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- D.C. Public Charter School Association;
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
- Lawyers for Children America;
- U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia;
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission;
- International Municipal Lawyers’ Association;
- U.S. Army, JAG;
- U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs;
- Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority;
- D.C. Rental Housing Commission;
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- Amnesty International;
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Clinic Students Todor Hinov, ’05, Gena’s Ramirez, ’05 and Jeremy Schroeder, ’05. Clinic Highlights, pp 4-12.

New Community Service Program Coordinator, Earlene Rosenberg, ’03


Dear Colleagues and Friends:

This edition of the Advocate illustrates the extraordinary success the School of Law is having in meeting its statutory missions. Those missions, brilliantly crafted by faculty members working with the DC Council member Hilda Mason and her husband Charles Mason and DC Council Chair David A Clarke, are to “recruit and enroll students from racial, ethnic and other population groups traditionally underrepresented at the bar and to represent the legal needs of low-income District of Columbia residents to the maximum extent feasible through the School’s legal clinics.”

Thumb through the Advocate and fall in love with our enormously talented, committed and diverse student body. The School of Law enjoys the fourth largest percentage of African American law students at any school and 53% of our students are members of minority groups. Ninety-eight percent of our students are eligible for financial aid and most are the first, or close to the first, in their families to graduate from college and attend law school. The average age of our student body is 29 and many students come to us after careers in teaching, government service, journalism, nursing, and countless other paths. The majority of our students are determined to pursue careers in public interest, public service, and public policy law, and have chosen UDC-DCSL because of its clinical programs and service mission.

The School of Law also continues to serve the community at an amazing pace. This year alone, students have and will provide more than 70,000 hours—the equivalent of 35 full-time employees working 50 weeks per year for a total of 2000 hours each. Please read the stories about our first-year students working in the Law and Justice Community Service Program (page 12). Students worked in the US District Court Observation Project for the Council of Court Excellence assessing accessibility for people with disabilities; in Time Dollar’s Youth Court supervising juvenile peer jury trials; at the DC Public Defender Service investigating criminal cases; at Amnesty International studying racial profiling by the police; at the DC Employment Justice Center conducting intake in employment discrimination cases and at dozens of other placements that could not otherwise do the work that our students take on without compensation.

During the summer, after their first year of law school, our students picked up the pace! Two served as Covington and Burling summer fellows at the Neighborhood Legal Services Program. Two others were Mary Hynes Fellows at UDC-DCSL, following in Mary’s footsteps as outstanding juvenile justice advocates. Others were Joe Rauh Equal Justice Works Summer Fellows serving in full-time positions as judicial law clerks, in local and federal government service and at public interest organizations throughout the District. Once again, the individuals and organizations could not afford to pay for the services provided by the students who themselves earned less than minimum wage. (Stories page 14).

Finally, all of our students give 700 hours in the School of Law’s outstanding legal clinics. Under close faculty supervision, students represent seniors, women and children with AIDS, children with special education needs, tenants fighting illegal rent increases and tenant organizations seeking to purchase and renovate their buildings, small business owners and others, including many of the District of Columbia’s most vulnerable residents. (Story page 4).

Please read on. I know that you will be as proud as I am.

Shelley Broderick
Juvenile and Special Education Law Clinic

Spring semester 2004 was an exceptionally productive semester for clients represented by students in the Juvenile and Special Education Law Clinic. Every student supervised by Professor Suji Sutler represented at least one client at a due process hearing.

In addition to obligations pertaining to education owed our clients by D.C. Public Schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), there are a number of other D.C. government agencies obligated to provide a host of higher educational, vocational, job training and placement, assistive technological, medical, and independent living services to persons with disabilities. Two agencies in particular that have consistently failed to identify persons in need and to provide such services are D.C.’s Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration (MRDDA). For the first time in the Clinic, Allen Mohaber, ‘05, successfully filed a complaint with the D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings against RSA on behalf of a client with a disability who had received a “Certificate of Attainment” from a local D.C. high school, but is still reading, writing and performing math below age and grade levels. As a result of persistent and vigorous advocacy, prior to the hearing Allen negotiated and secured placement and funding for his client at the Lab Night School of Washington, directed by Ms. Peg O’Donnell. On the day of the hearing, the Assistant Corporation Counsel, on behalf of RSA, agreed to settle and provide the relief requested in the client’s complaint, including: (1) a home computer with software and hardware affiliated with the Kurzweil 3000 system; (2) training sessions on use of the Kurzweil by Envision Technology; (3) on-going job training referrals and job placement assistance in the area of child care; (4) purchase of a calculator; and (5) increased “maintenance” funds for transportation for school and work-related activities. Allen is now our resident expert for students intending to file complaints against RSA during the fall ‘04 semester!

Cherita Gonzales, ‘05, and Michele Harewood, ‘05, represented clients during both special education and disciplinary due process hearings. During one hearing, Cherita persuaded the school system to reduce its recommendation for a possession of a knife offense from expulsion to a suspension. The client attended an alternate school, but was able to return to his neighborhood school during the spring semester in order to graduate. During a time of increased student-on-student violence in this city, early conflict resolution is vitally important. On behalf of another client, Cherita documented the failure of a private school and DCPS to address a conflict between students and their families. The dispute arose from an assault upon her client by classmates on a D.C. Metro train while traveling home from school. Prior to the Clinic’s involvement, the private school took the position that it had no obligation to address the assault since it occurred off school premises.

Based on testimony and documentary evidence presented at another disciplinary hearing, Michele Harewood firmly established that a school her client was attending was inappropriate. Instead of being suspended for an alleged assault on a teacher’s aide, the client was transferred to another school and there was no actual finding by the hearing officer that the client had engaged in an “assault” on the aide. On behalf of the same client, Michele filed a complaint and proceeded to a special education due process hearing to address DCPS’ failure to administer legally sufficient evaluations and to secure appropriate placement. During the hearing, DCPS agreed to fund independent clinical psychological and neurological evaluations, both of which, DCPS had refused to conduct or fund...
on its own. Subsequently, Michele helped identify and facilitate the client’s acceptance by a private school. The student advocate assigned to the case during fall ‘04 will be responsible for getting DCPS to place and fund the client at this private school for the 2004-2005 school year.

Janice Cheeks, ‘05, also successfully filed and processed a complaint against DCPS for its failure to adequately evaluate one of her clients. She was able to persuade an extremely busy and reluctant expert neuropsychologist witness to appear in person for the hearing. On the day of the hearing, DCPS not only agreed to fund an independent neuropsychological evaluation but also admitted through its attorney that the 2003-2004 charter school placement was inappropriate.

On behalf of another young adult client identified as a gifted artist who happens to have Down’s Syndrome, Janice contacted and shared his portfolio work with personnel at the Corcoran College of Art & Design. DCPS has repeatedly refused to fund full-time combined academic and arts programming for this client. In her efforts to tap financial resources from other legally obligated agencies, Janice helped file an application for RSA services and made vigorous attempts to get MRDDA to fund the Corcoran summer program. Although MRDDA refused to provide funding based on its position that “case management” services is all it is obliged to provide this client at this time, Janice’s work lays sufficient foundation for the next student advocate to file a complaint against both MRDDA and RSA.

Nina Dang, ‘05, and Caru Echenique, ‘05, filed complaints on behalf of separate clients and, as a result of their zealous efforts to identify and negotiate new school placements, DCPS agreed on the day of the special education due process hearings to place and fund both clients at new school placements. Caru’s client was sitting at home receiving no services at the time the complaint was filed. Nina’s client was in a therapeutic setting but not receiving any educational services as part of that program. Additionally, during the hearings, Nina and Caru argued and persuaded the hearing officers to order DCPS to compensate both clients for services it failed to provide by funding tutoring and related services beyond what was specified in the clients’ Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs). Nina’s client received additional academic instruction and speech therapy while in the residential facility. Caru secured academic tutoring services at the client’s home which should carry into the 2004-2005 school year.

Caru and Nina also took extraordinary measures on behalf of their other clients. As a result of receiving failing grades during the fall semester of his senior year in 2003, Nina’s second client was deemed ineligible for a previously awarded scholarship for higher education from a private organization in the District. Nina was happy to learn that as a result of the client’s efforts to improve his grades, coupled with her initiative to write, send and follow up on a letter requesting reconsideration of the organization’s decision, The Fishing School, under the direction of Mr. Emery McIver, reinstated the scholarship! Finally, Caru’s second client has unique artistic talent. For the poster she designed and entered into the 2004 Annual D.C. Metro Transit Authority Contest, this client was the recipient of the first place merit award in the D.C. citywide eighth grade category. Based on the client’s artistic interests, Caru identified and negotiated a fully funded placement in the D.C. Building Museum’s competitive summer art’s program. It’s probable these accomplishments and opportunities would not have occurred had Caru not made oral and written challenges to the principal’s decision to suspend this client from her local neighborhood school in early February 2004, despite the school’s multidisciplinary team’s opinion that no such suspension should take place. What a difference these student lawyers made in the lives of their clients. Bravo! Job well done!

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Clinic Highlights

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law — In Service to the Community!

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Law students in the Juvenile and Special Education Law Clinic continued to advocate at a brisk pace for their clients through the spring and summer. Caragh Fay, ’05, for example, has appealed to the federal district court a refusal by a special education hearing officer to enforce a consent order that the hearing officer had signed three years earlier to provide compensatory education services to a District of Columbia student who is currently incarcerated in a Maryland state prison. This case ultimately could address issues of first impression regarding responsibility for providing special educational services to prisoners.

Caragh Fay, ’05

On behalf of another client who has been incarcerated in the District of Columbia, Clinic law student advocates Toni Maschler, ’04, and Maurice Cox, ’05, helped to create and craft a settlement that will provide up to $36,000 in private services for this client. Mr. Cox worked through the summer as a Mary Hynes Fellow. In one case that resulted in a due process hearing, Mr. Cox formulated and argued a novel argument that a school that is in need of improvement and not meeting “adequate yearly progress” under the federal No Child Left Behind Act cannot provide, by definition and as a matter of law, a “free appropriate public education” under the special education law. A ruling on this matter is pending.

Tiffani Johnson, ’05, revised and filed a motion to enforce a client’s right to accommodations for his severe speech-language disabilities in regard to the provision of probation services. Requests for such accommodations (in light of requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act) are a rare occurrence in criminal cases. Juvenile and Special Education Law Clinic advocates hope to raise awareness of applicable legal requirements and the need for probation officers, judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.

UDC-DCSL Trains D.C. Special Education Officers

At the request of the District of Columbia Public Schools Student Hearing Office, Professor Susan Sutler and Professor Joseph Tulman organized and conducted a one-day training session, held on April 8, 2004, for the District of Columbia’s special education hearing officers. UDC-DCSL faculty member and D.C. Court of Appeals Judge William Pryor began the day with a presentation about the role of the neutral decision-maker. In addition to sessions led by the UDC-DCSL professors, the training included a presentation by psychologist Quentin Graham on the nature of special education evaluations and a lunch-time presentation by and discussion with Elise Baach, a special master in special education cases currently open in the D.C. federal district court. UDC-DCSL law students helped to prepare materials for the training.

On the Road with Prof. Joe Tulman in California, Kentucky, Ohio, Colorado, Tennessee, North Carolina, Maryland and Indiana!

Professor Tulman has continued to conduct outreach and training sessions around the country regarding the use of special education advocacy on behalf of children in the delinquency system and young adults in the criminal system.

In March, Tulman conducted a workshop in San Francisco at the national conference of COPAA (The Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) and spoke in San Diego at a national conference of law professors regarding creative legal problem-solving. He also addressed a statewide meeting of juvenile defense attorneys and advocates in Kentucky. In April, Professor Tulman went to Dayton, Ohio to train public defenders from around the state.

In June, Professor Tulman spoke at a national conference in Denver, Colorado on “Positive Outcomes for Court-Involved Youth,” sponsored by the National Center on Education, Disability and Juvenile Justice. Also in June, he spoke at two events sponsored by the National Association for Protection and Advocacy Systems. The first event was a day-long institute on advocacy for children with disabilities; the second was the NAPAS national conference, at which Tulman conducted a workshop. Also in June, he spoke at a state-wide training conference for juvenile public defenders in Wyoming.
In July, Professor Tulman was the featured speaker at a two-day, state-wide conference in Tennessee on juvenile justice and special education sponsored by the Tennessee Bar Association, the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, and Tennessee Protection and Advocacy, Inc. Also in July, Tulman participated as an expert presenter at an “Education Advocacy Planning Meeting” in Charlotte, N.C. to explore responses to school re-segregation in that community. That meeting was jointly sponsored by the Harvard Civil Rights Project, the University of North Carolina Center for Civil Rights, and the University of North Carolina – Charlotte Department of Education.

In August, Professor Tulman conducted a workshop at a state-wide conference in Indiana — sponsored by Indiana State Bar Association sections, state child-serving agencies, and state organizations representing judges, prosecutors, and defenders — on mental health and juvenile delinquency.

On September 9, Tulman conducted a workshop at a state-wide conference in Maryland on “Achieving Positive Outcomes for Court-Involved Youth.” The sponsors for the conference included the National Center on Education, Disability, and Juvenile Justice and several Maryland state agencies.

Legislation Clinic

During the Spring 2004 semester, the thirteen students in UDC-DCSL’s Legislation Clinic tackled a wide array of significant legislative projects. Seven of the students worked with offices of members of the D.C. Council.

Defibrillators, Housing, and Youth Detention

Lance Lee, ’05, assisted the office of Councilmember Adrian Fenty to refine an "Automatic External Defibrillator" bill and to develop a proposed resolution to reauthorize a special committee to oversee the development of a comprehensive housing policy for the District; in addition, he addressed a variety of other issues, including the Oak Hill receivership, the Youth Services Agency, and school governance.

Renewable Energy, Expungement, Gas Service

Zach Freeman, ’06, worked with Councilmember Phil Mendelson on a variety of issues, including "Renewable Energy Portfolio" legislation, expungement of criminal records, and gas service disruptions.

Juvenile Justice Reform

For the office of Councilmember Sandy Allen, Jeremy Schroeder, ’05, analyzed a variety of problems with the juvenile justice system, such as sentencing guidelines and victims' rights, and developed legislative proposals for reforms to the juvenile justice system in D.C.

Prisoner Reintegration Research

Jermaine Mercer, ’05, conducted extensive research for the office of Councilmember Kathy Patterson on the reintegration of prisoners into society, including a review of other jurisdictions’ programs for facilitating reentry and an analysis of possible legislative proposals for addressing this issue in D.C.

Drinking Water Contamination, School Nutrition and Safety

Sara Hussain, ’05, worked with the office of Councilmember Kevin P. Chavous identifying and addressing concerns about the lead content in D.C. water and WASA's handling of this problem. She also worked on issues related to summer nutrition programs and school safety legislation.

Clean Car Dealership Act

Courtney Duncil, ’05, worked with the office of Councilmember Sharon Ambrose to develop "Clean Car Dealership Act" legislation to address a variety of problems that had arisen with illegitimate and poorly run used car dealerships.

Disabilities Benefits Review

Matt Mixon, ’05, undertook an in-depth review of the disability benefits program in the District for the office of Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr. After examining the complaints that have been filed, reviewing the relevant provisions of existing D.C. law, and considering approaches taken in other jurisdictions, Matt developed recommendations for remedial legislation.
Human Rights Statute of Limitations Extension

In addition, Debbie Anderson, ‘05, worked with the Partnership for Civil Justice to propose the enactment of a three-year statute of limitations under the D.C. Human Rights Act, making the limitations period coextensive with tort and other comparable actions and eliminating the exceptionally harsh one-year period currently imposed.

D.C. Voting Rights and Parks Research

Gracie Cook, ‘05, developed an extensive analytical paper describing the historical background of voting rights in Congress for the District of Columbia for the office of D.C. Congressional Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton; she also researched and reported on the Central Park Conservancy and the Golden Gate Park Conservancy as possible models for augmenting the funding of Rock Creek Park.

Multilateral Development Bank Immunity

Todor Hinov, ‘05, undertook and successfully completed an in-depth research project for the Government Accountability Project on immunity of multilateral international development banks, in which he addressed relevant international laws, court decisions, and conceptual approaches.

Health Care Policy

Marisa Marinos worked for the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the U.S. House of Representatives conducting wide-ranging research on health care policy, including such issues as reducing premium levels, tax incentive proposals, generic drugs, and approaches for achieving universal health care.

Private Right of Action for Persons with Disabilities on Air Carriers

Dwayne Burns, ‘05, wrote a position paper, “Amending the Air Carrier Access Act to Allow for a Private Right of Action,” for the National Council on Disability (an independent federal government agency) that was adopted by the Council and published on its website.

Education and Homeland Security

Patricia Romulus, ‘05, worked on two major projects for the office of Rep. Sanford Bishop of the U.S. House of Representatives — the Higher Education Reauthorization Act and reforms to address problems with U.S. immigration resulting from or exacerbated by the Homeland Security Act, including particularly problems with the H1-B Visa program. For each of these projects, she performed research, monitored pending legislation, and analyzed potential legislative approaches.

D.C. Councilmember David Catania Speaks to Legislation Clinic

On September 23, David A. Catania, an at-large member of the Council of the District of Columbia, made a presentation on "The Legislative Process in the District of Columbia" for students in the Legislation Clinic. Introduced to the class by Dean Shelley Broderick, Councilmember Catania infused his discussion of the structure and procedures of lawmaking in the District with examples based on new provisions regulating the purchase of prescription drugs by D.C. residents — legislation co-authored by Catania and Councilmember Sandy Allen — and gave a spirited and frank description of the methods and pitfalls of trying to enact a law in D.C. He also graciously entertained a wide range of questions from the students, many of whom are working with Council offices on various legislation projects this semester.
HIV/AIDS Clinic

During the Spring 2004 semester, fourteen students enrolled in the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic. The student representatives were Damien Bernardache, Michelle DeMao, Elizabeth Riordin Eckhardt, Kimberly Fahrenholz, Anthony Fasullo, John Geddie, Victor Iweanoge, Leericka Lucas, William McLain IV, Gena’ve Ramirez, Karen Sawyer, Galina Sergen, Jorge Villavicencio, and LaShanda Whaley. These students provided legal representation to well over 70 clients, assisting people with matters such as the transfer of custody of minor children, child support, uncontested divorces, advance directives such as wills and durable powers of attorney, and Social Security disability claims.

The end of the spring semester of 2004 marked a significant change for the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic. Professor Natalie Wasserman, who co-directed the clinic, retired after seven years of dedicated service. Professor Wasserman, a 1994 graduate of the District of Columbia School of Law, returned to teach in the HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic in 1997. A wonderful and caring teacher, she was named “Clinical Professor of the Year” by the class of 2002.

Never one to be idle, Professor Wasserman will continue traveling, a love she shares with her husband, Don, and she has enrolled in a conversational Spanish class at UDC’s “seniors” continuing education program. She recently volunteered with a “get out the vote” effort in connection with the Kerry campaign. Her colleagues at the law school will miss her dearly, but no one will miss “Natalie” more than her co-teacher for the last three years, Prof. Joyce Batipps. A recent law school-wide celebration commemorated Prof. Wasserman’s faithful service and extended best wishes for her retirement.

Welcome Prof. Matt Fraidin!

Filling the “big” shoes left by Professor Wasserman, is Matthew Fraidin. Professor Fraidin joins the UDC-DCSL faculty after serving the last four years as the Legal Director of the renowned Children’s Law Center (CLC), a family law legal services provider in Washington, D.C. In this position at CLC, Professor Fraidin supervised 15 lawyers who were representing children, parents, kinship caregivers and foster parents in family law and special education matters and earned the respect of lawyers and judges in the Washington legal community.

For more information on Professor Fraidin’s background, see New Faculty on Page 25.

STUDENT CASE WORK:

Custody and Standby Guardianship

With their newly gained knowledge and their developing legal skills, the students made a dramatic impact on the lives of their clients. Students Damien Bernardache, Elizabeth Eckhardt, Leericka Lucas, Anthony Fasullo, and William McLain each appeared in court on behalf of their clients in matters of child custody, and assisted parents in planning for the care of their children. Karen Sawyer, Leericka Lucas, Michelle DeMao, and Vincent Iweanoge filed petitions for Standby Guardianship, which will allow a designated caregiver to step in if a parent is incapacitated or dies, allowing for an easier transition for the affected children.

Wills & Advance Directives

Elizabeth Eckhardt, Vincent Iweanoge, Leericka Lucas, Karen Sawyer and LaShanda Whaley prepared wills and other advance directives for clients, thereby assisting the clients in planning for their futures.
Social Security Disability Claims

Students represented clients before the Social Security Administration, advocating for their clients’ disability claims. William McLain, Gena’ve Ramirez and Karen Sawyer wrote highly persuasive briefs in support of the disability claims of some of the clinic’s child clients. John Geddie was a powerful advocate for his client, a single father, who had been told that Social Security paid his child, a child who has both HIV and a rare metabolic disorder, too much in benefit payments. Social Security was demanding that the father repay the alleged overpayment. Mr. Geddie argued that the overpayments were no fault of the father or the child and requested that Social Security waive these overpayments. He repeatedly requested a hearing on behalf of his client, arguing the client’s procedural due process right to a hearing and staying Social Security’s ability to begin collecting the overpayment.

Kimberly Fahrenholz and LaShanda Whaley amassed supportive medical evidence and used this evidence as the basis for briefs they wrote in support of their clients’ disability claims. Their clients prevailed on their claims and were awarded Social Security benefits. Now these individuals, who were unable to work because of their disabilities, have a small amount of money to provide for their basic needs and guaranteed medical coverage. Students Damien Bernache, Galina Sergen and Jorge Villavicencio were so committed to their clients, they asked to continue assisting their clients over the summer months, even after they had officially completed their clinical course obligations. Mr. Bernache carefully drafted a brief which contained a detailed and thorough analysis of his child client’s disability claim. Ms. Sergen was scheduled to accompany her client to a hearing in July. She submitted additional medical evidence and a very persuasive brief on behalf of her client and received an on-the-record decision for the award of disability benefits, eliminating the need for the hearing. Mr. Villavicencio, who said he really established a bond with his client and wanted to see that the client got the disability benefits he so deserved, worked tirelessly over the summer in support of his client. The client received notice in early August that his disability benefits were awarded.

Professors Wasserman and Batipps were grateful for such a committed and dedicated group of students. Elizabeth Eckhardt and Leericka Lucas continued their advocacy over the summer as interns and represented clients in all of our practice areas.

Talk by Dr. Veronica Jenkins, M.D.

At the beginning of the semester, the students were privileged to have Veronica Jenkins, M.D., as a guest lecturer. Dr. Jenkins is the medical director of the Family and Medical Counseling Service in Southeast Washington and is an expert on the care and treatment of those infected with HIV. Dr. Jenkins cares for a huge number of patients in Anacostia, many of whom are clients of our HIV/AIDS Legal Clinic. She presented a thorough and powerful lecture on the medical aspects of HIV/AIDS, arming the students with both basic knowledge about the disease and a better understanding about those who suffer from this illness.
Community Development Law Clinic

When we think of non-profits, what comes to mind are big, well-funded organizations that send solicitations through the mail. But there are many small organizations that we never hear about whose founders set out with little, if any, resources to accomplish good things. Students in the Community Development Law Clinic (CDLC) provide invaluable support to such organizations. During spring 2004, CDLC students saw two such clients obtain full tax-exempt status under District and federal law.

One of the organizations, founded by an individual who was himself homeless, solicits and delivers food and other necessary items to homeless people who are unwilling (often out of fear) to go to shelters. The other organization, founded by an individual whose own life had been affected by HIV/AIDS, provides vital support services to women coming out of jail who are infected with the virus. During the summer, clinic interns Khlover Tynes, ‘05, and Mary Burgess, ‘05, began assisting a community organization that represents the interests of low-income residents who stand to be displaced by a major real estate development project. The organization is mounting a challenge to the project under D.C. zoning law.

The clinic’s clientele also includes small businesses that need legal assistance but cannot afford lawyers. These small businesses play a vital role in the District’s economy and the welfare of its citizens by creating opportunity for lower income individuals. For example, two years ago the clinic helped a low-income individual establish a lawn care service which recently employed a young man on probation. The clinic’s clients are engaged in a variety of endeavors such as graphic arts, music production, trucking, and concierge and culinary services. The clinic’s services include trademark and copyright, contract drafting, entity formation and general consultation on licensing, zoning and other regulatory issues. The clinic’s growing waiting list is testament to the clinic’s reputation and the need in the community for its services.

About the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law Clinical Program

UDC-DCSL is unique.

At most other schools, learning to practice law by representing real people under the watchful eye of an experienced law professor is an option. At UDC, clinical work is not an option — it’s a requirement.

All UDC-DCSL law students provide a minimum of 700 hours of public service legal representation in at least two of the School’s in-house legal clinics.

This work is in addition to the minimum 40 hour Community Service Requirement

In clinic, students represent children with special educational needs, seniors and other tenants or tenant organizations, consumers, people with HIV or AIDS, community organizations or businesses.

Others students work with local or national legislators or advocacy organizations to create law in Legislation Clinic.

As a result of the required clinical program, all UDC-DCSL students are sensitized to how the American legal system works — and often does not work — on behalf of poor people and the public interest.
The Class of 2006, UDC-DCSL’s largest entering class in recent memory, provided over 3,000 internship hours to various non-profit organizations and government agencies dedicated to the needs of the District and its residents. The UDC David A. Clarke School of Law can be justly proud of the example set by its student body.

The largest contingent of first-year students interned for the Council for Court Excellence, a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the administration of justice in the local and federal courts in D.C. Noshad Abbassi, Matthew Brome-land, Stacey Cobb, Surayyah Colbert, Tiese Crawford, Robert Davis, Amir Pasha Eatedali, Helen Higginbotham, Betty-Chia Karro, Roy John Levy, Ryhan Linthicum, Blair Miles, Michelle Redlin, Genetta Smith, Shelia Thorpe, and Mireille Tshiteya contributed materially to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Observation Project. Their comments – particularly concerning lack of access for the disabled – will form the basis for a set of recommendations for the improvement of the courthouse.

The Time Dollar Youth Court, brainchild of Law and Justice Professor Edgar Cahn, drew a significant percentage of the class. Daphne Brown, Todd Burns, Jennifer Donaldson, Jeffrey Scott Howard, Monica Jenkins, Adrienne Jones, Louis Neal, Catherine Zoe Payne, Dipti Pidikiti, Summer Quinn, Dana Riccoboni, Valerie Scott, Camille Tilley, and Erica Veazey served as advocate judges in this D.C. Superior Court-authorized juvenile diversion program. They heard cases involving car theft, fighting, and truancy. Their skill in guiding juries composed of young people reflects their interest in providing a basic understanding of the legal system to D.C.’s future leaders.

The remaining internship sites reflect the broad array of career opportunities available to UDC-DCSL students. Emily Brennan, Jeffrey Cardone and Laura Perry interned for the D.C. Office of the Attorney General. Caroll Donayre devoted her time to the Public Defender Service of D.C. Megan Alburn, Nicole DiLella, Ryan High, Jewell Parker, and Claressa Woodward assisted law clerks in various judges’ chambers in D.C. Superior Court. Elliott Teel worked for D.C. Councilmember Adrian Fenty. LaRuby May supported the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council.


Employment discrimination was a key area of concern, prompting Sudha Narasimhan, Eleni Tsipouras, Jennifer Valentine, and Sigrid Zielinski to assist...
attorneys with intake interviews at the D.C. Employment Justice Center. Cases of alleged workplace bias on the basis of sexual orientation kept Carlos Piovanetti and Earline Ross busy at the Partnership for Civil Justice and the D.C. Office of Human Rights, respectively. Jennie Torres-Lewis provided support to Latino day laborers from D.C. at CASA de Maryland.


Immigrants’ rights and prisoners’ rights occupied the attention of a number of students. Brazilian citizen Cynthia Catlett helped to file asylum applications at the Capitol Hill Immigration Rights Coalition. Afsoun Semsar helped immigrants file for work authorization permits during her internship with Action for Democracy in Iran. Christine Mason Spurgeon worked with the Innocence Project, a non-profit organization that uses DNA testing to prove the wrongful convictions of incarcerated persons. Ali Salimi researched the impact of sentencing guidelines for the Criminal Justice Reform Initiative in the Open Society Institute’s D.C. office.

Individual students concentrated on a myriad of important areas of concern such as low-income housing, the adequate provision of healthcare, disability rights, veterans’ affairs, homelessness, GLBT concerns, and the incorporation of grassroots community organizations. Tyesha Cowan addressed landlord-tenant issues in public housing while interning at the Housing Development Law Institute. Sebastian Krop volunteered with the HIV/AIDS Clinic at the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Martha Coblebeach helped former soldiers file service-connected appeals for disability benefits on behalf of the American Legion. Candice Owens interned at the National Veterans Legal Services Program. Patrick Edelin helped the legal department of the Central Union Mission, a homeless shelter on 14th Street. Sunny Eaton volunteered with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. James Godfrey enabled the Trinidad Concerned Citizens for Reform to file for tax-exempt status.

Finally, a few found assignments that reflected their love of the arts and humanities. Amy Loveridge made her way to the Office of General Counsel at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Elizabeth Quattrocchi discovered the newly founded Historical Society of the D.C. Circuit, where she helped to preserve the records of the second-highest federal court in the District. Overall, the first year law students worked hard to serve the legal needs of D.C. residents, reflecting the mission of the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law to train lawyers who practice in the public interest.
Despite compensation levels just over that of minimum wage, thirty-five UDC-DCSL students devoted Summer 2004 to full time public interest legal work through the Joseph L. Rauh Jr. Chapter’s Equal Justice Works Summer Fellowship Program. Through this program — uniquely guaranteed to all first-year law students at UDC-DCSL — EJW Fellows provide a minimum of 400 hours of legal work to area public interest organizations, government agencies and judges.

UDC-DCSL’s Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. EJW Summer Program works at a variety of levels. On the one hand, students provide vitally needed service to organizations and clients. At the same time, students learn substantive law in areas of particular interest to them, deepening their commitment to public service. They also make personal and professional connections that often result in future employment opportunities.

In addition, the stipend of $2,500, while meager by most standards, helps students make ends meet. In combination with the School of Law’s vigorous student scholarship fundraising efforts, tuition is kept low — another crucial factor enabling UDC-DCSL grads to accept lower-paying, but rewarding public service positions.

On the following pages you will find excerpts from the Fellowship Reports provided by some of our students.

Special Thanks to Michael and Maggie Rauh

Each year DCSL Foundation Chair Michael Rauh, and his wonderful wife Maggie, host back-to-back crab feasts to raise money to support the Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. Equal Justice Works Summer Fellowship Program. They have raised more than $17,000 for students who work full-time all summer in public interest, public service and public policy jobs. The program is named in honor of Mike’s dad, the legendary public interest lawyer, Joe Rauh, who was a founding father of the School of Law. Joe would be so proud of Mike and Maggie!

Congratulations to Galina Sergen, '05, whose Summer 2004 EJW Fellowship has resulted in the School of Law’s first national Equal Justice Works post-graduate fellowship! Thanks to her excellent work, Galina will begin her full-time, two-year post-graduate fellowship at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in June. The prestigious position features salary, benefits and ... loan repayment!

Not all Equal Justice Works Fellowship fundraising is painful! Responding to Chairman Ogletree’s Challenge at the Rauh family home on the Western Shore of the Chesapeake are, front from left, former UDC President Timothy Jenkins, Mrs. Olie Rauh, Tamra Testerman, ’04, Leericka Lucas, ’05, Amy Ward, ’06, host and DC School of Law Foundation Board Chair Mike Rauh. Middle row: Toni Maschler, ’04 and Lance Lee, ’05. Standing in rear from the left: Laura Alphran, hostess Maggie Rauh, Prof. Derek Alphran, Mrs. Timothy Jenkins, and Dean Shelley Broderick.

Below are the faces of just some of our Summer EJW Fellows. Their stories begin on the following page!
Jeffrey M. Cardone, '06, clerked in the Public Safety Division of the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, working under attorney Tabitha McQueen, who represents the District in cases dealing with individuals and businesses that either willfully or negligently violate D.C. tax statutes.

Jeffrey was responsible for analyzing case files in order to determine specific tax code violations, then documenting those violations in criminal information documents that he filed with the D.C. Superior Court. In addition, he submitted Gerstein and Judicial Summonses. Jeffrey was able to ride along with a Special Agent of the OTR and directly serve a defendant.

Jeffrey also conducted and provided discovery for cases going to trial. For cases that did not go to trial, he was responsible for the write-up and mailing of Restitution Agreements. He also researched the D.C. tax code and wrote a memorandum that outlined most of the pertinent tax statutes along with a brief overview of the statutes’ legislative histories. He created a formula sheet based on the D.C. Code of how to calculate the fraud interest and penalties, and put together spreadsheets of the actual calculations of the amount of total taxes owed in cases.

Finally, along with two other interns, he wrote a Standard Operating Procedure Manual for the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of Tax and Revenue. The manual consists of all the D.C. tax statutes dealing with withholding tax, sales tax, franchise tax, and individual taxes. The manual also contains instructions for every day-to-day responsibility that is required in dealing with tax fraud cases. This manual will be read by all new interns and other attorneys who work with Ms. McQueen.

Jewell Mayzck, '06, spent the summer working as an intern in the chambers of the Honorable Kaye K. Christian, the presiding judge of the Probate Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Jewell performed legal research on criminal and probate matters and drafted orders on issues ranging from motions to suppress evidence to motions to reduce or modify sentences. She also responded to pro se requests from prisoners.

A highlight for Jewell was the opportunity to sit in on trials and then observe how Judge Christian made her final dispositions.

Jewell wrote, “I have enjoyed the experience so much that the Judge’s law clerk has asked me to stay throughout the fall semester.”

Debbie Anderson, ‘05, spent the summer interning with the Alliance for Global Justice in the office of their attorneys, the Partnership for Civil Justice. Specifically, she...
worked on one of the cases brought by demonstrators against the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department for the Department’s handling of mass demonstrations in 2002.

With the aid of some very sophisticated computer technology, Debbie organized, cataloged, and sought to make some sense of the thousands of sheets of paper and dozens of video- and audiotapes that constitute the evidence in the case. She also attended depositions, did legal research and analysis, and wrote memoranda.

In Debbie’s words, “Most important, though, is the fact that I’ve been able to see firsthand just how much work goes into defending first-amendment rights. It takes thousands of hours and dedicated lawyers who work for goals other than a new Mercedes or an ever-increasing stock portfolio. People don’t go out for lunch; we grab something and eat at our desks. I’ve put in 11-hour days, gladly, and felt guilty when I’ve left early to go to class…”

Laura Perry, ’06

Laura Perry, ’06, spent the summer working for the Office of the Attorney General, Neighborhood and Victim Service Section. Laura was assigned to an attorney who was responsible for the legal matters of one of the District’s eight wards. Laura accompanied the attorney to weekly Ward Core Team Meetings where representatives from each D.C. agency discussed problems facing the ward and approaches for eradicating the problem. As a result, Laura researched numerous, diverse issues, including proper service of housing notice violations and evictions, public/private property maintenance disputes, gang violence, and brothels. Laura also sat in on two city task forces. For the abandoned property task force, Laura wrote the protocol for how the city should deal with notice, storage, and disposal of property abandoned by homeless persons. For the hate and bias crimes task force, Laura was involved with putting together a pamphlet for cab drivers to report incidents of bias and participated in an educational presentation the Cab Association on bias and hate crimes.

Laura will continue her work this fall two afternoons a week. She will be assigned her own ward, and will attend meetings on behalf of her assigned attorney.

Amy E. Loveridge, ’06, interned with the Office of the Chief Attorney and Legal Services Department, a directorate within the U.S. Army and the Pentagon.

“The opportunity to work for the federal government has given me new insight into my legal studies. What was once a Lawyering Process exercise to write a letter to a client, is now a practical matter — explaining complicated federal regulations and case law to the public on a daily basis. My contracts course work started me off, but the chance to read a billion dollar 450-page government contract puts those skills to the test….

“Though my ‘summer’ position will continue until May of 2005, in the 400 hours I’ve spent thus far in the Chief Attorney’s office in the Army Pentagon, I have had experiences no school could have prepared me for. I have run evacuation drills, learned to use the gas mask in my desk, and faced guards with automatic weapons, and intense security scrutiny. I have seen Donald Rumsfeld introduce Winona Judd in concert and play racquetball. I also sat in the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army’s office while he showed pictures of his grandchildren. I have greeted soldiers returning wounded from Iraq, debated politics with some of the most conservative people I have ever met, written a 125-page Army regulation, and worked with interns from every law school in the area. I have answered FOIA requests from people in mental hospitals, prison wards, the international press, and members of Congress.

Exposure to so many points of view has honed my ability to see issues from both sides and still support what I believe to be justice. The technical legal experience will help me better serve my future clients. The professional interactions will help me focus my career goals. But most importantly, my experience serving the public reminds me why I chose the law in the first place.”

Benjamin Kull, ’06

Benjamin Kull, ’06, worked in the legal department at the D.C. Office of Human Rights (OHR). The OHR is responsible for processing complaints filed under the DC Human Rights Act, the local equivalent of Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act.
Blair Miles, ’06, spent the summer with the Office of General Counsel for the District of Columbia Public Schools. The majority of Blair’s time was spent writing answers, doing disclosures, and preparing FOIA requests.

“My most valuable work during the latter part of my internship was doing a memorandum and researching cases for the hearing officers at DCPS. ... My memorandum was accepted by the attorney, and she used it. This was real, practical lawyering work that I was proud to do. My last assignment was to compile a list of cases that will serve as a basis for decisions of the hearing officers at DCPS. Most of these cases I had to read to see if they were relevant. This gave me incredible education of special education law, something that should serve me well if I decide to pursue this type of law.

“This summer has led me to an area of law I had absolutely no interest nor knowledge of prior to this internship. Now, I am seriously considering working in administrative law.”

Sunny Eaton, ’06, wrote, “My summer Equal Justice Works fellowship has been spent at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia in the Abuse and Neglect Division.

“My time has been divided between the office and the courthouse relatively evenly. In court, I have observed both civil and criminal hearings and trials on Abuse and Neglect cases. I have also been able to sit in on Mediation sessions and forensic interviews. … Having been both a social worker and family therapist in my former career, it has been eye-opening to see the other side of family work….

“My work has mainly consisted of court observance and filing of Termination of Parental Rights’ Orders. The Orders that I have filed have been an unbelievable source of education. They have required that I learn how to retrieve court reports and orders from the clerk’s office and given me a taste of the kind of research involved for attorneys practicing family law.

“It has been good for me to witness both what makes a good lawyer and what doesn’t. I am seeing the basic courtroom etiquette standards and making good connections within the D.C. legal community.”

Ryan High, ’06, wrote, “Since mid-May I have been volunteering with the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) in downtown Washington, D.C. IMLA is a professional legal association that acts as a resource to municipal lawyers throughout the U.S. and Canada. In addition, IMLA creates model ordinances that cities may adopt for their own use. The majority of my time with IMLA has been spent updating a model juvenile curfew ordinance and writing the accompanying editor’s commentary. This particular model ordinance has not been updated in approximately nine years, leaving lots of room for revision. The first step in revising the ordinance was to research juvenile curfew cases since 1993 and learn why, or why not, the ordinance survived judicial scrutiny. These cases, coupled with secondary resources, provided a basis for me to start revising the actual ordinance language. Once the ordinance was revised, I then had to write an editor’s commentary explaining why particular changes and updates were made. I became so well versed in juvenile curfews that I was able to respond to IMLA member lawyer’s inquiry regarding curfews. In addition to the curfew project, I am also researching the legal and municipal structures of Bulgaria, Ukraine, Indonesia, China and Mexico for IMLA’s international committee.”
Mireille Tshiteya, ’06, volunteered with the Honorable Herbert B. Dixon, Jr., an Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court.

“In my fourteen years of prior professional experience and twenty (total) years of prior work experience, I have never worked in an environment that was more conducive to learning. … The internship has been like a continuous and intense review of every single subject that I had learned during first year, and subjects that I will be learning about during the remainder of law school and beyond.

“Judge Dixon and his law clerk, Joseph Ferretti, … encouraged me to write more and then showed me how to edit my work. They constantly encouraged and challenged me to think like a lawyer, to develop my legal reasoning skills. They genuinely showed an interest in my development and maturity as a lawyer, and readily offered advice that went beyond their call of duty. They both imparted their wisdom to me without reservation. I feel like they took me under their wing so to speak, and I needed this close level of attention. By the same token, they also encouraged me to think on my own, to research, and to learn on my own as much as possible. They also insisted that I experience other judges and other areas within the court.

“Finally, I was elated when Judge Dixon agreed to extend my internship. I will remain his intern during the fall and spring semesters of second year. I have no doubt that I will continue to gain a wealth of knowledge.”

Damien Bernache, ’05, wrote, “This summer I have been clerking at the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C. Most of my duties have included providing legal research, drafting motions, interviewing incarcerated clients, responding to inmate letters, attending trials and appellate arguments, and providing case preparation duties.”

Damien wrote memoranda on issues ranging from the confidentiality of arrest records to the Fifth Amendment to constructive possession in the context of firearms and drugs. He also wrote a motion for judgment of acquittal in a first-degree murder case.

Damien was also given the task of writing a memo about Brady issues that will be distributed to all attorneys throughout PDS and will be included in the training procedures manual for all incoming attorneys.

In addition to his work for PDS, Damien also finished work on a racial profiling study he began last summer at Amnesty International. His work for Amnesty was published in September of 2004, and will be a valuable section of their comprehensive international report on racial profiling.

Emily Brennan, ’06, interned with the Office of the Attorney General for D.C., Abuse and Neglect Section.

Emily attended court at least twice a week to observe her assigned attorney’s cases and mediations. She spent time in the office performing the legal-administrative tasks associated with a government law firm. She wrote two motions to dismiss neglect cases, several orders for permanency hearings, and transfer memos for cases that will be transferred within the department. She also wrote and served a subpoena and assisted with preparation for a trial. She per-
formed information searches, researched criminal convictions and organized case files for trial preparation. Finally, she attended inter-agency and multi-disciplinary sessions pertaining to child sex abuse victims and interviews with police, social workers, and other officials and provided a written report on these observations of the interview to her assigned attorney.

Galina Sergen, ‘05, wrote, “My work at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law this summer has been one of the best internship experiences I have had. The work has been challenging, the subject matter is often heartbreaking, but being surrounded by the dedicated attorneys and staff has shown me that it is possible to sustain this type of difficult public interest work if you have the right support in the workplace.”

Galina worked under the supervision of Christine Vaughn, a Skadden Fellow at the Bazelon Center, who is working on a project advocating for community-based solutions to avoid the institutionalization of children with serious mental health needs.

Galina attended both advocacy and client meetings and wrote research memoranda to support the Center’s advocacy and litigation. She also sat in on litigation strategy meetings for class action suits that the Bazelon Center is involved with in California and the District of Columbia.

Erica Veazey, ‘06, served as an Advocate Judge for the Time Dollar Youth Court, a diversion program for first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders in D.C. Respondents appear before a jury of their peers in a hearing to discuss their arrest and the jury then decides on an appropriate measure of “restorative justice.”

As an Advocate Judge, Erica presided over the courtroom, maintained order, helped to guide the jury in their deliberation process, and generally assisted with the resolution of the matter at hand. “The TDYC juries are composed of local teenagers, many of whom have been respondents themselves. These juries are better equipped to understand the respondents and interact with them on the respondent’s own level, in a way that a juvenile court judge sitting on the bench would be unable to do. The juries understand the world of the respondent because they all face the same reality. Understanding the concept of different realities has been the most powerful lesson I have learned this summer.”

Stacy M. Cobb, ‘06, served as a law clerk with District of Columbia Public Schools Office of the General Counsel.

Stacy was assigned to two attorney advisors. She researched recent case law regarding special education in D.C., researched the number of administrative hearings that enter the court system, compiled a witness list for student hearings, organized cases, worked on settlement agreements and completed numerous disclosures. The disclosures required her to read the allegations of opposing counsel and contact schools to acquire the necessary student documents. She worked on several FOIA requests and attended student hearings with her assigned attorney advisors. “I have learned a great deal from this experience and I am grateful to be afforded this opportunity to perform the daily duties of an attorney, which will one day be a reality.”

Nakia L. Waggoner, ‘06, interned with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), under Assistant General Counsel, Jay Goldman.

She wrote, “The attorneys I have worked with have talked with me about more than just the substantive law. They have taught me about the tactical side of litigation.

“Having this opportunity during the summer of my first year has solidified some of my first year courses. It has also shown me what life will be like after school. Working several blocks from D.C. Superior Court has afforded me the opportunity to go with attorneys to trial and see how attorneys conduct themselves in the courtroom. I have done everything from putting together a trial notebook, to interviewing witnesses, to research, issuing subpoenas, and drafting motions. This summer has been full of hard work, but it was worth it. I have gained practical knowledge that cannot be replaced. My summer here has helped me decide what classes I plan to take in the fall and to focus my mind on my career plans.”
Jamie Cleaver, ’06, interned at the D.C. Office of the Attorney General in their Domestic Violence Division, under the supervision of four attorneys. She assisted them in preparing materials for court, contacting witnesses and doing legal research. Her primary responsibility was serving as an intake counselor for the Attorney General’s domestic violence intake center located in D.C. Superior Court.

Jamie described her duties as an intake counselor for victims of domestic violence: “When a potential client comes into the center, I meet with them and draft a petition for them to be given to a judge so that the judge can decide if this person is going to be granted a temporary protection order. This process, depending on how many counts of abuse the victim is willing to testify to, can take up to several hours.

After I draft the petition, I take the potential client to meet with an advocate who helps the victim come up with a safety plan and gives them resources to help them deal with their abuse. Then, depending on if there was an arrest involved, I take the potential client to meet with an attorney from the U.S. Attorney’s Office who then reads over the petition and interviews the victim for information that could be used in a possible criminal case. I then take the potential client to the clerk’s office where they will wait for a judge to hear their petition. Once I know if a temporary protection order is granted, I go ahead and do a civil and criminal background check on both the petitioner and the respondent so that I can check for conflicts and for possible abuse and neglect involving a party’s children. This is so that an attorney can choose to pick up someone’s case without having to worry that Child Protective Services is charging the victim with a crime and that our office has never represented this client’s abuser before. This whole process takes quite a bit of time and with any remaining time that I have, I assist the attorneys in any way that they need.”

Valerie Scott, ’06, worked with the Time Dollar Youth Court diversion program for the District of Columbia. The peer jury model utilized by Youth Court provides the juvenile respondents with the opportunity to have his or her case heard by an objective jury of peers, rather than through the official court system.

Valerie’s initial tasks included familiarizing herself with the program, reviewing past cases, contacting respondents regarding the logistics of their hearings, creating a tally of the pre-existing Youth Court cases, and inputting all of the 2003 case file information into the Youth Court database. She participated in a number of case intakes and developed case pro-

Travis Mayor, ’05, interned with the United States Attorney’s Office in Washington, D.C. in the Homicide/Major Crimes Division, which prosecutes homicides, assaults with intent to kill, armed robberies and other violent crimes involving weapons. (Because D.C. is not a state, the U.S. Attorney’s Office prosecutes all felonies and most misdemeanors.)

Travis’ assignments included writing oppositions to defendants’ motions, various research tasks where he was required to pull case law on specific issues, and three memoranda – each on a specific evidentiary issue. In addition to the research and writing, Travis also watched opening and closing statements and direct examination and cross-examination of witnesses in several murder trials.
Travis also worked on a long and complicated gang conspiracy case. During the case, he wrote several motions, including a Motion in Limine to Admit Other Crimes Evidence Against Indicted and Unindicted Persons in Furtherance of the Conspiracy, Government’s Omnibus Opposition to Suppress Identifications, and others. At the end of his internship, Travis was invited to continue his work on the case throughout the school year as a part-time law clerk.

He wrote, “My summer spent as a law clerk for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the District of Columbia was truly an amazing experience. I worked under many talented attorneys, I worked on compelling cases, and I was exposed to a lot of inside information. My trips to court were always exciting, fun, and a chance to see good oral advocacy. I also had a great group of summer law clerks in my section, which added to the experience. I highly suggest this internship to any future One L or Two L students from UDC-DCSL.”

Mary Burgess, ‘05, under the auspices of the UDC-DCSL Community Development Clinic and Professors Laurie Morin, Theodora Brown and Louise Howells, continued her work helping tenants purchase their apartment buildings for conversion into condominiums.

Mary Burgess, ‘05

For one tenant association located in Southeast Washington, Mary was responsible for overseeing the election in which tenants voted on whether to purchase and convert their building. She worked with the D.C. Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to ensure that the election took place under fair conditions. She attended meetings of the tenant association to help them resolve problems regarding the conversion process. She also worked on finalizing the conversion documents, a long and arduous process, and presented them to the client in a formal meeting.

Work with another tenant association presented similar issues, but with Spanish-speaking tenants. DCRA did not have the required forms in Spanish, so she produced copies of Spanish forms for future use. Mary worked on drafting resolutions for approval by the tenant board for construction loans, translating everything from English to Spanish, and then had to address how to relocate the tenants during construction.

Mary also researched zoning laws in the District of Columbia for a neighborhood group that is opposing a new housing development coming to their neighborhood.

Elizabeth Quattrocchi, ‘06, worked with the D.C. Rental Housing Commission, an intermediate appellate body that hears housing cases.

Libby did research, drafted decisions, and watched administrative proceedings. Because many of the cases that reach the appellate level contain procedural issues, Libby learned quite a bit about local government policy and procedures. Her take: “They are difficult and long.” And, “Nothing substitutes for parsing the rules.”

“I learned how to write this summer. It was a shock at first, but I learned that it is time consuming. If I invest the time, I am rewarded with a good product. Cutting corners is apparent when I read the briefs written by overworked attorneys.

Through this experience, I feel better prepared for the workplace and I have a clearer picture of what I would like to do with my law degree. I had no idea that I would be interested in housing when I started the job.”

Tiffani Nichole Johnson, ‘05, served as a law clerk in the Felony Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, under the supervision of staff attorney Violeta Chapin.

Tiffani wrote several different types of motions and wrote letters to opposing counsel, including Rosser letters and Brady requests. In a case dealing with an immigrant charged with assault with intent to kill while armed, Tiffani researched the charge itself, how an insanity defense may counter the statutory sentence for this charge, and whether the client could still be deported if he was acquitted by reason of insanity and committed to St. Elizabeth’s Mental Hospital. This daunting research required the use of all available resources: case law, D.C. Code, U.S. Code, jury instructions, newly imposed sentencing guidelines and other attorneys familiar with the criminal deportation process.

Tiffani also researched how battered woman’s syndrome is used in D.C. Superior Court and how viable this theory
is for getting the client acquitted of the charge in a case of a woman accused of assault with a deadly weapon. She wrote her first motion to suppress identification, statements and tangible evidence in a case dealing with a client charged with distribution of cocaine and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

She wrote memoranda on: the elements of burglary II, first degree theft, destruction of property over $200, felony receiving stolen property, and the likelihood of the client being acquitted of any of those offenses. Next, she researched and wrote a memorandum on the medical and illegal uses of Xanax. She also traveled to the D.C. Jail to interview a client and have him sign a medical release form, investigated the numerous places in which the client claimed he was prescribed Xanax, and served a subpoena in order to obtain client medical records.

In the case of a client charged with first-degree rape, Tiffani conducted research and transcribed the victim’s video statement. She also accompanied the defense attorney to a witness’s home to interview him and get a statement.

“I have had a great time working for Violeta this summer. I fully intend to continue working at the Public Defender Service during the 2004-2005 school year and hopefully beyond that point as a staff attorney in the juvenile division.”

Zoe Payne, ’06, served as an intern investigator for the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia. Zoe worked in the juvenile section on cases ranging anywhere from unauthorized use of a vehicle to sexual abuse. Along with a partner, Zoe located witnesses, took statements from government witnesses, served subpoenas on potential defense witnesses and canvassed crime scenes for any information that had not yet been collected.

“We found ourselves all over the different wards within the city. Minimal time was spent in the office. We normally interviewed or took statements at the scene of the incident or at the home of the individual we were interested in speaking to. Sometimes we were met with complaining witnesses who did not want anything to do with the defense or who simply avoided us. ... However, with persistence we found that we could get the information we needed.

“Several days were also spent in the courthouse observing our attorney try the cases that we spent time investigating. We were also able to shadow our attorney at a day of ‘pick up,’ where he was assigned new clients recently arrested. We met with these clients in the cellblock and then observed their first appearance in court.”

Tiese L. Crawford, ’06, worked with the District of Columbia Public Schools Office of General Counsel. She was responsible for completing five-day initial disclosures and worked with the financial analyst at DCPS to complete FOIA requests and process bills and hearing officer determinations. Tiese also researched and wrote memoranda. One memorandum addressed recent D.C. case law on whether placement of a student is a level of services that triggers stay-put; another addressed whether a community organization could set up voter registration tables at D.C. Public High Schools to promote minority voting; another addressed recent case law regarding special education for those who have autism and ADHD.

“When I came into law school I was unsure of whether I would want to practice child advocacy. This internship has made me realize that child advocacy is definitely my passion. It has inspired me to look into administrative law and possibly come back to DCPS to work as a hearing officer. DCPS was a great way to spend my first summer in law school!”

As part of the Washington Bar Association’s Summer Intern program, W. Scott Hannon, ’06, was placed in the chambers of District of Columbia Superior Court Senior Judge Arthur Burnett, who was overseeing a family court/juvenile and neglect calendar.

Scott researched key issues for Judge Burnett, to clear up remaining issues before the Judge retires, and assisted in current cases. Scott also researched legal implications of the Health Insurance and Portability Accountability Act of 1996 as it relates to medical professionals and their responsibilities to their patients when they release medical records.

The largest project Scott worked on for Judge Burnett was a case on appeal to the D.C. Court of Appeals involving a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.
Scott wrote, "Part of the value in dealing with these §23-110 claims is that, as a future criminal defense attorney, I realize how careful and diligent one has to be—because inevitably one of your clients will turn on you and levy these charges against you. Only through diligence and professional thoroughness can you rebut such charges. Just as important as being thorough, a good attorney must keep complete and accurate records of the strategic and tactical steps he or she took in the course of a diligent and zealous defense."

"After he retires, Judge Burnett will be acting as the executive director of an organization focused on juvenile delinquency and drug abuse in the African-American community. His expertise in the law, coupled with his passion for helping other people, will be an incredible asset to this new venture. I would strongly recommend that UDC Law and the greater UDC academic community use the judge’s proximity—he will be working with an organization from Howard Law School’s campus—and wealth of knowledge to have him address our students regularly.

"In conclusion, this summer has been an incredible opportunity to work with an incredible mentor."

Another student, from the class of 2005, served as a senior law clerk in the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, assigned to the Office of Federal Activities in the International Compliance Assurance Division. The internship program in OECA is run by Mike Walker, who has encouraged law students from UDC law school to join EPA for the summers. The student wrote, "The office that I work in is concerned with the enforcement capabilities of the United States pertaining to transboundary environmental violations. The office also spends a great deal of time educating other countries on how to set up environmental programs that are enforceable and protect the countries’ best interests. Many countries seek the opinion of the EPA for guidance and training. Many countries are under the impression that because the US has strict environmental laws, we are able to enforce our laws on multinational corporations that have made environmental messes in other countries. Yet most, if not all, environmental statutes do not apply outside of our boards. The U.S. EPA relies on treaties for enforcement capabilities in foreign nations. Since the U.S. has not ratified many of the environmental treaties in force today, we are only available as teachers as to how we enforce our laws within our borders.

"My duties this summer have been to review and comment on teaching material that my mentor will use for a UNITAR class presented in the fall. This is a comprehensive class reviewing the major international environmental cases concerning transboundary air and water issues, the "polluter pays" principle, the precautionary principle, and other aspects of international law. "I have also been reviewing and updating an environmental enforcement manual used by this office when training enforcers of other countries. The manual focuses on basic principles that can be applied internationally, without the framework of US statutory law. Another project that I am working on is an initiative to fight international pollution by focusing on the health effects to children. Millions of children in developing countries die every year due to polluted indoor air and unsanitary water supplies, and other causes. Our goal is to find a way to combat and educate nations on these children’s health issues with a focus on enforceability."

Dipti Pidikiti, ’06, spent the summer working at Lawyers for Children America (LFCA), a non-profit organization that trains and supports pro bono attorneys, known as guardians ad litem (GAL), representing children in abuse and neglect cases. Dipti produced a monthly newsletter that informs volunteer attorneys about changes in law and policy dealing with abuse and neglect matters and advises volunteer attorneys how to advocate for a child on a particular topic such as schooling and placement. The newsletter also updates attorneys about recent court decisions, provides resources, and offers answers to questions that arise in D.C. abuse and neglect cases.

Dipti also attended court hearings a few times a week; accompanied an LFCA attorney on home visits to see children; wrote memos to LFCA program directors on legal questions in individual cases; and helped draft a motion to change counsel and a letter to a non-party requesting information. She also undertook a summer research project dealing with the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). The two-part project focused on the implementation of ASFA in D.C., and provided practical advice for attorneys on how to use ASFA to benefit children in individual cases. Dipti also attended Council for Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) lunch trainings about guardianship and kinship care.
Youth Court Report

by Jeannine Winch, ’07

“Once you’ve heard him speak, you become a visionary yourself,” explains one of the Time Dollar
Youth Court (TDYC) staffer who first volunteered with TDYC over six years ago in fulfillment of his DCPS high
school community service requirement. The visionary to whom he refers is, of course, UDC-DCSL’s Professor Edgar
Cahn.

As a first-year law student and volunteer, I observed the philosophy of restorative justice exemplified in Professor Cahn’s legendary Time Dollar
Youth Court. Youth Court is not simply an alternative to the juvenile “justice” system where, at the discretion of the arresting police officer, the youth is diverted to TDYC for intake. Youth Court is a preventative initiative designed to promote justice by addressing not only behavior but a whole child in the context of his/her many worlds.

A brief lull between my pre- and post-hearing officer duties permitted a conversation with K.D., one of the previously sentenced jurors who now saunters into Youth Court on Saturdays because he relishes his role as a volunteer jury foreperson and mentor. I had only met K.D. briefly, but his practical, mature, real-world advice to a young lady in middle school impressed me. He informed the respondent, who later admitted to “taking the money,” that if her friends got her into trouble, then they weren’t really her friends. K.D., age seventeen, went on to lecture about why stealing is wrong. The respondent’s eyes narrowed for a moment; she looked at the ground. Her mother, who also testified at her trial, had of course told her this many times before. But now the advice came from a peer, a young man who had once started down the wrong path but who now contemplated college or trade school in order to become a graphic designer in the Pentagon.

“People work hard for their money,” K.D. stressed while the jury deliberated privately, after hearing the respondent’s side, as well as her parent’s position. K.D. recommended to his fellow junior jurors that the “sentence” involve not only volunteer hours serving as a Youth Court juror, but also a five-page essay on the topic of “how to be a leader, not a follower.”

Another juror objected, reminding K.D. that the court had given a previous respondent only a two-page essay. The jury discussed the respondents’ roles in the theft: One had guarded the door outside the classroom while the other was inside, going through the teacher’s desk drawers to find her purse and take sixteen dollars from her wallet.

With some guidance from the Judge Advocate, jurors remembered that the real goal of Youth Court is not the sentence or the punishment; the objective is awareness—on an individual and community level—that will bring change. How do we educate, empower, and provide options that allow youth to walk away from negative peers—or even to confront them? How do we protect young people sliding from “juvenile delinquency” into the even more unjust adult criminal system?

The D.C. youth who confront these complex problems provide the most poignant examples of their constant struggles with everything from rough neighborhoods to racism. We should not be surprised, then, that these same youth propose the most credible solutions and provide the core network of support for subsequent offenders. For example, in another case I observed, the jury exhaustively questioned the respondent about the arresting police officer.

“Man, it’s like we back in the days of slavery,” said one older juror, pondering a singularly horrid and yet routinely surreal incident of police racism and brutality. When the jury dismissed the respondent, an African-American teen, the boy’s mother expressed her sincere gratitude that Youth Court had vindicated her son.

Youth Court succeeds, therefore, not only because it corrects and prevents negative behavior. It also validates kids and lets them prove to themselves and others that they can and do make empowering decisions in pursuit of justice for their peers, themselves, and their communities.

Youth Court creates a system of support for overcoming underlying and complex problems at the individual and community levels. It inquires about a teen’s academic and social struggles at school, behavior at home, whether s/he has adult mentors, and how s/he confronts a dangerous neighborhood. The restorative justice model also seeks long term solutions through cross-age tutoring and extended mentoring programs. Youth Court empowers kids to re-connect, to grow socially and academically, and to discover and achieve life-relevant goals on the path to a successful future.
Matthew I. Fraidin

Assistant Professor Matthew I. Fraidin joined the faculty in 2004 to teach in the HIV/AIDS Law Clinic. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at Haverford College and his J.D. at the University of Wisconsin. He was previously Legal Director at The Children’s Law Center in Washington, D.C., which provides free legal services to children, low-income families, and foster and kinship caregivers in special education, foster care, adoption, custody, and government benefits. Prior to joining the Center, Professor Fraidin was Supervising Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia where he specialized in family law and supervised attorneys and law student interns in the pro bono program.

His teaching experience includes serving as chair and faculty member of the D.C. Bar’s Pro Bono training on Child Custody and Guardian Ad Litem Practice in Child Custody and Domestic Violence cases. He has also taught family law topics in training seminars sponsored by the D.C. Superior Court, including pre-service training for newly appointed Family Court magistrate judges.

After graduation from law school, Professor Fraidin served as law clerk to U.S. District Judge Juan M. Perez-Gimenez, as an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of the General Counsel, and as associate counsel in the office of former Vice President, Al Gore.

New Adjunct Faculty

Derek M. Alphran

Professor Derek M. Alphran, a Visiting Associate Professor during academic year 2003-2004, joins the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law this fall as a tenure-track Associate Professor of Law and Director of Academic Support.

Professor Alphran received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College and his J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law. He has also done post graduate study in Constitutional Law at Stanford Law School.

Professor Alphran was a law clerk to the Honorable Elbert P. Tuttle, Senior Judge, United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, from 1986-87 and became a Palmer Weber Fellow with the American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Regional Office, where he worked on a number of voting rights cases and other civil liberties issues.

From 1992 to 1994, Professor Alphran served as Special Counsel to Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson. His portfolio included constitutional issues such as crack house legislation, handgun legislation, and criminal street gangs. He then worked in a community-based legal practice, focusing on state and municipal government law and federal civil rights law, also serving as counsel to several minority-owned businesses.

Professor Alphran was a member of the faculty at the John Marshall School of Law in Atlanta, where he taught criminal procedure, criminal law, constitutional law, civil rights litigation, and race and the law.

Spencer H. Boyer

Professor Spencer Boyer has been teaching Intellectual Property/Entertainment Law at UDC-DCSL for a number of years and this year is teaching a section of Contracts I and Contracts II while Professor Alice Thomas is on sabbatical.

Professor Boyer earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering at Howard University, an LL.B. at George Washington Law School, and an LL.M. at Harvard Law School. He is the most senior faculty member at the Howard University School of Law, where he has taught for thirty-seven years. He was voted Professor of the Year by the law school student body in 1998 and received the Distinguished Faculty Author Award from the President and Provost of the University in 2000 and 2002.

At Harvard Law School, Professor Boyer was the co-founder and co-editor of the Harvard Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Law Review, today one of the most respected civil rights law journals in the country. During his more than three decades of teaching, Professor Boyer has taught Civil Rights Law, Constitutional Law, Entertainment Law, Business Organizations, Contracts, Federal Taxation, Municipal Law, State and Local Tax, Unfair Trade Practices and Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights. Professor Boyer is credited with establishing one of the first courses in Entertainment Law at a major law school, having taught this course since 1972. Professor Boyer is a founding member of the Silver Forum, an organization founded by the senior members of the Howard University Law School faculty for the purpose of reconnecting the law school to active engagement in the struggle for racial, social, and economic justice.
Michael Maggio

**Michael Maggio** joins the adjunct faculty this year to co-teach Immigration Law with Adjunct Professor Earle Wilson. Professor Maggio earned his J.D. at the Antioch School of Law.

Professor Maggio is the senior partner at Maggio & Kattar and has been practicing immigration law since 1978. He is a nationally recognized authority on numerous complex areas of immigration law, and a past President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association’s (AILA) District of Columbia Chapter, as well as the Chief Legal Advisor to the Tahirih Justice Center (www.Tahirih.org). He also teaches immigration law at American University’s Washington College of Law, lectures widely, and is often consulted by major media when important developments in immigration law occur. Mr. Maggio has served as counsel on many significant immigration cases decided by the Board of Immigration Appeals and the Federal Courts.

**Lawyering Process**

Four new adjunct faculty members are teaching Lawyering Process this year under the direction of Professor Christine Jones.

**Shana Marshall** received a Bachelor of Business Administration, *cum laude*, from Hofstra University and a J.D. from the Howard University School of Law. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Upon graduation from law school, Professor Marshall worked in the Law Department of the United States Postal Service where she specialized as an in-house counsel on corporate law, employment law, and commercial litigation. She is the founder of S.L. Marshall & Associates, LLC., which provides accounting and tax services for individuals and small businesses.

**Jay Ashton Stewart** received an A.B. with honors at Harvard College, a J.D. at the Howard University Law Center, and an M.A. at Howard University.

At the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights, Professor Stewart worked on a series of race discrimination class actions against Amtrak and monitored a class action consent decree against Denny’s Restaurants for refusing to serve black Secret Service officers and others. At the National Urban League, he worked on matters related to voting, federal judicial nominations, hate crimes, violence against women, and the digital divide. Professor Stewart has also worked closely with Professor Edgar Cahn on the Youth Court diversion program and the community service portion of the Law and Justice course. He teaches constitutional history, constitutional law, criminal law, and U.S. history at the University of the District of Columbia Institute for Public Safety and Justice and at the Howard University Department of History.

**Tami Taylor** earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of South Carolina and a J.D. at the Howard University School of Law.

While in law school, Professor Taylor clerked at the Department of Commerce’s Office of Civil Rights on Title VII, equal pay, and age discrimination grievances; as a third-year student, she clerked at Shaw Pittman where she assisted in the government relations and government contracts practice. After graduation, she joined Thompson, O’Donnell, Markham, Norton & Hannon where she litigates diverse and complex civil matters encompassing product safety, professional liability, employment practices, commercial and personal property damage, and commercial and government contracts.

**Deleso Alford Washington** earned a B.S., *magna cum laude*, at Southern University A&M College, a J.D. at Southern University Law Center, and an LL.M. at Georgetown University Law Center.

For the first several years after law school, Professor Washington worked for the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons where she developed a procedure to process tort claims, freedom of information requests, equal employment opportunity complaints, and administrative remedies. She then worked in private practice where she handled various matters including insurance defense, tort matters, and gambling casino industry cases. Professor Washington works as a legal consultant at the University of Maryland where she provides employee training and development in the areas of sexual harassment, employment law, customer relations, and diversity awareness. She also implemented a mandatory domestic violence and the workplace training module for state of Maryland employees.

Professor Washington has previously taught business law courses at Grambling State University, Prairie View A & M University, and Parks College. She was Chair of the Rules Committee for the Association of Black Psychologists in Accra, Ghana, in the summer of 2000, and a Delegate to the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, in the summer of 2001.
Faculty Summer 2004 Research Grants

Edward Allen: (Sabbatical, Fall 2004) Research on medical collection cases brought against low-income persons in the District of Columbia and recommendations for pertinent defenses and solutions as well as legislative or policy initiatives; a comparative study of damages awarded by the Rental Accommodations and Conversion Division of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the D.C. Superior Court in cases involving housing code violations.

Derek Alphran: The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution and proof of discrimination to support government-sponsored affirmative action.


Joyce Batipps: Accommodating law students with disabilities in the clinical setting.

Stephanie Brown: Tort reform; access to legal education and notions of social justice.

Robert Burgdorf: Righting the ADA Final Report; article on the ADA for the Disability Encyclopedia.


Louise Howells: Property seizure as a remedy for vacant, abandoned, and substandard multi-family housing.

Christine Jones: The intersection of race and classroom learning dynamics; federal jurisdiction under the Federal Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act.

William McLain: Constitutional issues raised by the operation of DNA data banks.

Laurie Morin: Due process, equal protection, and statutory construction analysis of the right of same-sex couples to participate in marriage in the District of Columbia.

Alice Thomas: (Sabbatical, 2004-2005) Complete the data analysis for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching project on assessing and understanding student learning; research on black wealth and philanthropy.

Joseph Tulman: Edit and publish a special education and child abuse and neglect book.

Susan Waysdorf: Legal critique and historical narrative of a federal civil rights law suit; due process, equal protection, and statutory construction analysis of the right of same-sex couples to participate in marriage in the District of Columbia.
The Bar Counsel

by Professor Jim Gray
of the Bar Passage Task Force

Advice to the Class of 2007

The start of a new academic year always reminds me of an incident several years ago when a new 1L wanted to take Evidence on top of the normal Fall course load so that he could have more time to study for the bar at the end of his third year. I advised him that he had started studying for the bar at Orientation and that mastering his first year courses was the best head-start he could have. This column has at various points summed this up as:

“Bar preparation starts during orientation and success is the product of perspiration, inspiration, and calculation. One needs to figure out: (1) the rules and strategies that one must know to gain points on the MBE, Essay and Performance sections of the bar, (2) make effective and efficient use of the study materials provided by the bar preparation course(s), and (3) practice, practice, practice.”

I like the title of a new book put out by Hein Publishing about a year ago: 1000 Days to the Bar--But the Practice of Law Begins Now. The author, Dennis Tonsing, summed up in that title the relationship between 1L performance and eventual admission to the profession.

Studies done here at UDC-DCSL and at other schools show a strong correlation between law school performance as measured by GPA and bar passage. In plain English, people who do well in law school tend to do well on the bar. Duh!

But the really important point is that law school GPA is a better predictor of bar passage than the LSAT and/or Undergraduate GPA. That means that one’s actual performance in school is far more important that how one did on an artificial, speed-based test of purported analytical abilities.

The bar also has its artificial components but it is there to make a preliminary determination whether you have sufficient knowledge, skills and abilities to be unleashed on the public as an “attorney at law.” That license permits you to write a will, draft a contract, sue a defendant, represent a criminal defendant, and represent the community as a government lawyer. In most instances, it is also the license that leads to positions on the bench as judges deciding people’s lives and fortunes.

As 1Ls, you are beginning the process of developing these legal skills. You are also beginning the process of learning the substantive rules of several critical areas of law. To pass the bar, you need to be able to:

• read a case,
• recognize significant and non-significant facts,
• identify issues,
• understand rules of law and exceptions to the rules,
• apply rules to facts, and
• communicate your reasoning skills.

Beginning in the Fall of your first year, you should be on the way to learning these fundamental skills. Over the succeeding months, you are getting to know the different areas of the law and the types of issues that arise in each area.

Two and a half years later, you take a bar preparation course to show you how to pass the bar. But what were you paying tuition for the last three years? Virtually everybody takes one or more bar prep courses.

The “full service” courses do three things. First, they guide you in reviewing the material that you did in fact learn in law school. Second, they provide you with a “crash course” and “quick and dirty” coverage of areas that you did not get to in your law school course (there are always such areas). Finally, they give you insight into what the specific law is in your jurisdiction and what the local bar examiners are looking for in the essay portion of the test. Some bar courses specialize in helping you pass the multiple choice part or the essay part.

Bar Studies 101

So what is this thing called “THE BAR?” Hopefully, the following material will give you a basic understanding.

First thing to know: there is no such thing as THE Bar !!!!!

• The bar exam differs from state to state.
• Most jurisdictions offer the bar twice a year: July and February;
• There are three possible components to any bar:
  (1) The MBE (the Multi-state Bar Exam),
  (2) The Essay Section and
  (3) The Performance Test.
• The MBE is now on almost every bar exam and is uniformly administered across the country on the last Wednesday of July and of February.
• The majority of states give the Essay section on the Tuesday before the MBE; several, however, give it on the Thursday after. If one chooses the right states, it is possible to take two bars at the same time, but there are dangers in doing so.
• Each jurisdiction has its own rules about whether to treat the MBE and the Essay sections equally, as well as what is an acceptable passing score.
• Most jurisdictions test for two days. Approximately a quarter of the states, however, have bars that last into a third day. One state is a day and a half.
• The MBE is used as part of “the BAR” in all but three jurisdictions — Louisiana, Washington and Puerto Rico.
1. What is the Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) and How do You Prepare For It?

The MBE is a six-hour, two-hundred question multiple-choice examination. The National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) is responsible for producing the MBE and its 200 items. This test is composed of 33 or 34 questions in each of six subjects: Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law and Procedure, Evidence, Real Property and Constitutional Law.

At our school, the basic courses in Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law and Procedure are part of the first year’s study, while Constitutional Law, Evidence, and Real Property are required as second year courses. Advanced courses completing additional coverage are: Torts II, Property II (or Real Estate Transactions), Trial Advocacy, and First Amendment Law.

The MBE questions test you on the “three R’s”–Reading, Reasoning and Recognizing the nuances of a question. The better you understand the rules of a particular subject the more likely you are to avoid traps for the unwary. Doing practice questions is a major key to mastering the Multistate approach to these six subjects. These are usually answered in terms of majority rules.

2. What is the Essay Section and How do you Prepare For It?

Two thirds of the 56 American jurisdictions write their own essay exams. The other third make use of the NCBE’s Multistate Essay Exam (MEE).

Jurisdictions that write their own essay questions vary in the number, complexity and length of the questions, as well as in the subject areas tested. New Jersey, for example, only tests the six MBE subjects, but the questions are an hour long and relatively complex. New York tests on a great many subjects and has a short section of multiple choice questions that reflect New York practice.

The Multistate Essay Examination (MEE) is a continuous three-hour examination consisting of six questions. Applicants are expected to spend approximately thirty minutes answering each of the questions. Some questions include issues in more than one area of law. Areas covered by the questions in the examination are:

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<tr>
<th>BAR SUBJECT</th>
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<td>Agency and Partnership</td>
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<td>Commercial Paper</td>
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<td>Decedents Estates</td>
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According to the NCBE, the purpose of the MEE is to test the applicant’s ability to:

1. Identify legal issues raised by a hypothetical factual situation;
2. Separate material which is relevant from that which is not;
3. Present a reasoned analysis of the relevant issues in a clear, concise, and well organized composition; and
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental legal principles relevant to the probable solution of the issues raised by the factual situation.

The NCBE notes that the MEE requires the applicant to demonstrate an ability to communicate in writing effectively.

3. What is the Performance Test and How do you Prepare For It?

The Multistate Performance Test (MPT) is the newest addition to the bar family. California began using a performance test a number of years ago and still produces its own.

Some 27 states now use the NCBE’s MPT, as do the District of Columbia, Guam and the Northern Marianna Islands. Some of these jurisdictions use just one 90 minute test, and fill the other hour and a half with a state essay or short questions. Other jurisdictions—particularly those using the MEE—administer two MPTs.

Here is how the NCBE describes the MPT:

“[It] is designed to test an applicant’s ability to use fundamental lawyering skills in a realistic situation. Each test evaluates an applicant’s ability to complete a task which a beginning lawyer should be able to accomplish.

The materials for each MPT include a File and a Library. The File consists of source documents containing all the facts of the...
case. The specific assignment the applicant is to complete is described in a memorandum from a supervising attorney. The File might also include, for example, transcripts of interviews, depositions, hearings or trials, pleadings, correspondence, client documents, contracts, newspaper articles, medical records, police reports, and lawyer’s notes. Relevant as well as irrelevant facts are included. Facts are sometimes ambiguous, incomplete, or even conflicting. As in practice, a client’s or supervising attorney’s version of events may be incomplete or unreliable. Applicants are expected to recognize when facts are inconsistent or missing and are expected to identify sources of additional facts.

The Library consists of cases, statutes, regulations and rules, some of which may not be relevant to the assigned lawyering task. The applicant is expected to extract from the Library the legal principles necessary to analyze the problem and perform the task. The MPT is not a test of substantive law, and problems may arise in a variety of fields. Library materials provide sufficient substantive information to complete the task.

What are they testing? The MPT’s goal is to require applicants to:

1. sort detailed factual materials and separate relevant from irrelevant facts;
2. analyze statutory, case, and administrative materials for relevant principles of law;
3. apply the relevant law to the relevant facts in a manner likely to resolve a client’s problem;
4. identify and resolve ethical dilemmas, when present;
5. communicate effectively in writing; and
6. complete a lawyering task within time constraints.”

These skills are tested by requiring applicants to perform one of a number of different types of lawyering tasks. For example, applicants may be instructed to prepare:

- a memorandum to a supervising attorney;
- a letter to a client;
- a persuasive memorandum or brief;
- a statement of facts;
- a contract provision;
- a will;
- a counseling plan;
- a proposal for settlement or agreement;
- a discovery plan;
- a witness examination plan;
- a closing argument.

Your clinical studies should help prepare you for performing these types of lawyering tasks, as do “skills-oriented” courses such as Lawyering Process.

Our Local Jurisdictions

Of the four local jurisdictions, D.C. and West Virginia both use the MEE, along with the MPT. Maryland and Virginia do not use the MEE. Instead, they test on a range of subjects, with Virginia having the widest range in the area. Even though the approach to be taken in responding to essays may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the core skills being tested do not vary that much.

D.C. and West Virginia (and some eight other jurisdictions such as Hawaii) rely on the three NCBE-produced tests for their bars. They use the MBE (200 multiple choice questions), the MEE (Essay), and the MPT (performance), but they each set their own passing scores and get to select the actual essay topics and MPTs to be used. They also get to decide whether to grade using local law as the standard. Thus, the actual questions on the essay/MPT exam taken in Hawaii may be different from that in Illinois and from those in D.C. and West Virginia.

Over the years, UDC-DCSL and DCSL graduates have taken and passed the bars in the following jurisdictions:
Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and the Navajo Nation.

Disability Accommodations

Students with physical or learning disabilities that impact test performance should establish a record of accommodations while in law school so that there is historical documentation for requesting appropriate accommodations when signing up to take the bar in their third year.

Section VI of the UDC-DCSL Student Handbook describes the School of Law’s policy on accommodating disabilities. The purpose of the policy is to “ensure individualized opportunities for students with disabilities.” The various bar authorities also have disability accommodation policies.

Most bar examiners inquire as to whether accommodations were provided during law school. Since bar examinations are by definition highly time sensitive (1.6 minutes per MBE question), time accommodations for those with reading or similar issues can be the difference between success and failure.

Sometimes, students for reasons of “pride” have preferred to “tough it out” rather than receive “accommodations” during law school. Because of the tie-in to the bar, “toughing it out” is not the way to go.
Registering for the Bar as a 1L or 2L

Students should be aware that a number of states have law student registration requirements for taking the bar. In these states, students may have to convey their intent to take that state’s bar as early as their first year of law school. The penalty for not registering early is usually a much more expensive bar fee. Florida, for example, charges a non-registered examinee $875 to take the bar; this is $500 more than the $375 charged registered students who register as 1Ls for as little as $75. California, Illinois, Iowa, and Florida are among the states that have student registration requirements.

The Mason Enhancement Program for Academic Success (MEPAS) program provides an opportunity for incoming first year students to get a taste of the law school experience during the summer before taking the plunge in the fall. Participating students get a preview of Torts, Civil Procedure, Lawyering Process and Legal Reasoning.

In addition to their introduction to some law school basics, the students heard from Superior Court Magistrate Judge Tony Lee, discussed weighty Constitutional Law issues with Professor Will McLain, got tips and advice from a panel of rising 2Ls, and even went to Happy Hour!

This summer several advanced law students assisted with the 2004 MEPAS program for members of the incoming class of 2007. Allen Mohaber, ‘05, was a teaching assistant for Legal Reasoning and Civil Procedure, Cherita Gonzales, ‘05, was the TA for Torts, and Leericka Lucas, ‘05, the TA for Lawyering Process.

“We enjoyed the experience, because not only was revisiting first year subjects like Torts refreshing (or tortuous depending on how you look at it) we got the opportunity to teach someone else something we’ve learned, and to share the law school experience from our own perspective,” said Gonzales.

“Through our TA sessions we noticed the students were over-

Allen Mohaber, ‘05
Cherita Gonzales, ‘05
Leericka Lucas, ‘05

“‘We valued the experience,” said Lucas. “We also were involved in planning and implementing the program from the start, organized the guest speakers, the Happy Hour, and other activities. We really enjoyed participating in the MEPAS program and working with the students, and we hope passing our experiences on to them will help them in their first year of law school and beyond.””
Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Joseph L. Rauh Jr. Scholarships

The Cafritz Foundation funds three full UDC-DCSL scholarships for D.C. residents each year. Named for the great public interest lawyer, Joe Rauh, the scholarships are awarded to an entering student with a demonstrated commitment to the public interest, a second year student with the best Law and Justice Community Service Program project and to the third-year student with the best effort in clinic. This year, the scholarships were awarded to Michelle Moye, Barrie Lynn Tapia, and Travis Mayor.

Michelle Moye, ’07, earned her B. A. cum laude at Howard University. While an undergraduate, Ms. Moye was an AmeriCorps Volunteer assigned as a teaching assistant at Gage-Eckington Elementary School where she taught math, science, social studies, and English; assisted in the management of an after-school tutorial and enrichment program; and mentored and formed lasting relationships with students. After graduation, Ms. Moye taught at the Apple Early Reading Academy in Washington, D.C., where she designed and taught lessons to stimulate learning in language, math, music, art, science, and social development skills; communicated with parents daily to discuss student progress; and assisted in community outreach and recruitment efforts. She has been a volunteer at the School for Arts in Learning Buddies Program since 2003. As one of her recommenders wrote, “Michelle is a person of high integrity and sound character. She is public service oriented and would be a valuable member of the legal profession.”

Barrie Lynn Tapia, ’06, was the recipient of a Joseph L. Rauh scholarship in 2003 and named a Dean’s Fellow at the end of her first semester of law school for academic excellence. Ms. Tapia was chosen again this year for her excellent Law and Justice community service work at Advocates for Justice and Education an organization dedicated to increasing parental involvement in the education of children with special needs. Ms. Tapia facilitated parent training in Spanish, providing the parents with information they need to achieve results by educating them about the law and linking them with community resources. Ms. Tapia wrote of her experience, “Most valuable to me was the experience of empowering parents to advocate for their children, because not only does this have far-reaching effects of enabling parents to ensure that their child is receiving appropriate educational services, but it also serves to increase the parents’ self-worth and confidence in their own capacity as a parent.”

Travis Mayor, ‘05, a Dean’s Fellow and Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review, was selected for a Joseph L. Rauh scholarship for excellence in the Housing & Consumer Law Clinic. Clinic students represent low-income individuals in eviction defenses and in cases relating to habitability, illegal rent increases, repairs, predatory loans, fair housing and miscellaneous torts.

“Travis Mayor won a very problematic jury trial and won it with banners flying. He represented a Latino couple in a relatively rare fire damage case. His approaches worked brilliantly, and he received a verdict much higher than any of us could have anticipated. Mr. Mayor’s oral advocacy was poised, forceful and convincing. His cross-examination tarnished the defendant’s key witnesses. I have never felt better about a student trial...it was truly one of the highlights of my thirty years of clinical teaching. He was formidable in all aspects of the clinic, including his zealous advancement of other cases and his knowledge of the law.”

- Prof. Ed Allen

Editor’s Note: Olender Foundation Award Winner, Leah Golshani, ‘05, tried the case with Travis and also performed superbly!
Thurgood Marshall Scholarships

Tiese Crawford and Stacey Cobb, ’06, Thurgood Marshall Scholarship recipients, were invited to attend the Thurgood Marshall Annual Leadership Excellence Awards Dinner in Newark, New Jersey. During the reflections portion of the program, Tiese and Stacey were asked to speak on behalf of the School of Law. They were presented the opportunity to meet various judges and lawyers who are committed to the furthering of higher education of Black students.

Washington Bar Association Charles Hamilton Houston Scholarship

Mireille Tshiteya, ’06, won the 2003 Charles Hamilton Houston Scholarship Competition sponsored by the Washington Bar Association and Washington Bar Legal Fund, Inc.; she was also selected to be one of the co-recipients of the Charles Hamilton Houston Scholarship for 2004. Mireille is the first first-year student ever to win (and the first UDC-DCSL student ever to win) this competition and beat out candidates from all other local schools. She received her award/scholarship at the Washington Bar Association Law Day 2004 - black-tie dinner reception. She was also offered and accepted a summer internship under the sponsorship of the Judicial Council of the Washington Bar Association. She was selected by the Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., Senior Judge and Past Chair of the Judicial Council and was placed with the Hon. Herbert B. Dixon, Jr., where she drafted decisions on pretrial motions and small claims appeals, conducted legal research, wrote legal memoranda, and observed court proceedings.

This year UDC-DCSL students’ excellence was recognized by awards of Dean’s Fellow stipends, Legal Scholar awards, Mason Civil Rights Scholarships and Continuing Student Merit awards. In addition, the following scholarships were funded by private donations to the DC School of Law Foundation.

Bristol Cone Foundation Activist Scholarships

Bristol Cone Foundation Activist Scholarships were awarded to two incoming students — one DC resident and one non-resident — with activist backgrounds.

Marc Borbely, ’07, received the D.C. Resident Activist Scholarship. An educator who taught at two District public high schools before coming to UDC-DCSL, Marc is the creator and web master of http://fixourschools.net, a web site aimed at involving students and parents in improving D.C. public school facilities. He was recently elected to serve as an ANC Commissioner for Single Member District 6A06. He received the “Citizen of the Quarter Award” from the 5th District Citizen’s Advisory Council as a result of his work as creator and co-editor of a bi-weekly newsletter entitled The Corner Forum which serves his Northeast Washington, D.C. neighborhood. Marc is an accomplished writer and editor who has contributed articles to the Washington Post and UPI. He assisted Pulitzer Prize winning author Nick Kotz by researching the relationship between Rev. Martin Luther King and President Lyndon Johnson. He has a B.S. in molecular biology from Yale.
Student Scholarships & Awards!

Sara Tomkins, '07, received the non-resident Bristle Cone Activist Scholarship. A June, 2004 graduate of Princeton University with a B.A. in Religion/Religious Studies, Sara was active on and off campus as a Student Peer Alcohol Educator, Volunteer for the Red Cross and Amnesty International, and in activities focused on bringing peace to the Middle East. A lifelong resident of New York City, she worked through St. Paul’s Chapel and the New Jersey Red Cross in ground zero rescue efforts.

Lance Butler, '07, is the first annual Walter Washington Scholarship recipient. Growing up in D.C. and New York City housing projects and losing both of his parents before the age of 16, it would have been easy for Lance Butler’s life to be very different than it is. Instead of giving in to despair, he finished high school, graduated from UDC with honors and worked as a Contract Specialist with the U.S. Agency for International Development until he realized his dream of attending law school. He wants to use his legal education to be a “legal conduit to people who are unable to navigate their way through the legal process.” He particularly wants to help victims of domestic abuse.

Marilyn Harris, '07, is the Beechtree Foundation Scholarship recipient. Ms. Harris’s outstanding record of public service employment in the field of education includes work as a Speech Pathologist for DC public schools, Special Education Specialist for Baltimore City Schools, Program Director of the Joseph P. Kennedy Institute, Federal Monitor for the US Department of Education, and Adjunct professor at UDC’s Speech and Hearing Clinic. Her professional experiences instilled in her a deep concern about the impact of the correlation of poverty and special education on young children and their families. She wants to use her legal education to work with policy makers and civil servants in formulating policies affecting educational issues for poor and special needs children and their families.

Walter Washington, Beechtree Foundation, and Raymond Hossfeld Scholarships

The Walter Washington Scholarship was established by faculty, staff, students and friends of the School of Law in honor of the District of Columbia’s first elected mayor, to support a UDC graduate with a background in and commitment to community service.

Owen Walker, '07

Although Raymond F. Hossfeld Scholarship recipient Owen Walker’s B.A. is in Environmental Sciences, his professional life before law school revolved around education. His latest teaching experience was at a school that prides itself on reaching out to children with learning disabilities whose self-esteem may have been squelched at other, more conventional schools. This and other experiences, such as tutoring homeless and recovering addicts in preparation for the GED, prepared him to enroll at UDC-DCSL. He wants to use the insights he gained through his life experiences and through his legal education to serve people through the law.
Law Student Organizations

ABA Law Student Division (ABA/LSD)
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gr_ramirez@hotmail.com

American Constitution Society, UDC-DCSL Chapter
President: Debbie Anderson
Secretary: Lee Lucas
Treasurer: Will McLain
President Emerita: Karen Walker
Faculty Advisor: Prof. William McLain
Contact: Debbie Anderson: dca_123@hotmail.com

American Constitution Society, UDC-DCSL Chapter
President: Debbie Anderson
Secretary: Lee Lucas
Treasurer: Will McLain
President Emerita: Karen Walker
Faculty Advisor: Prof. William McLain
Contact: Debbie Anderson: dca_123@hotmail.com

Asian Pacific American Law Student Assn. (APALSA)
President: Pamela Montano Eclar
Vice President: Lynne Yasui
Secretary: Angela Oh
Treasurer: Julie Lee
Contact: Pamela Eclar: peclar@hotmail.com

Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
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Tiese Crawford: tieselovey@netscape.com

Christian Law Society
John Irving: johnirvingclinic@aol.com

Disability Rights Society
Susan Isadore: sisadore@comcast.net

Environmental Law Society
Jorge Villavicencio: villavicencio@mindspring.com

Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, UDC-DCSL Chapter
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Innocence Project of the National Capital Region
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Vice President: Christine Mason Spurgeon
Secretary/Treasurer: Carlos Piovannetti
Contact: Debbie Anderson: dca_123@hotmail.com

International Law Students Association
President: Ryan High
Vice President: Cynthia Catlett
Treasurer: Scott Haapala
Jessup Coordinator: Dipti Pidikiti
Faculty Advisor: James Gray
Contact: Ryan High: rhighudclaw@yahoo.com

Joseph L. Rauh, Jr. Equal Justice Works Chapter
President: Rica McKeveny
Vice President: Leah Golshani
Secretary: Amy Ward
Treasurer: Candice Owens
Auction Chair: Christine Mason Spurgeon
Faculty Advisor: Shelley Broderick
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Deputy Editor in Chief: Cherita Gonzales
Managing Editor: Sorena Fallin
Legal Developments Editor: Rica McKeveny
Articles Editor: John Geddie
Notes Editor: Gena’ve Ramirez
Symposium Editor: Mona McKenzie
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Joseph Tulman
Contact: Helen Frazer
Contact: lawreview@udc.edu

OutLaw, (a GLBT organization)
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Co-President: Bob Davis
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National Lawyers Guild, UDC-DCSL Chapter
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Phi Alpha Delta, Law Fraternity International
Justice: Laura Perry
Vice Justice: Jamie Cleaver
Marshall: Amy Ward
Clerk: Nakiia Waggoner
Treasurer: Jeff Cardone
3L Representative: Tiffani Johnson
2L Representative: Blair Miles
1L Representative: TBA
Faculty Advisor: Derek Alphran
Contact: Laura Perry: xcgir123@aol.com

Phi Delta Phi, International Legal Fraternity
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Sports and Entertainment Student Lawyers Association (SESLSA)
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Rosa Luxemburg Collective
Debbie Anderson: Co-First Comrade
Carlos Piovannetti: Co-First Comrade
Leah Golshani: Second Comrade
Contact: Debbie Anderson: dca_123@hotmail.com

Second Amendment Club
President: John Irving
Vice President: Jorge Villavicencio
Secretary: Zach Freeman
Treasurer: Donald C. McMillan III
Faculty Advisor: Prof. William McLain
Contact: John Irving:
johnirvingclinic@aol.com

Student Bar Association (SBA)
President: Leericka Lucas
Vice-President: Blair Miles
Treasurer: Libby Quattrocchi
Parliamentarian: Jeff Marcum
Corresponding Secretary: Tiffani Johnson
Recording Secretary: Amy Loveridge
Chair of Academic Standards: Gena’ve Ramirez
Chair of Community Relations: Carlos Piovannetti
Chair of Newsletter: Ethan Wolf
Chair of Special Events: Stacey Cobb
Chair of Student Services: Summer Quinn

SBA 3L Class Senators
Elizabeth Eckhardt, Kimberly Fahrenholz, John Geddie, Lance Lee, Rica McKeveny

SBA 2L Class Senators
Bob Davis, Sunny Eaton, Scott Hannon, Candice Owens, Bryan Reeves

SBA 1L Class Senators
Nilo Cuervo, Gregary Faloye, Debra Topor, Matthew Frawley, Kathy Savoy,
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leelucas_26@yahoo.com

Voces Juridicas
President: Jennie Torres-Lewis
Vice-President: Carlos Piovannetti
Secretary/Treasurer: Carol Donayre
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Women’s Law Society
Kim Fahrenholz: President
Athena McMahon: Vice President
Moni McKenzie: Treasurer
Samar Malik: Secretary
Jewell Mayzck: Special Events Chair
Contact: Kim Fahrenholz:
kimfah3@yahoo.com
Each year, the School of Law community gathers to honor its graduating class, their parents, children, significant others, and the hardworking faculty and staff who supported them. In May, 2004, the School of Law Honors Convocation lived up to expectations: it was emotional, poignant, funny, inspiring and joyous!

From left, clockwise: Convocation Keynote Speaker, the Joseph L. Rauh Jr. Professor of Public Interest Law, Wade Henderson; Andrea Hensen-Armstrong, ’04, Equal Justice Award winner and nationally known death penalty foe, George Kendall, ASL ’79; Dean Shelley Broderick and Equal Justice Award winner and Chair of the Board of the University of the District of Columbia, Charles Ogletree; UDC President, Dr. William Pollard; Dean Broderick and outgoing SBA President, Kenniah Canady, ’04; Professor William McLain; and graduates Natalie Brocklebank, ’04 and Dwayne Berry, ’04.
2004 HONORS CONVOCATION

Top left: Mistress of Ceremonies Professor Stephanie Brown. Below top left: Tiffani Shannon, ‘04. Top right: the Class of 2004; Middle Row from left: Provost Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke; Charles Ogletree, Prof. Laurie Morin, Andrea Henson-Armstrong, ‘04, and Dean Shelley Broderick; appreciative UDC-DCSL faculty members: from left Professors Laurie Morin, Gay Gellhorn, Batipps and Gray. Bottom Row from left: Arian Noma, ‘04 with clinic staff member Jackie Craig, her son Joshua, and Kenniah Canady, ‘04; Charles Ogletree and Wade Henderson;
Clockwise from top left: George Kendall and Prof. William McLain; Dean Broderick with Hank Gassner, ‘04; Dean Broderick with Library staff member Marvin Williams; Dean Broderick congratulates Shellese Leach, ‘04; Dean Broderick congratulates Charlie Agwumzie, ‘04; Dean’s Cup recipients: Marvin Williams, OCS Director Dena Bauman, Library staff member Veronica Howard and Prof. Natalie Wasserman; Robyn Silverman, ‘04, and Prof. Louise Howells; Prof. William Robinson with Jason Tucker, Dean Broderick and Wade Henderson; Center: Prof. Natalie Wasserman.
Clockwise from top left: Nyree Adams, Audra Pondish, Robyn Silverman, Dean Broderick, Aubreana Stephenson, Kenniah Canady and Arian Noma; Karen Walker, ’04; Charles Ogletree; Dean Broderick and Veronica Howard; Broderick with Robyn Silverman, Broderick with Ipori Lake, ’04, Victor Varga, ’04, with Prof. William Robinson; Broderick with Aubreana Stephenson, and Nyree Adams, ’04, and Financial Aid Director Anne El-Shazli. Center top: Noma and Canady hamming it up; Todd Zinicola, ’04.
A Conversation with Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Cheryl Jacques

On June 6, 2004, Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Cheryl Jacques came to UDC to address Prof. William Robinson and Prof. Wade Henderson’s Civil Rights in the 21st Century course.

Ms. Jacques’ talk was attended by students, faculty, staff, alumni, DC School of Law Foundation board members, public interest interns and members of the general public. After subject matter and personal introductions by Professors Robinson and Henderson, Ms. Jacques spoke on legal and political tactics for furthering the protection of the civil rights of gay and lesbian Americans. Her presentation inspired a vigorous discussion ranging from law to politics to social change.

This page, from upper left: Cheryl Jacques; Ms. Jacques with Prof. Wade Henderson; Henderson, Ms. Jacques and Prof. William Robinson; Jacques and Henderson. At right: students and the School of Law Community in contemplation and response.
Law Library Life

by Brian L. Baker, Library Director

The next edition of The Advocate will include a cover story and full report on our just-completed $1.6 million Law Library Expansion and Renovation Project. For now, just know that the new Charles N. and Hilda H. M. Mason Law Library is a gorgeous place in which to study law! Please come visit!

Staff Changes

The Law Library has seen three valued staff members leave since the spring semester. Ms. Bridget Tucker returned to Sierra Leone. Mr. Eddie Caparas retired after almost 28 years with the School of Law and its Antioch predecessor. Finally, Ms. Veronica Howard and her family moved to a new home in North Carolina.

That’s the sad news, now the good news. Mr. Matthew Ciszek has been hired to fill the job of Circulation Librarian, Ms. Cynthia Myers has joined the staff as our Acquisitions Librarian, and Mr. William Thomas has been hired as Evening Circulation Technician. The other Technician position that is open is expected to be filled soon.

Please read our new staff members’ biographies below and make a point of introducing yourselves. They are very student-oriented and want to get to know all our students as well as our staff members!

Mr. Matthew Ciszek

Matthew Ciszek is currently the Circulation Librarian in the Law Library at the UDC David A. Clarke School of Law. Matt originally hails from Buffalo, N.Y., and most recently had been employed by Golden Gate University in San Francisco as the System Librarian. Before that, he had worked for more than eight years for a number of library automation vendors including Innovative Interfaces, the company responsible for the Millennium automation system used here in the Law Library.

Matt attended the N.Y. State University at Buffalo where he earned a B.A. in English Literature and a Masters in Library and Information Science. Matt has a strong interest in architecture, architectural history, and politics and enjoys traveling, especially within the United States. He is glad to be back on the East Coast in order to be closer to family and friends and to have the opportunity to visit some of his favorite places, including New York, the Atlantic coast, and Quebec.

Matt welcomed the opportunity to move to D.C. with his partner who is starting his MSW program at Catholic University this autumn. Matt had wanted to move to D.C. for some time now, and this provided the perfect opportunity to do so. The architecture, history, and politics of the District, in addition to the unique character of the District’s many neighborhoods, are added bonuses that Matt appreciates and is looking forward to exploring further.

Ms. Cynthia Myers

Ms. Myers writes, “I got my library start working at the circulation desk of my high school library. After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with an undergraduate degree in psychology, I entered the Master of Library Science program at Pitt. While a student in the program, I worked at the Carnegie Mellon University library as a research associate, finally settling on technical services activities as my main area of interest. After graduating from Pitt, I was selected to
participate in the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Associates Program, a yearlong program designed to prepare librarians for future library leadership positions. I enjoyed the NLM so much, I stayed there for twelve years, most of the time working as an original cataloger of both print and non-print materials.

“I had always been interested in the law and what it would be like to work in a law library and finally became courageous enough to enter law school. After completing my degree at the John Marshall Law School, I came back to the Washington, D.C. area and began working for a library contracting company. I became the Head of Technical Services at the Department of Labor Library, a job I particularly enjoyed because it allowed me to purchase materials for their Law Library. From there, it was on to Acquisitions Librarian positions at the Loyola Chicago Law Library and the University of Pittsburgh Barco Law Library. After marrying last year, I made my way (once again!) back to Washington and the University of the District of Columbia.

“I have always felt at home working in libraries and especially am happy working in a growing law library. When I’m not at work, I enjoy reading, particularly biographies. As new home owners, my husband and I are working on many (and it does seem like MANY!) projects around the house.”

Mr. William Thomas

Mr. Thomas writes, “I won’t go way back in the past for the information that would take up too much time and space. I’m currently a junior at the University of the District of Columbia. My major is Early Childhood Education. I served in the Army during the Vietnam war. I drove a moving van for twenty years. I’ve owned a vending business in downtown Washington and even had a home improvement business. Out of all the things I’ve done in the workforce this position in the Law Library may be the best. Thanks for making me feel like part of the family.”

UDC-DCSL’s Library Makes Top 100!

According to a recent edition of National Jurist magazine, the UDC Law Library ranks 98th out of 183 law school libraries reviewed!

William Thomas

This Joseph Clipper portrait of School of Law benefactors Charles N. and Hilda H.M. Mason will hang in the Law Library bearing their names!
HONORARY CHAIRS:

Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC); Hon. Anthony Williams, Mayor; Hon. Linda Cropp, Council Chair; Mrs. David A. Clarke; Hon. Annice Wagner, Chief Judge, DC Court of Appeals; Hon. Rufus King, Chief Judge, DC Superior Court; John Keeney, President, DC Bar; John Cruden, President-Elect, DC Bar; Charles Ogletree, Chair, UDC Board of Trustees; Dr. William Pollard, President, UDC; Michael Rauh, Chair, DC School of Law Foundation; Katherine S. Broderick, Dean, UDC David A. Clarke School of Law

Invite You to Celebrate the Dedication of the New
Charles N. & Hilda H. M. Mason Law Library
At the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law

AND to meet the 2004
American Bar Association Site Inspection Team!

6:30-8:30 pm
Tuesday, November 16, 2004

UDC David A. Clarke School of Law
Bldg. 39, Connecticut Avenue Level
4200 Connecticut Ave., NW
Parking off Van Ness St.
Metro Red Line: UDC/Van Ness
R.S.V.P. to 202-274-7349 or DJackson@udc.edu