director.
Access Denied: the Fight for Corporate Accountability  (2008/22mins.)

Last Spring, under the auspices of UDC’s Screen Justice film series, the Alliance for Justice presented the film Access Denied and its President, Nan Aron led a post-film discussion of the issues raised. The film, produced by 12-time Emmy award-winning producers/directors Jon Alpert and Matt O’Neill, tells the powerful story of Diana Levine, a lifelong musician who sued Wyeth Pharmaceuticals after faulty drug labeling resulted in the amputation of her arm. Diana’s case was argued in the Supreme Court on November 3rd, 2008. Through an examination of Diana Levine’s case against Wyeth Pharmaceuticals - and the experiences of others like her - Access Denied takes the legal issue of pre-emption out of the courtroom and into the real world, where millions of Americans find themselves unable to access the courts and hold corporations accountable for their misconduct.

To see the film, go to: www.afj.org/for-students/access-denied/watch-the-film.html

Two weeks after our screening, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a stunning 6 to 3 decision on behalf of Levine. According to the www.Oyez.org website:

The Supreme Court affirmed the Supreme Court of Vermont holding that federal law did not preempt Ms. Levine’s state-law claim that Wyeth’s labeling of Phenergan failed to warn of the dangers of its intravenous administration. With Justice John Paul Stevens writing for the majority and joined by Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, Justice David H. Souter, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Justice Stephen G. Breyer, the Court first rejected Wyeth's argument that by unilaterally changing its labeling of Phenergan, it would have violated federal labeling regulations. Rather, the Court asserted that the manufacturer bears ultimate responsibility for the content of its labels at all times. The Court then rejected Wyeth's argument that requiring it to comply with the state-law duty to provide a stronger warning would interfere with Congress' purpose of entrusting the FDA with drug labeling decisions. Rather, the Court reasoned that Congress did not intend to preempt state-law failure to warn actions when it created the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Justice Breyer wrote a separate concurring opinion noting that the FDA may create regulations that preempt state law tort claims, but such a regulation was not at issue in Ms. Levine’s case. Justice Clarence Thomas wrote separately, concurring only in the judgment. He criticized the majority opinion for implicitly endorsing a “far-reaching implied pre-emption doctrine.” ... Justice Samuel A. Alito dissented and was joined by Chief Justice John G. Roberts and Justice Antonin G. Scalia. He disagreed with the Court's holding that a jury, rather than the FDA is ultimately responsible for regulating warning labels for prescription drugs. He argued this is incompatible with the Court's precedent in Geier v. American Honda Motor Co., which established the principles of conflict preemption.

Alliance For Justice President, Nan Aron, a leading voice in public interest law for over 30 years founded AFJ in 1979, and guides it in its mission to advance the cause of justice for all Americans, strengthen the public interest community’s influence on national policy and foster the next generation of advocates. In 1985, Nan founded AFJ's Judicial Selection Project, now the country's premier voice for a fair and independent judiciary and a major player in the often-controversial judicial nominations process.
Beginning in November, monthly Eco/Justice Cafés brought D.C. area environmental and social justice activists, law students and alumni together for a night of food, fun and networking. Many law alumni and students attended. Scott Trowbridge, ’07, Darren Schultz, ’09, and Mike Bowers, ’10, performed, among others. (Mike also donated his sound system and services!) A wide variety of other professional and amateur musicians donated their services. The Cafes featured an interview with D.C. entrepreneur and peace activist Andy Shallal, panel discussions on slow food and nuclear power (often used to cook food slowly), interviews with local activists Adam Eidinger (dressed as a polar bear) and Nadine Bloch (dressed as herself), and information tables from dozens of area public service and activist organizations.
UDC’s Environmental Law Society (ELS) held its 3rd Annual Environmental Justice Panel on April 21st, 2009 -- the day before Earth Day -- bringing attention to environmental racism issues in the D.C. area. ELS President, Erik Pinnsonnault, ’09, moderated the panel.

Mike Ewall, ’11, opened the panel discussion with a new revelation about D.C.’s contribution to environmental racism. While D.C.’s municipal solid waste (trash) has largely gone to a variety of Virginia landfills, as of a few months ago, 70% of D.C.’s trash has been going to the trash incinerator in Lorton, VA -- in a census tract where the African-American population is 2-3 times the national average. Incinerators are far worse for the environment than landfills and are vigorously opposed by the environmental justice movement. While D.C.’s waste is first brought to the Fort Totten transfer station in northeast D.C. before going to Lorton - disproportionately impacting black communities at each step, then generating toxic air pollution that blows back toward the D.C. area.

Dr. Bill Hirzy, Vice-President of Union of Staff Scientists at U.S. EPA and professor at American University, kicked off the panel’s presentations with a discussion of water fluoridation. As it turns out, water fluoridation is also an issue of environmental racism, since urban communities are the most likely to be fluoridated, and the chemical and biological effects of fluoride (and associated lead poisoning) hit blacks and Hispanics the hardest. The chemicals used in water fluoridation are hazardous wastes from the phosphate fertilizer industry, not pharmaceutical grade fluoride as is used in toothpaste.

Richard Condit, ’86, co-director of the Government Accountability Project’s clinic at UDC, presented next. Prof. Condit taught UDC’s new Environmental Law and Justice course, which started in the Summer 2009 session. He discussed the new course as well as background on the environmental justice movement, which the movement defined in the 1991 First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, where they codified the 17 Principles of Environmental Justice.

Kari Fulton, Youth Organizer for the Environmental Justice & Climate Change Initiative, capped off the panel by explaining her work with students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As part of the Energy Action Coalition - a coalition of 50 organizations working with students and youth on energy and climate change issues in the U.S. and Canada - Kari has been an important part of bringing youth of color into the movement for climate justice.

During question and answers, many great concerns were raised, particularly on the issue of the Environmental Protection Agency’s role. Panelists were quite skeptical of whether the Obama administration would provide a major change from the Clinton and Bush administrations, which were largely hostile to environmental justice concerns. Panelists made clear that it is grassroots pressure that makes change and that even good people within the EPA cannot do good work without public support. Corporate influence over government agencies requires conscientious EPA workers to become whistleblowers when ordered to take actions that are not protective of public health and the environment—often at risk to their jobs.

— Mike Ewall, ’11
Experience tells us that summer jobs are among the most effective training grounds for building student expertise and commitment, make valuable professional contacts, and provide vitally needed legal services - often to individuals who otherwise could not afford a lawyer. Unfortunately, the very organizations and agencies most engaged in this type of work, and most in need of student support, often cannot afford to pay students for their work. To address this operational paradox, several years ago, our School of Law began to raise funds from law firms, friends and alumni to provide Summer Public Interest Fellowships. Based on the success of this experience, the School of Law now supports Fellowships for all qualifying first year students - and for as many second year students as possible.

Students receiving the Fellowships work full-time, for a minimum of ten weeks, supervised by an attorney, in support of a public interest, governmental or judicial office. The School of Law provides stipends to Fellows in the amount of $3,000. Each year, dozens of organizations send representatives to recruit UDC-DCSL law student summer Fellows. Alumni affiliated with local non-profits and government agencies are increasingly representing their “shops” at our Fair.

Recent placements have included: Advocacy Incorporated; AFGE Local 12; Cache County Attorney; CAIR Coalition; Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services; Center for Constitutional Rights; Childon County District Attorney's Office; The Children's Law Center; Clark Co. Public Defender's Office; Community Service and Development Clinic; D.C. City Council; D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings - Judge Mahon; D.C. Office of the Attorney General; Montgomery County Public Defender's Office - Juvenile Division; Neighborhood Legal Services Program; Polaris Project; Public Defender's Office of Santa Clara County, CA; Public Defender Service of D.C.; Rappahannock Legal Services; UDC-DCSL HIV/AIDS Clinic; and UDC-DCSL Juvenile and Special Education Clinic.

Alumni recruiting include Dipti Pidikiti, '07, and Vanessa Carlo-Miranda, '03, in background at top left. Meredith Saladayga, '07, above center. Wayne Turner, '08, and Scott Trowbridge, '07, in background above, and Joe Henderson, '77, below left.
School of Law News & Events

17th Summer Fellowship Auction

The 17th annual Equal Justice Works Auction was held March 26th at the Firebird Inn and raised nearly $14,000 through live and silent auctions featuring such exciting items as a Puerta Vallarta condo (donated by alum Alejandro Soto-Vigil, ’08), a handcrafted violin, a vintage fur coat, Nationals’ baseball tickets and shadow days with Jack Olender and Wade Henderson. Attendees dined on food donated from area restaurants.

Many thanks goes out to auctioneers John Terzano, ’99 and Darren Schultz, ’09. Special thanks goes out to student auction committee chair, Frank Melli, committee members Travis Van Hook, Brandy Whisman, Dean Hinton and the rest of the student committee for all their hard work in putting together a great event. Thanks also item donors, including Alumni Trustee Joe Askew, ’98, Prof. Tom Mack, Jack Olender, Dave Colapinto, ’88, Steptoe & Johnson, and Barr’s Fiddle Shop among many others.

Proceeds from the auction support the School of Law’s Equal Justice Works Fellowships program. Eligible first year students, and as many second year students as funding allows, earn up to $3,000 for full-time public interest work, where they gain hands-on experience interviewing and counseling clients, performing legal research, analysis and writing, oral advocacy, and other legal and professional skills.

Thank you to all participants in this year's successful auction. See you at next year's EJW Fellowships Auction! To donate an item or to make a contribution: Jaye Lopez, JLo-pez@udc.edu.
Defending indigent clients on criminal charges for the Maryland Public Defender, working on cutting-edge legislation for the ACLU, researching case law and statutes to assist state court judges and clerks in issuing opinions - these are just a small sample of the dozens of jobs undertaken by 38 UDC law students this summer through our summer fellowship program.

Thanks to our supporters, our students earn up to $3000 for full-time public interest work, where they are gaining hands-on experience interviewing and counseling clients, researching, analyzing and writing, advocating orally, and working on other legal and professional skills. UDC-DCSL guarantees funding to all qualifying 1Ls and as many 2Ls as possible. (To date, no one has been turned down!) Some continue to work at their community service placements. Others meet potential employers at job fairs hosted by the law school on and off-campus. Still others find placements on their own.

In D.C., Jennifer Sheldon, Brenden Stoner and James Williamson are interning at the National African-American Drug Policy Coalition, working with the Hon. Arthur Burnett, Sr. Through this initiative and in other programs, Judge Burnett continues to be a mentor to our students and graduates. Kelly Hoecherl is learning about the unique federal/local nature of the District through work with Paul Strauss, D.C.'s "shadow senator." Jacqueline Oudia is exploring her interest in immigration and asylum issues with the Center for Immigration Law and Practice. Adrian Gotshall is with the Mental Health Division of the Public Defender Service of D.C.. Several years ago, alumnus Kent Mackzum, '07 interned with this division, and accepted a post-graduate position with a similar office in New York City. Aaron Weaver and Garrett King joined the D.C. Department of Transportation and Quinta Jackson is with the Office of the D.C. Auditor. La-Ruby May, '06, hired Christine Bui to work at the Congress Heights Training and Community Development Corp.

Judicial internships remain popular. At the D.C. Office of Ad-
in national organizations. **Evan Mascagni** chose the National Whistleblowers Center for his placement and **Ramon Ruiz** is with the ABA Center for Children and the Law, under the capable tutelage of **Scott Trowbridge**, ’07. **Elizabeth McCullum** went to work for the National Center on Full Faith and Credit. **Michael Liszewski** is with the ACLU of the National Capital Area. Another UDC student, **Fidel Castro**, is interning with the ACLU through our internship class. Their focus this summer is on “anti-crime” legislation; in researching and writing about this important topic, they are honing their legal and lobbying skills.

In Maryland, **Molly Byron** and **Meredith Kinner** are with the Prince George’s County Office of the Public Defender. Many students have interned with the Maryland public defender service, and have gone onto post-grad positions with the office around the state. **Bethany Wilcher** is at the Legal Aid Justice Center. **Lauren Wallace** is building on her strong record of work on women’s issues by interning this summer with the Sexual Assault Legal Institute, a statewide program. **Rena Willis** is interning with the Judge Beverly Woodard in the Maryland Circuit Court in Prince George’s Co.

Some students are choosing to work in Virginia. **Justin McLeod** obtained an internship with the Judge Ellis in Spotsylvania. Justin is planning to clerk in Virginia after graduation and sought out this internship to learn about Virginia practice and the judiciary, and “get a running start” on applications. **Maria Gerges** is with the Hon. David Back, also in Spotsylvania. They may well run into **Brandy Wisman** and **Ashley Hughes** at the County’s Com-

**Meredith Kinner, ’10**

**Ramon Ruiz, ’10**

**Christy Bui, ’11**

**Evan Mascagni, ’11**

with the Syracuse, NY District Attorney's Office. Returning to South Carolina for the second summer, **Linward Edwards** is interning for the Judge Margaret B. Seymour.

Even further afield, **Jennifer Frohman**, who was a Peace Corps worker in Nicaragua, has returned there this summer to intern with the Judge Frank Rodriguez Alvarado.

We are eager to hear about their accomplishments over the summer and will share them with you in the next Advocate.
As part of the third offering of UDC-DCSL’s innovative disaster law course, “Katrina and Beyond: Disaster Prevention and Recovery, Social Justice and Government Accountability,” twelve UDC-DCSL law students were in New Orleans during the week of March 7-14, 2009, doing service learning work at the Orleans Public Defenders office and the New Orleans Pro Bono Project. The group of students included Ashley Boyland, teaching assistant Elizabeth Crow, Anntwinette DuPree-Hart, Danielle Higginbotham, William Hinton, Sheree King, Falen LaPonzina, Stacie Mills, teaching assistant Keri Nash, Darren Schultz, Jacqueline Smith, and Owen Thomson. The students were supervised by Associate Professor William G. McLain, and the group was joined in New Orleans by Adjunct Professor Stephen B. Mercer and Bernard J. Panetta, Esq., a Texas white collar criminal defense practitioner whose generosity provided the necessary funding for the trip. Professor Susan L. Waysdorf also spent the week in New Orleans volunteering at the Prof Bono Project.

Over the three years of UDC-DCSL’s disaster law course offering, 60 law students, Dean Shelley Broderick, Associate Dean Janice Washington, Professors Matt Fraidin, McLain, Laurie Morin and Waysdorf, Adjunct Professor Mercer, and several alumni have:

1. Contributed more than 1,000 hours of volunteer work to legal services providers in New Orleans, including the Pro Bono Project, the Orleans Public Defenders office, the New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice, and the Louisiana affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (including the practice areas of probate and property, family law, workers’ rights, criminal law, prisoners’ rights, and information access law), and well as a pending D.C. Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, initiated by Professors Fraidin and McLain, to obtain information about the D.C. government’s readiness to protect prisoners in the D.C. jail in the event of a local catastrophic occurrence.

2. Contributed more than 300 hours of physical labor (as well as making substantial monetary donations) to the St. Bernard Project to rebuild homes in a working class neighborhood devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The law school’s engagement with New Orleans’ post-Katrina recovery efforts has also generated a UDC-DCSL Law Review symposium on the lessons of Hurricane Katrina for the District of Columbia, four law review articles—two by Professor Waysdorf, one by Professor Morin, and another by Sarah Tomkins, ’07, who was among the first group of UDC-DCSL students to do service learning work in New Orleans—as well as a pending D.C. Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, initiated by Professors Fraidin and McLain, to obtain information about the D.C. government’s readiness to protect prisoners in the D.C. jail in the event of a local catastrophic occurrence.

After her return from this year’s trip to New Orleans, third-year student Sheree King described her work at the Pro Bono Project—which she estimated as “touching close to 150 lives of people just trying to move on, and create a fresh start” after the hurricane—as “worthwhile and enriching because of the sense that I had some impact, however large or small, on someone’s life. While the city has not yet returned to its former greatness, there were glimmers of hope shining on every street corner, and in every person I encountered.”

Professor McLain said that “speaking for all of my faculty colleagues who have been engaged with the course over the last three years, Ms. King’s reaction to her time in New Orleans captures exactly what we have hoped to accomplish with this work.”
Housing Clinic Sets Record for Attorneys Fees

Congratulations to UDC-DCSL Housing Clinic Instructor Alysia Robben ’07, who just received a statutory fees award of $21,689 - all that she requested in her motion for fees. According to Housing Clinic Director, Prof. Ed Allen, “This is indubitably the largest fee award for rental housing cases at Office of Administrative Hearings.” All told, the Clinic has received more fees than any other law office or legal services provider and more is in the pipeline!

For more on the Housing Clinic’s recent activities, see page 20-21.

Student Bar Association 2009-2010

Executive Board

President: Jacqueline Oudia
Vice President: Neda Bolourian
Treasurer: Ashley Hughes
Parliamentarian: Donald Padou
Recording Secretary: Dana Walters
Corresponding Secretary: Shanice DePass
Academic Relations Chair: Joseph Karlya
Community Service Chair: LaTonya Bell
Newsletter Chair: Danielle Moore
Special Events Chair: Mike Canter
Student Service Chair: Joe Spilatro
ABA Representative: Lisa Gomes

Senate

3L Senators:
- Mollie Byron
- Gilda Carbonaro
- Linward Edwards
- Gustavo Gonzalez
- Tiffany McWane

2L Senators:
- Cole Dowden
- Quintá Jackson
- George Kourtsonis
- Jose “Iggy” Tissera
- James Williamson

1L Senators will be elected in September 2009.


**The UDC-DCSL Clinical Program**

**Housing and Consumer Law Clinic Highlights**

The Housing and Consumer Law Clinic currently focuses its housing work on assisting residents from the Mt. Pleasant/Columbia Heights and Upper-Central Northwest sections of the District, in warranty of habitability and rent control disputes. Many of these residents are Latino, with limited English skills and income levels slightly above eligibility requirements for most legal services programs, making them among the most vulnerable in the District. This semester tenants represented by UDC student attorneys supervised by Professor Edward Allen and Clinic Instructor Alysia Robben, ’07, enjoyed some notable successes.

Most matters are filed with the Rental Accommodations Division, a division of the Department of Housing and Community Development, where tenants can bring actions (“petitions”) against landlords whose properties are in disrepair or who have otherwise violated rent control laws. These cases are heard by Administrative Law Judges at the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH).

The Clinic obtained its first two awards from OAH this semester, with the Clinic winning significant rent refunds for our clients and reductions in their rent level. First, in February our students received a damages award of $7,460 for their client, and a reduction in rent to the 2004 level. For this client, the students in Spring 2008 engaged in three days of an evidentiary trial. This trial was one part of student Darren Schultz’s extensive involvement in housing clinic litigation in 2008, which earned him the honored Fire-in-the-Belly Award from Prof. Allen this Spring. Following the receipt of the judge’s decision, students Megan Stockhausen and Gilda Carbonaro crafted a motion for attorney’s fees, which was fully awarded by the judge, in the amount of $12,740 - amounting to the first attorney’s fees awarded to students by OAH and one of the largest attorneys fees awards ever received by the Clinic. The Clinic will use any money collected from this award to fund future litigation.

Then Clinical Instructor, Alysia Robben, obtained one of the largest monetary awards ordered by OAH in a tenant petition. In this case Robben represented a single mother living in a multi-family apartment building where the landlord continually increased rent while allowing the property to sink in to disrepair. Robben conducted an 8 day hearing with seven witnesses resulting in an Order for more than $11,000 in damages and a reduction in rent to the 2005 level. Some of this semester’s students litigated before the judges at OAH. Jessenia Maldonado represented an elderly, physically disabled woman who had no heat for three years, various other poor conditions, including a broken oven, ceiling leaks, and mice and roach infestations, and improper rent increases for the last three years. Ms. Maldonado represented her client in an ex parte evidentiary trial at OAH. We are awaiting a decision from the judge in that matter. Afterwards, Ms. Maldonado prepared a motion for temporary restraining order to force the landlord to provide heat and other needed repairs. Once spring hit, the TRO was no longer necessary for the heat, but Ms. Maldonado was successful in persuading the landlord to make several major repairs.

Students Sarah Rozensky and Arley Kemmerer represented a family with limited English proficiency living in a rodent and insect infested property with a leaky ceiling and other housing code violations. After
the students argued pretrial motions and engaged in one day of trial, the landlord agreed to pay a rent refund, reduce the rent going forward, and make necessary repairs. Students this semester were also successful in negotiating resolution of litigation for their clients.

Nick Dower represented another elderly, physically disabled woman in the same building and against the same landlord as Ms. Maldonado’s client, later in the semester. By that point, the landlord came with an attorney to a mediation with Mr. Dower and his client, and agreed to lower the rent, pay a rent refund, and correct the heating problem. Additionally, the landlord agreed that if he violates his obligation to provide heat in the future, and the tenant succeeds in obtaining an injunction against him in Superior Court, he will pay attorneys fees. UDC will, of course, monitor the situation.

Students Arley Kemmerer and Gustavo Gonzales successfully represented a family with two small children living in a one bedroom basement apartment where the landlord claimed he was exempt from rent increase limits set by D.C.’s rent control laws. In this case the landlord raised the rent despite housing code violations and failed to make needed repairs. The morning before trial was to begin, the landlord agreed to make repairs, issue a rent credit, refrain from increasing the rent for a year and limit all future increases to rent control imposed limits.

Student Sarah Rozensky also successfully advocated for her client who has been living in a bedbug-infested apartment, which regularly left her six-year-old son with bites and rashes. After Sarah drafted a complaint and a motion for a temporary restraining order, threatened litigation, and brought in a leading bedbug extermination expert, the landlord immediately began a thorough extermination process.

Megan Stockhousen and Gilda Carbonaro represented another low-income tenant whose landlord claimed he was exempt from the rent control rules. This landlord, settling out of court, agreed to reduce the rent, base future rent increases on the lowered rent, and make sorely needed repairs.

Some claims focus on the merits; some are adventures in civil procedure. Ashley Hughes handled a consumer matter on behalf of a low income District resident who won a home that needed substantial renovation in a District sponsored lottery. The contractor who installed the HVAC system did an incomplete and inferior job. The homeowner paid the first installment and nothing more and the contractor sued for the balance of the contract. The homeowner then discovered the contractor was not licensed and Ms. Hughes filed a counterclaim under the D.C. Consumer Protection and Procedures Act, stating that because he did inferior work and was not licensed, he should received nothing. The contractor didn’t show up for a deposition requested by Ms. Hughes, so she filed a Motion to Compel Discovery which was granted by the court. When the contractor didn’t show up for the second attempt at a deposition, Ms. Hughes filed a motion for sanctions, which was granted in part to award attorney’s fees. Ms. Hughes will have one more chance to depose the contractor, and is meanwhile drafting a motion for summary judgment. In total, Ms. Hughes has drafted and filed five motions, several requests for discovery, and an amended answer with counterclaims.

This summer, Ms. Carbonaro will be remaining with the Clinic as the Clinic’s first Summer Public Interest Fellow.

Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic Highlights

UDC student attorneys in the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic represent District residents in controversies with the Internal Revenue Service. Many elderly, chronically ill, and working poor people cannot pay their federal income taxes and meet their basic daily living expenses. The economic down turn has hit these populations harder and faster than other segments of society. Several students prepared offers in compromise for clients who could not afford to settle their entire tax
In Service to the Community

The UDC-DCSL Clinical Program

liability. The Offer in Compromise program allows taxpayers to pay only a part of their tax liabilities based on their current financial ability and reasonable potential to pay. We've been very successful in obtaining Offers for our clients.

Justin McLeod represented an elderly client suffering from AIDS and diabetes who came to the clinic after the IRS notified him that it would begin garnishing his Social Security checks. A review of the client's financial information revealed that he had no disposable income after paying for necessities and medication. Furthermore, his illness precluded him work that would require any physical labor and his lack of formal education made it nearly impossible to find other employment. Mr. McLeod first brought the client into compliance with the IRS by filing the client's previous years' taxes and then assisted him in putting together the client's offer in compromise. The case is still pending.

When clients are unable to make an offer in compromise, our students work to put them into a Currently Non Collectible status. Tiffany McWane, Sara Fathi-Nejad, Michael Bowers, and Pia Biswas assisted clients who were elderly, disabled and/or unemployed in preparing financial statements to obtain “Currently Not Collectible” status with the IRS. Instead of fending off the IRS these clients had a chance to focus on finding a job, finding housing and getting their life back in order.

Carol Williams had an opportunity to represent an elderly client in a Collections Due Process (CDP) hearing where the IRS sent a Notice with Intent to Levy to our client for $7,000. The CDP hearing gives taxpayers additional rights to appeal lien and levy actions. Ms. Williams convinced the IRS to release the entire levy by proving that they erroneously applied the client's $7,000 payment to a different tax year.

Megan Vahey represented a client who realized that his identity had been stolen after he was denied his 2007 refund and stimulus rebate. In this case, the refund was needed for necessities as the client was having trouble finding steady employment and housing. Proving identity theft to-- and retrieving an erroneously applied refund from-- the IRS can be a lengthy process. Ms. Vahey submitted a claim with the Federal Trade Commission and the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department and the IRS Identity Theft Protection Unit and aggressively pursued the resolution of her client's case. The client's identity theft claim has been resolved in his favor and he will be receiving his refund and stimulus rebate in six short weeks.

Malik Dixon represented an elderly client who had a case pending in U.S. Tax Court. The client wanted to dispute the disallowance of her charitable cash
In Service to the Community

The UDC-DCSL Clinical Program

Jacqueline Oudia had represented a client in an Audit Reconsideration hearing where the IRS disallowed the client's business expenses. Ms. Oudia prepared the client's extensive receipts substantiating expenses and conducted research on each type of expense that the client was claiming. In addition to representing the client during the audit, she also advised him on keeping good records and filing timely tax returns in the future.

HIV-AIDS Clinic

The HIV-AIDS Clinic was privileged to have the hard work and tenacious advocacy of the following members of the Class of 2009: Elizabeth Crow, Jacqueline Smith, Jenny Fein, Jason Seidman, Darren Schultz, Lucas Dansie, Erik Pinsonnault, Angela Gandy, Ashley Boyland, Chris Viviani, Karen Malovrh, and Kwame Wil-lingham; and students in the class of 2010: Joyce Aceves-Amaya, Katy Blackwell, Steve Marvin, Laurie Wilkerson, Travis Van Hook, Linward Edwards, Dean Hinton, Lindsay Connolly, Meredith Kinner, Bethany Wilcher, Robert Maxwell, and Katerina Pappas, who all represented parents navigating D.C. 's child welfare system.

Under the supervision of Professors Matthew Fraidin and Tanya Cooper these students worked tirelessly to reunify parents with their children and engage in system reform efforts to create a more just, family-focused approach in D.C. courts. All court-certified through the D.C. Court of Appeals, the students engaged in high-stakes litigation, propounded discovery, filed written pleadings, and often argued procedural and evidentiary issues before even getting to the merits of their case. In addition to representing individual parents, some students appeared on local television and were featured in a local newspaper to advocate on behalf of low-income families in danger of dissolution because child welfare officials confuse neglect with poverty.

At a press conference in January 2009, Professor Fraidin stated that “during the first nine months of 2008, the number of children torn from their parents in Washington shot up 41 percent compared to the year before.” With the assistance of UDC law students, many of the children are returned home within one week to three months. Professor Fraidin further stated that, “when children are returned home that quickly it almost always means they never should have been taken in the first place…these children were returned home quickly only by adult standards, for the children it was an eternity and some are likely to suffer for it for the rest of their lives.”

The following case examples...
highlight some of the clinic’s successes and demonstrate how many D.C. children were needlessly removed from their parents:

Angela and Erik won a trial against an experienced government lawyer and showed that a 10-year-old boy was erroneously taken from his mother’s home, and spent three months in foster care, because another relative—not his mother—has physically disciplined the boy unbeknownst to his mother. The judge ruled that the mother had neither neglected nor abused her son and ordered the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) to return the child immediately, terminating the neglect case.

Travis, Linward, Karen, and Kwame successfully reunited an 8-year-old boy with his mother after showing that boy’s behavior problems were a result of an undiagnosed disability that affected his ability to make educational progress—a fact that the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) had ignored. Travis and Linward also helped another client obtain a temporary protection order from an abusive husband and counseled her about her choices in seeking a civil protection order against him.

Liz, Jacqueline, Robert, Katerina, and Katy represented a mother who tried desperately to have her daughter placed with a relative instead of moving from foster home to foster home. After a magistrate judge disregarded the mother’s request, Liz and Jackie filed an appellate review motion, which they won, thereby securing for the mother another opportunity to request that her daughter live with a relative instead of a foster parent. Liz and Jackie, with the help of Dean and Lindsay, also helped another father, who lives in Pennsylvania, have his daughter placed with her aunt, his sister, instead of a foster home.

Lindsay and Dean, along with Jason and Jenny, filed an appellate review motion to overturn an adoption of a father’s three girls. Jason and Jenny also helped another mother have her son returned to her care and the case dismissed because the parties all realized after the child’s removal that the mother had never neglected nor abused her son.

Kwame, Joyce, Katy, Karen, and Ashley spent over 2000 hours preparing a neglect trial in which they requested and responded to discovery, filed many pretrial motions, delivered opening and closing statements, and questioned 9 witnesses. Their research revealed that one government witness, proffered as an expert witness, had his professional license revoked and faced disciplinary proceedings for fraud. Based on their research, the government withdrew that witness.

Meredith and Bethany helped one young mother fend off CFSA from removing her HIV+ infant son from her custody because CFSA erroneously believed that because the mother was HIV+, she was not a fit parent. By interviewing numerous doctors and documenting the mother’s care of her son, Bethany and Meredith persuaded all parties that this young mother had in fact taken excellent care of her son in spite of his condition. They succeeded in having that case dismissed without any neglect finding against the mother.

Together with Chris and Ashley, Bethany and Meredith also helped an incarcerated father have his daughter placed with relatives, where she thrived, instead of languishing unnecessarily in different foster homes. During a visit with their client in jail, they discovered problems at the D.C. Jail, which they reported, causing them to be featured in an article in the Washington City Paper.

Chris, Ashley, Steve, and Laurie, together with Joyce and Katerina, helped another mother reunite with her son before school ended, and showed the judge the affirmative steps the mother had taken to ensure her son was enrolled in therapy and summer day camps. Steve and Laurie helped another client negotiate a stay-away and civil protection order against her abusive ex-boyfriend.

Lucas and Darren helped THREE mothers convince the government in separate cases that CFSA wrongfully removed their children resulting in dismissal of the cases without neglect findings against the mothers. At a press conference, Darren described the plight of one child affected by the erroneous removal. After 15 years old witnessed his stepfather collapse and die before his eyes, CFSA, acting hastily, placed him in foster care, despite the fact that his adult sister had stepped forward to care for him. Lucas and Darren helped reunite him with his mother and get the neglect case dismissed. Darren criticized the agency’s “remove first; ask questions later approach” observing that “the goal and practice of CFSA should be to keep families together not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it’s what’s best for children and families.”
In Service to the Community

The UDC-DCSL Clinical Program

Community Development Law Clinic

Thanks to the work of Farrah Irving and Andrea Thomas, a local nonprofit is on the verge of opening its restaurant training center in a great location near the Verizon Center. The center will provide job training to disadvantaged D.C. youth, including ex-offenders and parolees with few other job options. The restaurant part of the center will also provide affordable meals to low-income D.C. residents.

Ms. Irving and Ms. Thomas also teamed up with Elijah McKinley to write Frequently Asked Questions about Intellectual Property Law to be used on the website of a national nonprofit organization headquartered in the District. The team also prepared sample shared use contracts for the organization to use with its fellows.

Jessica Gray and Yesenia Rivera assisted a local construction company that wants to become certified as a “green” developer. They researched D.C. laws and the new Obama Administration green initiatives to provide the client with advice and resources on sustainable development. In addition, they provided the client with advice about how to structure a nonprofit arm that would provide affordable housing both in D.C. and in Jamaica.

Ms. Gray also teamed up with Sasha Grandison to advise a D.C. nonprofit about how to structure its activities to meet its goal of building a health clinic in collaboration with a sister nongovernmental organization in Nigeria.

Florence Weniger worked with a D.C. nonprofit to prepare its application for tax-exempt status to the IRS. This organization will provide much needed health education and preventive health services for D.C. residents.

Ms. Weniger teamed up with Juan Onate-Rasmussen to provide advice to a D.C. agency that is planning a compost recycling facility in Maryland. They researched the permit process, potential liability issues, and funding resources from both D.C. and federal green initiatives.

Sasha Grandison, Juan Onate-Rasmussen, and Yesenia Rivera worked with one of the clinic’s longest-lived clients, a housing cooperative in Columbia Heights. Over the years, the clinic has helped this group form a tenants’ organization to purchase its building. We then assisted them in acquiring financing to enter into a construction contract. The tenants then formed a condominium association (for residents who could afford to purchase their units) and a cooperative (for residents who could not meet the purchase eligibility requirements). Construction on the building was completed last year, and the new owners have moved into their units. However, some of the construction was not up to standards. For example, sinks were not properly anchored and started pulling away from the wall. The student team working on the case this semester conducted a survey of residents to compile all of the construction issues, and then began a negotiation process with the contractor to try to get the issues resolved.

Brandon Atwater, Alexander Beraud, and Elijah McKinley teamed up to provide advice to another housing co-op that needed assistance in acquiring financing for renovations to their building. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) proposed a financing deal based on a federal program called the New Market Tax Credit Program. This is a relatively new and complex form of financing that the team had to research, analyze and explain to members of the cooperative so that they could make a decision whether to accept the proposal. In addition, the team did a line-by-line analysis of the proposal to present to members of the coop’s board.
**Government Accountability Project (GAP)**

In the past year, a number of employees from the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services have come forward to blow the whistle on gross mismanagement and abuse of authority within the department. **Nick Clark, Frank Melli, Dana Walters, Lisa Pratt and Dago Zavalal** all worked within the GAP litigation program to assist both former and current employees of the D.C. Fire and EMS in preparing their complaints and other pleadings. Thanks in part to the efforts of these students, GAP prevailed on a Motion for Temporary Restraining Order to stop the unwarranted psychological evaluation of a firefighter who blew the whistle on mismanagement and other abuses within the D.C. Fire and EMS.

Airline officials, airline mechanics and military personnel are just a few of the types of employees that are represented through the “federal docket” of GAP’s Legislative Program. After participating in an investigation into continued retaliation against a Pentagon civilian science and technology advisor, **Hope Jones** prepared arguments in furtherance of a supplemental statement to the Office of Special Counsel, in support of additional protections for this whistleblower. **Lorin Chvotkin and Ramnik “Tina” Bal** conducted a significant amount of background and investigative work in preparation for a state whistleblower lawsuit that attorneys in our Public Health Program will be filing against the company. Thanks to their efforts, GAP expects to go forward with litigation later this summer.

**Patrick Edelin** provided case analysis for an electronics mechanic and 25-year civilian employee with the Navy, who blew the whistle in 2005 on improper maintenance and repairs of the Generator Converter Unit (GCU) on the Navy’s F/A-18 fighter jets. Perhaps one of the most involved students in the day to day intake operations here at GAP was clinic student **Yancy Cottrill**. In addition to his work on the case of a former US Housing and Urban Development employee—who was forced to leave the agency after suffering post-traumatic stress disorder from the severity of the retaliation he faced—Yancy also handled a number of sensitive intakes for potential GAP clients. On a lighter note, GAP would also like to send a big Thank You to Yancy for serving as a translator for a coalition meeting on nuclear safety that took place in Russia this past spring.

When a former employee of an eye care company discovered broken glass and other particulates in eye care solution that was being packaged for shipment to the public, he tried on two occasions to shut down the production line. For his efforts, he was declared a trouble-maker and a combative employee and fired from his position.

**Jerica Morris-Frazer** wrote a fascinating memo on the scope of military whistleblower protections and whether they extend to military personnel serving at Guantanamo Bay when individuals witness and report human rights violations, specifically under the Geneva Convention. **Patrick Edelin** provided case analysis for an electronics mechanic and 25-year civilian employee with the Navy, who blew the whistle in 2005 on improper maintenance and repairs of the Generator Converter Unit (GCU) on the Navy’s F/A-18 fighter jets. Perhaps one of the most involved students in the day to day intake operations here at GAP was clinic student **Yancy Cottrill**. In addition to his work on the case of a former US Housing and Urban Development employee—who was forced to leave the agency after suffering post-traumatic stress disorder from the severity of the retaliation he faced—Yancy also handled a number of sensitive intakes for potential GAP clients. On a lighter note, GAP would also like to send a big Thank You to Yancy for serving as a translator for a coalition meeting on nuclear safety that took place in Russia this past spring.

When a former employee of an eye care company discovered broken glass and other particulates in eye care solution that was being packaged for shipment to the public, he tried on two occasions to shut down the production line. For his efforts, he was declared a trouble-maker and a combative employee and fired from his position.

**Lorin Chvotkin and Ramnik “Tina” Bal** conducted a significant amount of background and investigative work in preparation for a state whistleblower lawsuit that attorneys in our Public Health Program will be filing against the company. Thanks to their efforts, GAP expects to go forward with litigation later this summer.

After his departure from the World Bank, Paul Wolfowitz became involved in a non-profit organization known as the Foundation for the Future. **Neda Bolourian and Melissa Wu** analyzed and catalogued over 200 documents pertaining to this organization, ob-
In Service to the Community

The UDC-DCSL Clinical Program

Maintained through a U.S. State Department FOIA request and in furtherance of the GAP International Program’s investigation into the influences of the World Bank and other international monetary institutions on foreign governments.

Last but not least “Queen” Kuenyehia and Molly Saunders assisted our Homeland Security Program in identifying protected disclosures that were made by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission employee, who raised concerns regarding a partner agency that fraudulently manipulated its safety error data.

Immigration Law Practicum Highlights

Practicum students and community service volunteers at the Center for Immigration Law and Practice (CILP) assist low-income residents of D.C. with claims for humanitarian immigration relief. In the past year, UDC-DCSL students have assisted survivors of persecution and torture seeking asylum, survivors of domestic violence petitioning for relief under the Violence Against Women Act, and survivors of violent crimes applying for U visas.

In the 2008-2009 academic year, students provided assistance to more than 40 individuals. Almost one year ago, a young woman from Pakistan was referred to CILP after her green card application was denied and she was placed in removal proceedings. She later discovered that her husband had withdrawn his green card application—upon which her own application depended—so that she would be forced to return to Pakistan. The woman was afraid because her husband had abused her in the United States and was threatened with taking away her two year-old son. He had returned to Pakistan and moved into an apartment across the street from where her parents lived and was waiting for her to come back. This woman feared for her life and for the safety of her child, and the Center put forth an application for asylum based on her opinions regarding women’s rights and her past experience of having opposed her husband’s abuse. Yesenia Rivera and Megan Stockhausen researched and drafted the asylum brief, and Ramon Ruiz help prepare the client for her hearing. She was granted withholding of removal at her hearing in the fall, and she is now able to stay safely in the United States with her son. CILP is also awaiting the outcome of a case involving an asylum seeker from Sierra Leone. He fled his country after serving 10 years in prison on false accusations of trea-

Yancy Cottrill and Tina Bal and Molly Sanders.

Kaleia Edmundo worked with him over the course of the semester to develop his personal statement and the legal arguments in his case, and Shannon de la Cotera Hill and Nicole Straughter documented the case with supporting evidence and also helped prepare him for his asylum interview.

Class of 2010 members: Dana Walters, Lisa Pratt, Yancy Cottrill, Lorin Chvotkin, Tina Bal and Molly Sanders.
In Service to the Community

The UDC-DCSL Clinical Program

Legislation Clinic Highlights

During the 2009 Spring semester the students in the DCSL’s Legislation Clinic worked at the District of Columbia Council where they drafted bills - some of which were introduced and have been enacted into law - and offered substantive and technical revisions to legislation. Their Council supervisors said they offered invaluable insight on many novel and complex legal issues, contributed countless hours researching; wrote opening statements for hearings, committee reports, and legal memoranda; and provided important assistance at agency oversight hearings. Overall, the Council found Clinic students to be an excellent addition to their offices. A small sampling of their work includes the following:

Aleia Barlow, ’10, worked with the newly created Council Committee on Aging and Community Affairs, chaired by Councilmember Yvette Alexander. Aleia drafted changes to Bill 18-62, the Intern Anti-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2009. The bill expands covered employees who may file discrimination complaints under the Human Rights Act to include unpaid interns. This change will provide protections for college and graduate students, as well as other unpaid interns in Washington, D.C..

Shelly Gardner, ’10, worked with the Council Committee on Housing and Workforce Development, chaired by Councilmember Marion Barry. She spent an enormous amount of time drafting introductory remarks on legislation for the councilmember and drafting legislation. She was so involved in drafting legislation during the semester that she was often asked to assist the councilmember on the dais while the bills she drafted were being debated during legislative meetings of the Council. She drafted several bills which provided tax exemption and tax relief for nonprofit groups including Bill 18-245 Allen Chapel AME Senior Residential Rental Project Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Emergency Act of 2009, Bill 18-246 Allen Chapel AME Senior Residential Rental Project Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Temporary Act of 2009, Bill 18-247 CEMI-Ridgecrest, Inc., Walter Washington Community Center Real Property Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2009, and Bill 18-248 CEMI-Ridgecrest, Inc., Walter Washington Community Center Real Property Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Temporary Act of 2009.

Lisa Gomes, ’10, worked with the Council Committee of the Whole chaired by Council Chairman Vincent Gray. She offered comments on a draft of the UDC Self-Governance Amendment Act of 2009 which, if enacted, would give the University of the District of Columbia autonomy in several areas, including over its budget. In addition, she surveyed several other land grant universities and outlined the differences in the autonomy their officers enjoyed compared to the University of the District of Columbia.

Michael Gonzalez, ’10, worked with the Council Committee on Economic Development, chaired by Councilmember Kwame Brown. He reviewed several legal documents and leases and issued legal memoranda outlining the District’s legal rights and obligations.
Sam Han, ‘10, worked with the Council Committee on Economic Development, chaired by Councilmember Kwame Brown. His work included analyzing the small business survival index, and the certified business enterprise penalty and enforcement amendments.

Matthew Hill, ‘10, worked with the Council Committee on Government Operations and the Environment, chaired by Councilmember Mary Cheh. He engaged in a variety of projects, including reviewing Bill 18-150, the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act of 2009 which would ban the use of disposable non-recyclable plastic carryout bags and establish a fee on disposable carryout bags provided by certain retail vendors; and he performed a comparative analysis of the District’s retirement plans with plans in other jurisdictions.

Robert Hilliard, ’10, worked with the Council Committee on Finance and Revenue, Chaired by Jack Evans, on developing amendments to the Class 3 Real Property Tax provisions. The current Class 3 Real Property Tax taxes property at a rate of $10 per $100 of assessed property value, which is more than 10 times that of the Class 1 Real Property Tax which is $.85 per $100 of assessed value of the property. Class 1 is the category for improved residential real property that is occupied and is used exclusively for non-transient residential dwelling purposes, whereas Class 3 is for unimproved property that is deemed abandoned and blighted. While the Class 3 tax was created as an incentive for property owners to improve vacant lots, it has had the unintended consequence of taxing law abiding persons out of their property. The changes proposed by Robert would provide some financial relief for property owners of vacant lots, especially for those who do not have the finances to improve their property.

Sonya Seehusen, ’10, worked with the Council Committee on Human Services, chaired by Councilmember Tommy Wells. She reviewed and compared the District’s TANF benefits with those offered by the surrounding jurisdictions, in an effort to find ways to streamline the District’s TANF benefits. In addition, to help the Council with its oversight, Sonya reviewed several different versions of the federal stimulus legislation, issuing numerous memoranda outlining how the stimulus legislation would benefit agencies and programs under the oversight of Committee on Human Services.

Brandy Whisman also worked with the Council Committee on Human Services. Her research and writing primarily involved reviewing Bill 18-12, the Adoption and Safe Families Amendment Act of 2009 as well as the federal Adams Welsh Act, and making recommendations regarding the appropriateness of allowing individuals with certain criminal convictions to obtain a license, approval, or permission to adopt or foster a child.

In Service to the Community

The UDC-DCSL Clinical Program

Legislation Clinic
Students Produce Report On Rights of People With Developmental Disabilities to Support Drafting of D.C. Legislation

Three students in the School of Law’s Legislation Clinic – Mollie Byron, Wallace Canter, and Mary Schoenfuhs – have written and submitted a report titled Evolution to Empowerment: A Survey of the Rights of People with Developmental Disabilities for the Drafting of the Developmental Disabilities Reform Act. The District of Columbia Government, acting through its Department of Disability Services, Management Advisory Committee (DDS MAC), has undertaken a comprehensive revision of D.C.’s over-30-year-old developmental disabilities laws. The Legislative Committee of DDS MAC put together a draft Developmental Disabilities Reform Act (DDRA) bill that aims to “implement a model system of effective, quality supports and services for residents with developmental disabilities and for their families.” DDS MAC established an Expert Review Panel to provide input and feedback to it on the draft legislation. Professor Robert Burgdorf, Director of the Legislation Clinic and a member of the Review Panel, commissioned the three students (dubbed “the disability group”) to assist him in developing input on the draft legislation. He asked the group to (1) review federal developmental disabilities laws; (2) sample a selection of state laws; and (3) analyze legal principles enunciated by the court in the ongoing series of legal proceedings, originally titled Evans v. Washington, a lawsuit on behalf of residents of Forest Haven residential facility challenging their confinement, and practices and conditions at the facility.

The findings resulting from these three pieces of research served as a touchstone for comparison with the DDRA bill to see if any significant areas of rights and requirements were overlooked or omitted. The students organized their research into fifteen categories: Purposes of Developmental Disability Law; Recognition of Constitutional and Other Legal Rights; Right to Habilitation and Treatment Services; Eligibility and Waiting Lists; Healthcare Decisions and Informed Consent; Family Support Services; Accessibility; Freedom to Make Choices; Civil Liberties; Freedom from Harm; Property, Ownership, and Finances; Nutrition and Diet; Community and Social Integration; Criteria and Standards for Use of Restraint and Isolation; and Enforcement and Grievance Procedures.

The report’s findings were generally positive toward the draft DDRA. Of the fifteen categories examined, the students concluded that the proposed bill adequately or fully addresses 12 of them. As to the others, the report offered suggestions for strengthening the legislation. In the area of Property, Ownership, and Finances, the students suggested additional language to include certain kinds of property transactions not mentioned in the draft bill. In regard to accessibility, they suggested the addition of language regarding accessibility modifications in the homes of people having developmental disabilities. The students also suggested some supplementation of the proposed DDRA language regarding training, which was not identified as a separate category in their research. The most critical of their comments focused on Waiting Lists, which the report argued should not be permitted.

Professor Burgdorf presented the report, along with his own comments on the legislation, to the committee at its meeting with the Expert Review Panel on April 16. He described the students’ product as having been “very well-received” by the DDS MAC members, who indicated that they wanted to make the Evolution to Empowerment report a part of the legislative history of the DDRA bill that they hope to see introduced in the District of Columbia Council as early as July.
Each year the School of Law celebrates its graduating class with a special ceremony, the Honors Convocation, providing an opportunity to confer awards on outstanding students, alumni and other servants of justice, and to hear words of wisdom from a renowned attorneys. This year the fabulous Barbara Arnwine, Director of the Lawyers' Committee delivered the keynote.

Each year a law school alum is honored with the Advocate for Justice Award, this year conferred upon Shirley Williams, ‘82, longtime defender of the rights of the aging at D.C.’s Legal Counsel for the Elderly who made brief remarks. The annual Equal Justice Award was shared by two intrepid American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area leaders, Johnny Barnes and Art Spitzer.

The 2009 Class Speaker was Kevin Hill. Keri Nash provided a memorable reading of Maya Angelou’s Still I Rise. Judge William Pryor presented the Judge Pryor Legacy Award to Sheree King. The student Community Service Award went to Duyen Ritchie. Unsung Hero Awards went to Tonya Gibbs and Melissa Wu. Dean Broderick presented Dean’s cups to Keri Nash, Stacie Mills, Mazi Ucheomumu, Kevin Hill, John White and Melanie Acuna.

The Dean also honored staff assistant extraordinaire Bessie Cross for her 30 years of service and outgoing professor Susan “Suji” Sutler for her many years of outstanding work in the School of Law’s Special Education Clinic. Vivian Canty and Donald Pritchett presented the Class of 2009 and Dr. Edgar Cahn provided a moving reading of the School of Law’s Credo, This I Believe, originally written by Jean and Edgar Cahn for the Antioch School of Law. Bessie’s Cross’s daughter, Coco Rouzier provided lovely vocal selections.
School of Law News & Events

2009 Honors Convocation

Top row: Judge William Pryor, Jason Sims, Duyen Ritchie, Julie Akemann. Next row: Melissa Wu, Tonya Gibbs, John Jensen and Gail Mathapo, ’06. Third row from top: Dean Broderick and Dean’s Cup winners: Keri Nash, Stacie Mills, Mazi Ucheomumu, Kevin Hill, John White and Melanie Acuna. At bottom: Roy Balleste and Dean Broderick, Dean Annamaria Steward, Bessie Cross and Dean Broderick, and Suji Sutler.
The School of Law celebrated Black History Month with a series of events. One was a lecture billed as *Election Protection in 2008* at which now-Visiting Professor John Brittain, then of the Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights Under Law provided a comprehensive review of civil rights cases then pending in the United States Supreme Court.

Another terrific event was a very well attended and spirited conversation about life at an Historically Black College and University—a dialogue on leadership in the black community within UDC moderated by Community Development Clinic Co-Director, Professor Sam Jefferson.

Another events included: a little friendly competition among the classes in the form of an African American History Quiz Bowl; a potluck, a viewing of the film *The Great Debaters*; and a “Corporate Mixer” happy hour; and a Black Law Student Association “Family Dinner.”
The Class of 2009 organized a wonderful Awards Luncheon to honor faculty and staff members this spring. Sarah Stephens and John White made welcoming remarks. Julie Akemann lauded and awarded full-time faculty member of the year, Tom Mack. Kevin Hill presented the clinical faculty member award to Matt Fraidin, Sanaz Hamzepour presented the award to adjunct faculty member of the year Sherman “The Raj” Rogers, Kaleia Edmundo presented the staff member of the year award to Nailah Williams (who made a late, dramatic entrance!) and Mazi Ucheomumu presented a special award to the ever-irrepressible Dean Shelley Broderick.
The Annual Barristers’ Ball was a smashing success. This sold out affair brought out over 150 faculty and staff and students, dressed in their very finest and gathered for an Awards Night themed-evening of dinner and dancing.

During the course of the spring semester, students voted on their peers for UDC-DCSL’s own version of the Oscar Awards, known as the “Clarke Awards” or “Little Davies.” The awards were affectionately named after the law school’s namesake and former Chair of the D.C. Council, the late David A. Clarke. At dinner, students gathered to hear which of their classmates would take home the coveted “Little Davies.” The 2008-2009 “Clarke Award” categories and winners are:

~ Most likely to become a law school Professor – Keri Nash, ’09
~ First to argue before the Supreme Court – Darren Schultz, ’09 & Jacqueline Oudia, ’10
~ Most likely to break out into song or dance – Julie Akemann, ’09
~ Superdad: Best male parent & law student – Malik Dixon, ’10
~ Supermom: Best female parent & law student – Gunella Lilly, ’09
~ Best Laugh – Cole Dowden, ’11
~ Most likely to make a friend on the metro: Most social – Seth Gainer, ’09
~ Most likely to win a million dollar settlement – Kwame Willingham, ’09
~ Fashionista: Best dressed female – Yary Lim, ’09
~ Dapper Don: Best dressed male – Jamie Williamson, ’11
~ Superwoman: Most involved female – Stacie Mills, ’09
~ Superman: Most involved male – Kevin Hill, ’09
~ Best Friends: Classmates always seen together – Justina Buckles & Jacqueline Smith, ’09
~ Most likely to become President of the United States of America – Melanie Acuña, ’09.
Class of 2008 graduates have joined the legal profession in a wide variety of sectors, making their mark in diverse public interest positions, government agencies, judicial clerkships and the private bar. Many UDC graduates are eager to put their clinical expertise to work in direct client services. For example, Alyssa Patzoldt is a staff attorney with the guardian ad litem project at the Children’s Law Center in Washington D.C.. She joins alumni Jamie Desjardins, ‘07 Adrienne Jones, ‘06 and Genetta Smith, ‘06, in advocating for District children and families. Both Maria Miers and Marc Borbely won prestigious Covington & Burling Westwood Fellowships and are staff attorneys at the Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington D.C., joining alumni Heather Molina, ‘07, and Nakkia Waggoner, ‘06. Shanice Adams is a legal assistant with HERO in Baltimore, a legal services agency providing support to HIV affected individuals and families. In New York, Candice Ellison is with the Legal Aid Society in the Bronx, in the juvenile rights practice. Further upstate, Jennifer Carr joined the Canton office of Legal Services of Northeastern New York. And closer to home, Anthony DiMillo and Colleen Archer are working on a project with Professor Joe Tulman in the Juvenile and Special Education clinic. Ariel Shea has remained at UDC-DCSL where she serves as electronic services librarian, Webmaster, online community guru, database wizard and “den mother” to the incoming classes!

Other graduates are putting their talents to work in public policy and advocacy organizations. Wayne Turner is a program associate with D.C. Appleseed, working on District issues including education reform, voting rights, gun control, environmental concerns and jobs and housing. Wayne mentors current students by appearing as a panelist at law school programs. Sarah Snik is a development specialist at Equal Justice Works, where she builds on her previous career. Kimberly Strickland is working for Color for Change in the District.

Our graduates are well represented as judicial clerks. In the District, Adrianna Vlacich-Cepetel is clerking for the Honorable Judge Juliet McKenna. After interning with the Honorable Pamela Gray as a law student, Harry Valcourt accepted a clerkship with the magistrate judge last fall. And Stacy Cash is clerking for D.C. Magistrate Judge Mary Grace Rook. In Maryland, Ajene Turnbull is clerking for the Honorable Joseph Dugan in Maryland Circuit Court. Marc Gabriel is clerking for a New Jersey State judge.

Government service continues to be an attractive option. In the federal government, Leigh Snyder works for the US Office of Government Ethics. Anne Uitvlugt is an assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan, in its public service division. Alea Harmon is a Hearing Officer with the Georgia Department of Labor. Alejandro Soto-Vigil returned to California and is working for a Berkeley council member. Jason Hart returned to Kentucky and has joined the public defender office.

Other class members joined the federal and local government by winning competitive post-graduate fellowships. Nancy Combs won a national Presidential Management Fellow award, a national competition designed to cultivate new leaders in the federal government. Nancy is working with the US Agency for International Development, and is another recent alumni who has come to the school on several occasions to talk about the PMF program and federal government work. Yancy Burns is a Capital City Fellow in Washington D.C.. The Capital City Fellows program is modeled after the PMF program, and brings in talented individuals to work in the District government. After a successful fellowship through the Hispanic Bar Association, where she lobbied and advocated on the Hill and before federal agencies for funding and support to increase the number of Latino students and professionals in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics workforce, Yesenia Polanco-Galdamez joined a law firm in North Carolina.

Graduates are also “hitting the ground running” at law firms, representing individuals and families, and community businesses. In their last semester of law school, Layne Pierre and Sean Becker worked for the Maryland Public Defender through the state’s student practice rule. The experience proved so rewarding that Layne and Sean have opened up their own criminal defense firm in Maryland. Colleen Archer also works with Baldwin, Molina and Escoto (with Henry Escoto, ’95) in the District of Columbia. Roseanna Chase is pursuing her passion of criminal defense work with the Law firm of David Benowitz. Jimmy Davis, who early on identified immigration law as an area in which to specialize, joined Paul Shearman Allen & Associates, an immigration law firm in D.C. Jasmin Mize is working for Shertler & Ornoto. In Virginia, Morgan Whitlock is with the law firm of Burnett & Williams. Outside of the metro D.C. area, Charles Jeane joined Dixon & Dixon in North Carolina and Denise Greaves is with Montlick & Associates in Atlanta.
Other students decided to pursue additional education. 

Suzanne Sable earned her LLM at the G.W. School of Law and has since joined the staff of Congressman Sandor Levin (D-Mich). Teresa Fulford also pursued an LLM at George Washington in litigation and dispute resolution. Keisha Potter is doing an LLM at Temple Law. Amanda Dunlap is at NYU’s top-ranked tax law program. Melissa Mathu, who interned on the US Tax Court for Judge Peter Panthus, is also pursuing her LL.M. in Taxation and Estate Planning at Temple.

Eliza Bangit continues to work - and publish - through her position with Georgetown University as a health care analyst, Philip Sherman is a legislative analyst at the Canadian Embassy. Adeboyewa "Anthony" Adeleke is a business consultant in Virginia.

(Continued from page 37)
REUNIONS: are scheduled for the weekend of Saturday, April 24, 2010 with a focus on the major celebrations for the classes of 1975/35th; 1980/30th; 1985/25th; 2010/5th. Already more than 30 members of the Class of 1975 are planning to attend and rumour hath it that there will be an exciting reprise of the renowned ’75 rock band, Habie Corpus and the Tortettes. Plans for 1985 are already proceeding apace, with over 20 co-hosts lined up for one of Antioch’s largest classes.

VETERANS’ RIGHTS: Thank you to Kerry Loring, ’88 and Michael Bracey, ’81 who are assisting the School of Law develop a Veteran’s Disabilities project. Kerry, an appellate attorney for the Department of Veterans’ Affairs has the inside view. Michael, a Vietnam Veteran himself is back in the trenches with an archival research business that digs up key information for Vets’ disability and asbestos-related claims. Both are working closely with UDC-DCSL Director of Clinical and Public Interest Programs, Karen Forman.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY PROJECT: The School of Law has contracted with PCI, a reputable alumni directory company which is contacting all Antioch School of Law, DC School of Law, and UDC-DCSL alumni to update and flesh out records. Our first dataset has been returned—THANK YOU to the hundreds of you who have provided your information!

HAPPY HOURS: As those on our e-mail list know, we are holding monthly Third (Thirsty) Thursday happy hours at the late, great David Niblack’s favorite watering hole, the District Chop House. Our intention is to move them around, but Prof.

Colin Dunham, Niblack’s former law partner and Trial Advocacy adjunct at UDC-DCSL has threatened suit if we even THINK of organizing elsewhere. (So much for his feigned civil libertarian orientation!) There has also been a request for a non-alcohol-connected networking event, a reasonable request that we’ve taken under advisement. It’s been fun to see friends old and new—and we PROMISE to bring some of the School of Law’s professorial stalwarts during the fall ‘09 Happy Hour season!

WELCOME CLASS of 2009 our newest alumni! We hope you’ll remain an active part of the School of Law community, working with us as a team to help classmates and others find gainful legal employ!

The Class of 2009 has America’s highest bar passage rate: 100% - thanks to Mazi Ucheumumu, ’09 pictured below, who passed in February!

WHISTLEBLOWER POWER It was great to see Tom Devine, ’80 of the Government Accountability Project and Steve Kohn of the National Whistleblower Center (and Kohn, Kohn and Colapinto—composed of brother Mike Kohn, ’85, and Dave Colapinto, ’88) at the recent Whistleblower Conference kicked off last winter at UDC-DCSL. (see page 10 for more information!) As previously reported in The Advocate, Tom and Mike Kohn participated in a School of Law panel in 2008.

JOBS DATABASE New alumni users continue to sign up for access to the School of Law’s jobs database. To get your “Constituent ID Number” to access the site, simply email JLibertelli@udc.edu. If you’ve already signed in, but have forgotten your password, just “ask the site” for your password to be sent to you.

ALUMNI IN THE NEWS—AND ON OUR WEBSITE You may recently noticed stories on our website www.law.udc.edu about alumni including Jon Wellinghoff, ’75, the new Chair of the Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission, prosecutor Deb Sines, ’82, Whistleblower lawyer Dave Colapinto, ’88 or defense attorney Rene Sandler, ’94. Antioch, DC and UDC-DCSL alums are often in the news. If you notice an alum in the news, please send the link or citation to JLibertellil@udc.edu. Feel free to send your own press coverage!

NEED A LAWYER IN TEXAS, FLORIDA, ILLINOIS? Or Massachusetts, or California? We have alumni in most states and often send them urgent alumni e-mail message seeking local counsel or other assistance. Send requests to JLibertelli@udc.edu.
LaShanda Taylor joined the faculty in 2009 as an Associate Professor of Law and teaches in the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic. Prior to joining the law school, she was a staff attorney at the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law where she worked on a project aimed at improving the outcomes for foster care children and former foster youth.

From 2006-2009, Prof. Taylor taught at American University Washington College of Law as a Practitioner-in-Residence with the General Practice Clinic and then as an adjunct professor teaching Juvenile Law: Children’s Legal Rights.

Prof. Taylor’s work on behalf of children and families in the child welfare system began in 1997 when she interned at the Child Advocacy Unit of the DeKalb County Juvenile Court and continued throughout law school. While at NYU School of Law, she received several awards, including the Root-Tilden-Kern Public Interest Scholarship, the Black Latino Asian Pacific American (BLAPA) Public Interest Scholarship, and the Kellogg Child Welfare Law Fellowship. She also served on the editorial board of the Review of Law and Social Change and represented parents in New York Family Court as a student attorney in the Family Defense Clinic.

In 1999, Prof. Taylor was awarded a Skadden Fellowship to develop a kinship caregiver representation project at The Children’s Law Center in the District of Columbia. After the fellowship ended, she continued at the Center as an attorney and Director of the Family Permanency Project.

In addition to her experience providing direct legal services and conducting trainings on legal and judicial aspects of the child welfare system, Prof. Taylor, while working at the New Jersey Office of the Child Advocate, contributed to numerous reports evaluating the performance of state agencies providing services to families and children. She has also written several articles, including Creating a Causal Connection: From Prenatal Drug Use to Imminent Harm (1999), A Lawyer for Every Child: Client-Directed Representation in Dependency Cases (2009), and Resurrecting the Parents of Legal Orphans: Un-Terminating Parental Rights (work in progress).

Prof. Taylor earned her B.A. from Spelman College in 1996; and a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1999.

Vicenç Feliú is the Director of the Charles N. and Hilda H. Mason Law Library and an Assistant Professor of Law at the David A. Clarke School of Law. He received his B.A. in Linguistics from California State University, Fullerton, Juris Doctor from Franklin Pierce Law Center, New Hampshire, Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Washington, and a Master of Laws in Intellectual Property from Franklin Pierce Law Center, New Hampshire. Before coming to UDC, he was the Assistant Director for Public Services and Associate Librarian for Foreign, Comparative, and International Law at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center of Louisiana State University. Professor Feliú is responsible for all administrative aspects of the Law Library, including technology. He is an active participant in law library professional organizations.

Professor Feliú’s primary scholarly interest is in the field of copyright law. He has also concentrated his scholarship on the areas of legal research, civil law, international law, and reference services. Claytor’s Law Books (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) recently published his book, Moreau Lislet: The Man Behind the Digest of 1808, which he co-authored with Professor Alain Levasseur, Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Louisiana State University. Professor Feliú is a member of the American Association of Law Libraries and the District of Columbia bar. Before becoming a law librarian, Professor Feliú served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.
John C. Brittain will be a Visiting Professor at UDC-DCSL during 2009-10. A native of Norwalk, Connecticut, Brittain earned his B.A. and J.D. degrees from Howard University in 1966 and 1969, respectively. Upon graduation, he moved to Mississippi to practice civil rights law. He then traveled to the Far West Coast to create his own small law firm with a partner in San Francisco. After eight years of civil rights and private law practice experience, Brittain joined the faculty at the University of Connecticut Law School where he remained for two decades, developing a special expertise in international and domestic human rights as a public interest advocate and author of published articles. He specializes in civil rights litigation theories in education, voting rights, affirmative action, affordable housing, and police misconduct.

Brittain served as dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas. During his three-year tenure, Brittain restored stability after four and a half years of interim deans.

In March 2005, the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a forty-one-year-old civil rights legal organization, appointed Brittain Chief Counsel and Senior Deputy Director of its national office in Washington, D.C. As Chief Counsel, he was responsible for determining civil rights litigation strategies and public policy issues.

Brittain is a school desegregation specialist and one of the lawyers who filed the landmark Sheff v. O’Neill school desegregation case in 1989. The Connecticut Supreme Court issued a precedent setting ruling in July 1996 that the extreme racial and ethnic isolation of African American and Latino students denied the schoolchildren in Hartford their fundamental right to equal educational opportunity.

Brittain was frequently mentioned in the book, The Children in Room E4: American Education on Trial, (2007) by Susan Eaton, an excellent chronicle of the Sheff case. In addition, Brittain served on a legal team that filed a friend of the court brief on behalf of the NAACP in the People Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District and Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education (Louisville) school cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court (2007) concerning voluntary race-conscious student assignment plans.

At the higher educational level, Brittain was trained by his mentor, the late Professor Herbert O. Reid, the Charles Hamilton Houston Professor at Howard University, to pursue comparability and competitiveness for historically Black colleges and universities.

Shortly after the 1991 Haitian coup, Brittain accompanied former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark on an investigation of human rights conditions. He made similar trips to Northern Ireland, Israel and the Palestine Territories, Nicaragua, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico and Spain.

Brittain has won numerous awards and has served in a plethora of voluntary positions, perhaps most notably as President of the National Lawyers Guild, from 1991 to 1993.

Dean Brittain and his wife, Sondra, have been married for thirty-nine years, and they have two adult children, Karim and Kensei. He has been a vegetarian for thirty years and a competitive runner and tennis player. He enjoys reading books and sailing.

Karen L. Forman is the Director of Public Interest and Clinical Programs. Prior to joining UDC she was Pro Bono Counsel at Saul Ewing LLP, where she designed and launched its firm-wide initiative “Were All In!” Ms. Forman was founding Director of the Office for Public Interest Law Programs at the Temple University Beasley School of Law. Before that she served as Director of the Law School’s Office of Career Planning. Ms. Forman was the first Staff Attorney for Philadelphia VIP (Volunteers for the Indigent Program) and then promoted to Assistant Director. She currently serves on the joint Board of Directors of Community Legal Services and Philadelphia Legal Assistance and the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Task Force on Civil Gideon. She is a frequent lecturer on the development of pro bono programs and ethics in pro bono practice. Ms. Forman received her Juris Doctor in 1985 from Temple University School of Law; a Master’s Degree in Education in 1978 from Lesley College; and Bachelor of Science Degree in 1975 from Syracuse University.
Save the Date!

Friday,
Sept. 25,
2009

6 pm Ceremony
7 pm Reception

Please join us for the Investiture of
William L. Robinson
as the
Olie W. Rauh Professor of Law
at the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

UDC Window Room,
Building 38, 4200 Connecticut Ave., NW,
Washington, DC 20008
RSVP to Jaye Lopez, JLopez@udc.edu
or (202) 274-5401

Or register online at
www.law.udc.edu/event/Investiture