Message from the Director

2014 is an exciting year at Denver Law. It marks the 110th anniversary of our program, which we commemorated in April with a clinic reunion dinner keynoted by Bryan Stevenson. We were thrilled to be joined by current students and alumni at this event, and are especially grateful for the support we received from the Colorado Public Defender’s Office and the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar Association.

We also celebrated Professor Emeritus Howard Rosenberg, who is retiring after more than 50 years of dedication to students at the College of Law and to underserved people in the greater Denver community. Seeing and hearing from the scores of lawyers, judges and colleagues with whom Howard taught and worked over the past half century was a profoundly inspiring experience.

Finally, we’re honored to announce that the clinic was selected as one of the recipients of the 2013 Super Lawyers Pro Bono Awards. These awards honor individual lawyers, law firms, law students, law schools and other institutions in the legal profession that exemplify excellence in practice through delivery of volunteer legal services to poor people as well as those who are underrepresented or exploited.

In the fall, we look forward to hosting the Mountain West Regional Clinical conference on October 24-25, 2014. We hope to see many of you here.

In the spring, Howard Rosenberg has served DU for 57 years. He joined Denver Law’s faculty in 1973 and then served as director of the law school’s clinical programs until 1979. Howard is widely regarded as a foremost expert regarding clinical legal education, most particularly in the area of criminal law. We thank Howard for his dedication and are honored to bid him farewell.

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You are a true original. You were way ahead of your time in the movement toward experiential learning. A real visionary. But most importantly, it has always been about your students and your clients. We could not ask for a better role model.

— Dean Marty Katz

It has been my privilege to know Professor Howard Rosenberg since 1983 when I enrolled in the Basic Civil Representation Clinic. He has been my teacher, mentor, colleague and friend. He is a wonderful teacher and mentor–who consistently teaches students the best practices in legal representation. He teaches that we are not representing clients, but are helping living, breathing people to navigate the legal system.

The experiences that I gleaned during my two quarters in the clinic have shaped my own legal career. Professor Rosenberg is patient with everyone. He is passionate about the representation of the poor. He provided access to justice for thousands of people over the years. His work has been a tremendous asset to the Sturm College of Law, and Howard is recognized as the face of clinical education in every metropolitan Denver jurisdiction.

—Vladina Gehrke, JD ’84

It has been such a privilege to work with you these last 10 years. As I look back over the many things you have accomplished in your career (and there are so many), one thing that really stands out for me is not only the enormous number of students you have shepherd into the profession, but also your ability to inspire in those students a yearning to seek justice. This quote really captures for me what is so special about your teaching, and why your students have been so lucky to work with you: “If you want to build a ship, don’t drum up people together to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea” — Antoine de Saint-Exupery. Although you are leaving DU, you are leaving behind generations of lawyers who are better lawyers—and likely better people—because of your influence. Thank you for all you have done and all you have given to our students, our program, our school and our community. We are all so very fortunate.

— Laura Rovner

Denver Law’s Clinical Programs Honors Retiring Professor Howard Rosenberg

Howard, the Schlepper—You are the personification of the best that lawyers can be and do. You’ve taught a generation (or two) of students what it really means to be a lawyer. Thank you.

— Jerry Borison

It has been a pleasure knowing you throughout the years. First as a student of yours and later as an employee at the Adams County Legal Aid Office. You contributed so much to my legal education as well as to your many students. I am still looking for that “lime green” polyester sport coat. Enjoy your retirement!

— Ralph Torres, JD ’70

Enjoy your retirement!

— Dean Marty Katz

The 2014-2015 U.S. News & World Report law school rankings were released in April and Denver Law’s Clinical Program ranked 14th. This is the fourth consecutive year in which the clinical programs were ranked among the nation’s top 20.
The University of Denver Sturm College of Law’s Clinical Programs celebrated its 110th anniversary this year, an occasion that also coincided with the retirement of Professor Emeritus Howard Rosenberg, a pillar of the clinical programs who taught generations of students in his over 50 years at Denver Law. The standing-room-only events brought together hundreds of alumni, students, faculty, staff and members of the legal community for two nights of tributes, both recognizing the value of clinical education and Rosenberg’s inspiring career.

A significant highlight of the weekend was the keynote address by MacArthur Foundation Fellow, NYU Law professor and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Bryan Stevenson. His talk focused on insights derived from his many years of experience advocating for incarcerated and criminally accused people in the southern United States. The speech, which explored values essential to the fight against justice and inequality, urged the audience to consider such values as seeking proximity to those affected by injustice, maintaining hope, and allowing oneself to experience discomfort as part of the pathway to change. Stevenson noted that clinical education is one path to reducing the barriers between soon-to-be-attorneys and the marginalized people who need their services. Current student attorneys in attendance were awed and inspired by Stevenson’s thoughtful and motivating comments.

The proceeds from both the Rosenberg retirement celebration and the Clinical Programs reunion will benefit the Clinical Programs at Denver Law.

Civil Rights Clinic faculty Lindsey Webb (third from left), Lauren Fontana (second from right) and Clinical Director Laura Konner (front right) and CRC students with Bryan Stevenson (center).