Student Law Office Celebrates 110th Anniversary, Commemorates Howard Rosenberg’s Retirement & Welcomes Bryan Stevenson

Denver Law threw a party to celebrate clinical education this April! The Law School’s clinical program turned 110 years old this year. This anniversary closely 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 on Denver Law’s faculty. The standing-room-only events brought together alumni, students, faculty, staff and members of the legal community for two nights of tributes, both to the value of clinical education and to Prof. Rosenberg’s inspiring career.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the keynote address by MacArthur Foundation Fellow, NYU Law professor, and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Bryan Stevenson. Prof. Stevenson’s talk focused on insights derived from his many years of experience advocating for incarcerated and criminally accused people in the South. His 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. Prof. 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.

Proceeds from the Celebration will benefit the Student Law Office.

The Public Service Newsletter highlights events, people & issues related to public service and the law. Visit the Public Service Portal for future events. Snapshots from the Public Service newsletter are sent via email each semester to the law school community. This is the complete newsletter.
NEWS FROM THE COLORADO GLBT COMMUNITY

Marriage Equality
As many are aware, Colorado’s constitution bans same-sex marriage equality. However, since May 2013, same-sex couples in Colorado have been able to join together in civil unions. In the fall of 2013 and winter of 2014, two lawsuits were filed in Colorado state courts; both argue that Colorado’s constitutional ban on same-sex marriage violates the United States Constitution’s commitment to equal protection and due process. Both cases are currently pending. Professor Kris McDaniel-Miccio is a named plaintiff in the one of the cases. Same-sex couples may continue to access some of the benefits that marriage affords through a Designated Beneficiary Agreement, which was approved in 2009. Lecturer Kyle Velte was recently quoted in two National Public Radio stories about the issue.

In 2014, the Colorado legislature passed, and the Governor signed, Senate Bill 19, which will allow same-sex couples residing in Colorado and married in one of the 17 states and the District of Columbia where same-sex marriage is legal, to file joint state taxes. The change only impacts same-sex couples married legally outside of Colorado and residing in the state. Couples who have entered only into a civil union in Colorado will not be allowed to file joint state taxes, nor joint federal taxes, since their union is not recognized as a legal marriage.

Employment Discrimination
On May 6, 2013, Governor John Hickenlooper signed into law the Job Protection and Civil Rights Enforcement Act Of 2013 (Act), which amends the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act (CADA), the state law prohibiting employment discrimination because of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, national origin or ancestry. Beginning with cases arising on or after January 1, 2015, plaintiffs pursuing claims under the CADA may recover both economic and non-economic damages from employers—including small businesses with fewer than 15 employees—who are found liable for engaging in workplace discrimination. The Act authorizes new penalties for violations of the CADA. If a court or the Colorado Civil Rights Commission finds an employer has engaged in an unlawful discriminatory employment practice, the employee may be entitled to the following relief: (1) reinstatement or hiring, with or without back pay; and (2) front pay, among other equitable relief deemed appropriate. Moreover, the Act expands remedies so that courts may award attorneys’ fees for the prevailing plaintiffs, and so that awards can include compensatory and punitive damages (except in age discrimination cases).

Assisting Students and Recent Law School Graduates
On April 15, the Colorado GLBT Bar Association, whose president is Lecturer Kyle Velte, hosted an event for law students and recent law graduates. A panel of GLBT attorneys and judges discussed whether and how to “come out” on a resume or in an interview.

Want to Learn More about Crimmigration?
Read our own Prof. Hernandez’ nationally recognized blog focused on crimmigration here: http://crimmigration.com/

Prof. Hernandez also posts job opportunities in immigration here: http://crimmigration.com/2009/01/01/crimmigration-jobs.aspx

Crimmigration Conference Brings Together Scholars, Students, Lawyers, Organizers, & Activists
A recent workshop, led by Prof. Chris Lasch and held at Denver Law, gathered leading scholars and advocates to explore the rise of crimmigration, the impact of crimmigration on Colorado families and communities, the formation and adoption of detainer policies limiting local compliance and the litigation sparked by the widespread use of detainers. This event brought together nationally known litigators and scholars with community advocates and organizers. The workshop showed how law schools have the ability to facilitate dialogues on cutting edge legal issues between scholars, practitioners and affected community members. This type of collaboration has the potential to directly impact law and policy in our state and begin to make a dent in a crisis affecting many immigrant families and communities.

The United States has deported record numbers of immigrants in the past three years, in large part due to enforcement programs like “Secure Communities,” that have attempted to construct a pipeline to shuttle immigrants from state and local criminal justice systems to the immigration system. This “crimmigration” pipeline depends upon the use of immigration detainers requesting state or local officials to keep in custody people who otherwise would be released to freedom and to deliver them to federal immigration officials. The use of detainers has increased ten-fold since 2007, with federal officials now issuing over 250,000 immigration detainers each year. These same three years of record deportations has also seen a wave of political and legal challenges to the use of immigration detainers.
**WHO NEEDS SUNSHINE OR SKIS?**

**Students Give back over Spring Break**

This year, a number of Denver Law students skipped out on beach and mountain vacations to provide much-needed legal support to a number of different organizations and individuals over spring break.

**Alternative Spring Break**

For the fifth year in a row, Sturm College of Law students traveled to El Paso, Texas and Window Rock, Ariz. to take part in the school’s Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program. Six students spent the week volunteering at immigration and civil rights legal clinics in El Paso including the Texas Civil Rights Project and Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. Another four students ventured to Window Rock, Ariz. where they assisted non-profit organizations providing legal assistance to American Indian tribes, including DNA-People’s Legal Services and the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

The ASB program offers Sturm students a unique opportunity for short-term exposure to a professional legal environment. This is especially helpful for many first-year law students seeking to jump-start their professional development. The trip also is a great way to give back as students help make legal services more readily available to people of modest means. ASB was developed by students in the Chancellor’s Scholar program.

**Tribal Wills Project**

If members of recognized Native American tribes die without a will, the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2004 requires that all trust property go to the one eldest descendant. For some, this Act has become problematic, as it doesn’t allow for flexibility and personal choice.

Enter the Tribal Wills Project.

Initiated by Professor Lucy Marsh and John Roach, the Fiduciary Trust Officer for the Southwest Region of the Department of Interior, the Tribal Wills Project allows Denver Law students to spent their spring break drafting wills, powers of attorneys, and burial instructions for members of two Native American tribes, the Southern Utes and the Ute Mountain Utes. The project is in its second year and the demand for these services has increased.

This year, twenty-one law students traveled either to Durango or Towaoc, Colo., or White Mesa, Utah. Supervised by Prof. Marsh and three attorneys, Molly Barnett, Beth Bryant, and Paul Padilla, all Denver Law grads, the law students served approximately 70 clients.

“We ran like a ‘micro firm’ out of these conference rooms,” Ryan Cusick remarked. “We worked together in teams, picked up each’s other slack, and really got along well.” The legal work that was done could have easily cost $75K, but instead, it allowed students to fulfill their Public Service Requirement and provide a much-needed service. Overall participating students shared that it was one of—if not the best—experiences they had in law school.
TWO NEW INNOVATIVE PUBLIC INTEREST EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS LAUNCHED & TWO MORE ON THE WAY!

This spring marked the second semester of externships at the nonprofit, the Resource Center for Separating and Divorcing Families, where law students work alongside psychology students and social work students to mediate family law issues. The program is one of the most innovative in the country and reminds us about the importance of interdisciplinary learning.

Students in the new Hybrid Immigration Externship Program (HIP) are collaborating with Prof. Lisa Graybill and attorneys at the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) to represent detained immigrants who are indigent and would not otherwise have counsel. Select cases include one in which students successfully represented a Nepali asylum seeker in lowering his bond and another in which students assisted a Guatemalan immigrant in obtaining release from detention. Students are assisting RMIAN with know-your-rights presentations at the immigration detention center as well. Students also are working with RMIAN attorneys on an innovative policy report—the first of its kind in the region—about access to representation for immigrants detained in the Rocky Mountain region.

This fall, students will extern at an array of nonprofits, government agencies, and plaintiff side firms, through the new Racial, Social and Economic Justice Externship program. RSEJ aims to help teach students about lawyering through an anti-discrimination lens and build the community of social justice advocates at the law school and the legal community generally.

The Child Advocacy Externship is getting a facelift this fall! Lawyers from the Rocky Mountain Children’s Law Center will continue to teach the year-long class, but students will now have the option to work at an array of different placements. This will allow students to understand guardian ad litem work from multiple perspectives, helping to build the next generation of dedicated child advocates.

Contact externships@law.du.edu to learn more about these programs.

Just Launched!

The Pro Bono Research Project (PRBP) is a new way for students to fulfill their Public Service Requirement!

The Pro Bono Research Project aims to connect Denver Law students with private sector attorneys so that they can work together on pro and low bono cases. The PBRP helps students learn about the value—and possibility—of doing pro and low bono work while working in the private sector, and lets lawyers get the discrete legal support they need. It is designed so that students can work remotely, often on their own time, which makes it a great fit for evening students or students who need flexible work options. Right now, there are opportunities for researching criminal defense issues, supporting a marriage equality lawsuit, teaching about hate crimes to students, and more. Summer is a great time to complete the PSR so check it out! Search the Database for project opportunities.

Save the Date & Stay Tuned!

Denver Law will host the first ever Rocky Mountain Public Interest & Social Justice Retreat from Sept.19-21 in partnership with CU Law. This retreat is being modelled after three other retreats held across the country that are sponsored by the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT).
PILG AUCTION

The University of Denver Sturm College of Law’s Public Interest Law Group (PILG) proudly hosted its 19th Annual Fundraising Auction on February 27, 2014. The 19th Annual Auction included dinner, drinks, live music, a silent auction, and an exciting live auction. The event featured many generous and exciting donations from both the DU and the Denver community including Denver Nuggets basketball tickets donated by a local law firm, a dinner with noted appellate attorney Steven Donziger, tickets to the Great American beer festival, and much more. This year’s Auction was attended by 200 guests and succeeded in raising over $7,000. Each year PILG uses the money raised by the event to fund grants that enable Denver law students to spend their summers serving deserving public interest organizations in the United States and abroad. This year’s grant recipients are Casey Shea, who will work at the Disability Rights Education Defense Fund, Jessie Rehms, who will work at the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, and Ellen Giarratana, who will work at the Colorado Prison Law Project. Special thanks to Katy Meek for spearheading the hugely successful event!

PILG is the law school’s student-run public interest organization and its goals are to encourage law students to devote their careers to the struggle for social justice, expose students to the broad range of work being done to advance progressive legal goals, and inspire students to follow their hearts. PILG also educates and provides a discussion forum by bringing in speaker panels. PILG encourages law students and the legal community to devote time, energy, and intellect to helping disadvantaged individuals obtain access to our legal system. Public interest law addresses the political, social, and economic welfare of communities, with an emphasis on society’s underrepresented issues and groups.

KEEP CONNECTED

Want to keep in touch with the public service community at Denver Law?

Visit the Public Service Portal for upcoming events.

Are you interested in helping to develop the Rocky Mountain Public Service & Social Justice Retreat, want to contribute to the newsletter, or have concerns or suggestions about public service at Denver Law?
Email afruman@law.du.edu