Events

Senator Elizabeth Warren, (D-MA) will deliver the 21st Annual Joseph L. Rauh Jr. Lecture in the UDC Auditorium on October 2 at 6 pm. UDC President James Lyons, Law School Dean Shelley Broderick, Rauh Professor Wade Henderson, and DC School of Law Foundation Chair Mike Rauh will join in the introductions. A reception will follow in the Auditorium Lobby. Over 200 are already registered to attend. Register at www.law.udc.edu/event/warren

Actor and Activist Danny Glover will visit UDC-DCSL to help lead The Cuban Five: Justice or Injustice? On Friday, September 13th at 6 pm. UDC-DCSL and several student associations, including the Black Law Students Association, Black Men's Law Society, Latino/a Law Student Association, National Lawyers Guild-UDC, and the Criminal Justice Society, are working with the National Committee on this important evening forum. Register at http://www.law.udc.edu/event/Cuban5

So You Want to be DC’s Attorney General? On June 25th, over 150 DC residents, civic leaders, attorneys and activists, as well as numerous School of Law students and alumni, attended "So You Want to Be DC’s Attorney General?" a panel discussion moderated by School of Law Dean Shelley Broderick designed to shed light on the role and responsibilities of the DC Attorney General in the run up to the first-ever election for the position. The panel included current DC Attorney General Irv Nathan; former DC Attorney General Peter Nickels; Phil Mendelson, DC Council Chair; Kathy Patterson, Former DC Councilmember and Robert Spagnoletti another former DC Attorney General. Sponsoring organizations included the ACLU, National Capital Region; the Council for Court Excellence; the District of Columbia Bar; DC Appleseed; DC Vote; the League of Women Voters of the Nation's Capital and the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. (In photo from left, Mendelson, Broderick, Spagnoletti, Patterson, Nathan and Nickels) (Photos)
Shelby v. Holder  On Monday, July 1, Professors John Brittain and Wade Henderson welcomed members of the public to hear a presentation by featured speaker Sherrilyn Ifill, Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and to participate in a discussion of the recent Supreme Court ruling in the voting rights case of Shelby Co v. Holder. n addition to enrolled students, over 60 alumni, friends of the School of Law, faculty and members of the public attended the discussion. Former UDC President and law professor Timothy Jenkins was in attendance, as well as the Rev. Lennox Yearwood, founder and Director of the Hip Hop Caucus (and UDC alum!) were in attendance. The evening was part of the ongoing Seminar on Civil and Human Rights in the 21st Century at the David A. Clarke School of Law. (Photo: Brittain, Ifill and Henderson) MORE

Clinic Victories

Two UDC David A. Clarke School of D.C. Court of Appeals Victories

The D.C. Court of Appeals issued an opinion on July 25, 2013, in In re Ang. P. and And. P., reversing the trial court's finding that two children (5 and 14 years old) were neglected by their mother. The brief for the mother was filed by UDC-DCSL law students under the supervision of teaching fellow Tanya A. Cooper, (photo at left) who was recently awarded a UDC-DCSL LL.M. degree in Clinical Teaching, Social Justice, and System Change.

The trial court found that the children were neglected because the mother had undergone back surgery, recovery from which required her to take medications which, at times, caused her to become drowsy in the children's presence. The court thus found that the children were "without proper parental care and control" and that the mother was "unable to discharge her parental responsibilities" due to "physical incapacity."

Reversing, the Court of Appeals pointed out that at no time was And. P. (five years old) without supervision by the mother, or Ang. P. herself (14), or one of the mother's adult children, or a combination of those individuals. The Court noted that the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency's own policies permit a 12 year old to serve as a babysitter for a younger child and in fact, the children were not harmed or at risk of harm. (For full story click HERE)
Congratulations, again, to our students, **Prof. LaShanda Taylor Adams**, (photo at left) and our former colleague, **Prof. Tanya Cooper**, who on August 22, again, emerged from the D.C. Court of Appeals with another major victory in a child welfare case. The opinion issued on August 22 is *In re Ta.L.* In this case, the clinic represented E.A., paternal aunt of two children, in trial court proceedings for nearly four years, including in a three-day contested adoption trial. The children's mother and father sought to have E.A. adopt the children, but the trial court allowed unrelated foster parents to do so, instead.

The clinic then appealed on E.A.'s behalf and filed the briefs, as well as numerous motions, in the Court of Appeals. UDC DCSL alumna, **Joyce Aceves-Amaya '10**, (photo at left) conducted the oral argument for E.A. The School of Law's D.C. Child Abuse and Neglect Moot Court Project convened two moot court sessions for Aceves-Amaya and the lawyers representing the children's mother and father, with moot court judges drawn from the DCSL faculty, U.S. Department of Energy, the Counsel for Child Abuse and Neglect panel, and the law firms of Sidley Austin and Baker Botts.

In a unanimous August 22, 2013 decision, authored by Chief Judge Eric Washington and described by Jack Keeney, The Legal Aid Society's appellate division director, as a "landmark opinion," the Court of Appeals found that the trial judge improperly disregarded the wishes of the children's parents. (For full story, click [HERE](#))

**UDC David A. Clarke School of Law Faculty Highlights**

**Professor John Brittain**

**Working Locally** with attorney Johnny Barnes, former Executive Director of the ACLU of the Nation's Capital, in Shannon Smith et al. v. Kaya Henderson et. al., a case brought by community organization Empower DC to block the closure of 15 DC Public Schools. Before the hearing Johnny Barnes said, "Because of the participation of Professors Jamin Raskin and John Brittain, this hearing promises to provide a fascinating display of legal argument, the kind of which is rarely witnessed in the courtrooms in Washington, DC."  More

**In the New York Times**, In a new Room for Debate column entitled Don’t Rely on Standardized Test Scores, on May 13, 2013, Brittain argues that colleges and universities, including graduate and professional schools, should eliminate the over-reliance on standardized aptitude test scores. Prof. Brittain writes, "Just as universities responded to lack of diversity with affirmative action that will soon run its course, now universities should study alternative pre-admissions practices that identify bright and highly motivated diverse students who are not the highest test takers. By uncoupling the student applicant’s pre-admission emphasis on high test scores and concentrating on applied learning success in the academic discipline, this nation can create equal opportunity in admissions criteria to foster diversity."  More
Prof. Andrew G. Ferguson

Ralph Nader Touts Ferguson Book. Perhaps the greatest public interest lawyer of all time, Ralph Nader, has placed our Prof. Andrew Ferguson's new book, Why Jury Duty Matters: A Citizen's Guide to Constitutional Action high (No. 2) on Nader's "serious pursuit of justice/happiness" summer reading list. Nader said, “I remember when Andrew was born. His mother gave him lots of attention, while also, then and now, directing the Pension Rights Center. The time was very well spent. For Andrew grew up to become a lawyer, a public defender, teacher and now an author who urges you not to be one of the too many citizens who under-appreciate and avoid the greatest civil institution of Anglo-America law - the jury. This is a brilliant and motivating plea to please serve when summoned.”

On CNN  Ferguson served as a jury expert on CNN on July 18, providing insight into the Zimmerman jury decision-making process.

ON NPR: UDC David A. Clarke School of Law Professor Andrew G. Ferguson has been visible in the media quite a bit lately on the strength of his recent book, Why Jury Duty Matters, and as a go-to expert on juries with regard to the high-profile Zimmerman murder trial. In this National Public Radio story, however, Ferguson was called on to discuss the implications of increasing police use of crime predictive software. To read a (surprisingly inexact) transcript of the NPR story or to listen to it, click HERE.

In The Economist: Prof. Ferguson was also quoted by The Economist on "predictive policing." To read more, see Story.

In USA Today: Prof. Ferguson was quoted on July 18, 2103 by journalists Laura Petrecca and Rebecca Castagna in their article "Will Zimmerman verdict spur others to jury duty?" viewable HERE.

Channel 8 Interview  Ferguson was interviewed at some length by Bruce Depuyt of News Channel 8 on juries and his book. To view the Channel 8 interview, click HERE.

Professor William L. Robinson was awarded the Alumni Medal from his alma mater, Oberlin College. The alumni medal is the highest honor the school’s alumni association bestows. Robinson, the Olie W. Rauh Professor of Law, founding Dean of the District of Columbia School of Law and the University of the District of Columbia School of Law, is an outstanding litigator, teacher, leader of the civil rights bar, and leader in the civil rights movement.
Dean Shelley Broderick was one of three Washington area law school deans on a civil rights panel hosted by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law as part of their 50th Anniversary celebration. The panel was moderated by UDC Clarke School of Law Professor John Brittain.

UDC Jeane to Jindal Pipeline?

UDC Law graduate and Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic Director Charles Jeane, '08 (photo at left) will assume the responsibilities of Tax and Economic Policy Advisor to Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal. Starting September 9, Charles will be working on tax and economic development issues for the State of Louisiana - and will be part of the inner circle of advisers to a man many consider to be a rising - and moderate - star within the Republican Party. Charles, who describes himself as a fiscal conservative but social liberal, believes he will fit in well at his new workplace.

UDC David A. Clarke Law Student Summer Fellowships

During the Summer of 2013 48 UDC David A. Clarke School of Law students did public interest fellowships for non-profits, government agencies and judges, in Washington and around the world. The School of Law raises funds from law firms, foundations, alumni and friends to provide students with $3500 stipends, which they earn with a minimum of 400 hours of lawyer-supervised, law-related, public service work.

Jenn Laskin, '15, was quoted in the Santa Cruz Sentinel in connection with her UDC David A. Clarke School of Law Summer Public Interest Fellowship. "Jenn Laskin, a longtime teacher and law student interning with the Santa Cruz County Probation Department, organized the events. Laskin said she and the group Barrios Unidos, which works to prevent youth violence, are trying to establish a permanent support group for friends and families of incarcerated youths, something she said is lacking in the community." Full Story

Jaime Canizares, ’14, (at left) reported on his second international summer public interest fellowship – this summer, in Amman, Jordan. His first was in India.

I enjoy sitting outside on the porch on these balmy and breezy summer evenings with my host family. For me, this might be a normal occurrence, especially during summer evenings, if it were not for the fact that these nightly encounters are taking place in Amman, Jordan's capital. Added to this scenario is the unique situation that the conversations which transpire between me and the members of this family are all in Arabic, since they do not speak English. And, as it is the custom in Middle Eastern countries, these moments of relaxation must be accompanied by abundant servings of sun-ripened watermelons, apricots, grapes and lots of tea, among other delicacies. And of course, good humor is part of these nightly summer rituals.
Thousands of families and other groups of people across Jordan, and the greater Middle East, also gather in public parks and central squares, especially during these summer months, thus exercising their right to freely assemble. As it is the case right now, thousands of people in Egypt gathered demanding the resignation of their democratically-elected president. However, this is not the case in Syria today where thousands of individuals risk their lives in order to exercise their right to freedom of assembly. For full story click HERE.

Student **Gary Redding, ’15**, (left) spent his summer striving for a more sustainable and more equitable food production system with the Rural Coalition in Washington, DC. He began his report thusly,

“On June 3, 2013, I began my summer legal internship with the Rural Coalition in Washington, D.C. The Rural Coalition "is an alliance of farmers, farm workers, indigenous, migrant, and working people from the United States, Mexico, Canada, and beyond working together to build a more just and sustainable food system which brings fair returns to minority and other small farmers and rural communities, establishes just and fair working conditions for farm workers, protects the environment, and brings safe and healthy food to all consumers.” My time at the Rural Coalition has been a tremendous and educative experience from start to finish. As I conclude my internship, it is my pleasure to reflect on a few highlights that will continue to be learning experiences for me.

I have composed several documents for the Rural Coalition, the most rewarding and challenging probably being my written testimony on the Voting Rights Act and recent Supreme Court case Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder submitted to Congress on behalf of the Rural Coalition. The Supreme Court in Shelby County voted 5-4 to strike down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act as unconstitutional. Its formula can no longer be used as a basis for requiring certain jurisdictions to “pre-clear” changes to their voting laws with the federal government. Following my attendance at the Voting Rights Act hearings in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, I asked Lorette Picciano, the Rural Coalition’s executive director, if I could write a report on my experiences at the hearings and she instead suggested that I compose written testimony to be submitted to Congress. I was almost as excited as someone who had just won the lottery and went to work immediately, partly because my maternal grandmother, Florenza Moore Grant, was the first African American to register and successfully vote in Halifax County, North Carolina, where I grew up, in 1955. She was required to read and interpret a section of the U.S. Constitution, randomly chosen by the white registrar.” MORE