

Center for
CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS
at Gonzaga Law



Annual Report 2018 - 2019

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Two years ago, in the fall of 2017, Gonzaga University School of Law announced that it was creating a Center for Civil and Human Rights. The mission of the Center is an ambitious one: to create a nationally-recognized civil and human rights program that enriches the educational experience of students, furthers the common good, and provides significant contributions to the policy and practice of civil and human rights. After another exciting year, we are pleased to offer our second Annual Report, in which we detail the activities and accomplishments of the Center during the 2018-2019 academic year.

This past year was truly an incredible one. It began with the official launch of the Center in September, with our first annual Pursuit of Justice conference. A dozen leading experts spoke on three panels about social justice and civil rights lawyering. Over 200 people attended, with Justice Mary Yu of the Washington Supreme Court and Professor Kenneth Mack of Harvard Law School delivering our keynotes. In furtherance of our research mission, we also welcomed famed legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw from UCLA and Columbia law schools in the spring. Crenshaw gave a University-wide lecture to a full house on the significance of intersectionality. We also heard from John Kroger, a visiting professor at Harvard and the former President of Reed College, who spoke about 4th Amendment issues in the age of Trump. We ended the year with our third annual Human Rights Symposium, held at our Gonzaga campus in Florence, Italy. The Center sponsored Dr. Teresa Sullivan, President *Emerita* of the University of Virginia, who gave the first evening's keynote address.

The Center also developed a number of programs and opportunities for students. The highlight of many was Justice John Charles Thomas, our jurist-in-residence, who brightened the room with his gifted story-telling and good cheer. This was also the first year that we fielded a Civil Rights Moot Court Team, coached by the talented Natasha Hill, Esq., for a national competition in Washington, D.C. The Center also continued with its educational programming, sponsoring a Citizenship Week, in which students witnessed a naturalization ceremony at the Law School and helped a handful of community members seeking to become U.S. citizens. Another exciting program was spearheaded by several law students, under the supervision of Center faculty,

as liaisons to the Minority and Justice Commission. The students worked with main campus to develop a pipeline project with undergraduate students—particularly those from underrepresented and marginalized communities—interested in law. We also continued to fund student experiences, providing stipends to two students working at summer internships important to the Center.

Lastly, the Center undertook and embraced several programs to benefit and engage our community. At the top of the list is our new Immigration Clinic, which will enroll our first students in the fall. The Immigration Clinic is a pilot program with Catholic Charities, designed to address the needs of immigrants in the Inland Northwest. In this past year, the Center also began overseeing Gonzaga Law's participation in the Moderate Means Program and the Juvenile Records Sealing Project. Both programs fulfill important needs in our community, with students providing dedicated hours on behalf of persons in need. In addition to other programming, another highlight was our first annual Art Competition. Open to local artists, the annual competition is meant to build a bridge between the Law School and the greater Spokane community, with the winning artist displaying their art in a space next to the Center.

The Center's accomplishments this year were many. We built a new space and we have a new Assistant Director, who brings extraordinary vision and experience to the position. We also established a Board of Advisors, consisting of faculty, students, and community members. We hope you enjoy reading about what we have done this past year, and we look forward to working with you as we continue to develop and expand the Center.



Jason A. Gillmer

Hemmingson Chair in Civil Liberties
and Professor of Law

Director, Center for Civil and Human Rights

MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



Michele Fukawa, J.D.

Assistant Director,
Center for Civil and Human Rights

Michele Fukawa started as the Center for Civil and Human Rights' Assistant Director in May 2019. She graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2013, and was a recipient of the Thomas More Scholarship and the Carl Maxey Diversity Scholarship. During law school, Fukawa interned at TeamChild and the Kalispel Tribe of Indians Legal Office, and she was subsequently offered an attorney position with the Kalispel Tribe after her graduation.

Fukawa worked as an attorney for the Kalispel Tribe from 2013 until accepting the position at Gonzaga. While at the Tribe, she worked on issues related to child welfare and the Indian Child Welfare Act; health and behavioral health services; human resources; enterprise development; and Tribal government advocacy. She assisted in the drafting of Tribal Codes to further the sovereignty of the Tribe, and represented the Tribe in government-to-government discussions with other governmental entities.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Fukawa worked in social services for over a decade in the Portland/Vancouver area of the Pacific Northwest. She began her career as a case manager and advocate for homeless men, and subsequently worked as a case worker for the elderly and disabled population. She then spent seven years in child welfare services, working primarily with disabled and mentally ill foster children in long-term foster care. During this time, she also became an AFSCME/WFSE union representative for her child welfare office and was elected to the AFSCME's Executive Board in 2009. As a representative of AFSCME/WFSE, Fukawa testified to the Washington legislature to fight against cuts to programs for foster children, and also participated in labor-management meetings to address safety issues in the workplace.

Fukawa is currently a member of the Spokane County Bar Association's Diversity Section and Indian Law Section, and is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Indian Law Section. She is excited to be back at Gonzaga and is looking forward to developing great programs for the Center, law students, and the community.

Jeffrey Omari, J.D., Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor,
Center for Civil and Human Rights

Professor Jeffrey Omari is the Center's inaugural Visiting Assistant Professor of Law (VAP). The VAP position is a central feature of the Center's scholarly mission. It is designed for new law teachers, providing time for aspiring scholars to write and to hone classroom skills by teaching one course per semester while also pursuing a scholarly agenda related to the goals of the Center. Participants in the VAP program are limited to one- or two-year positions, after which they are expected to pursue full-time employment at a law school.

Professor Omari finished his first year as the Center's VAP and will return for a second year in 2019-2020. Professor Omari is a legal anthropologist—he holds both a J.D. from University of Illinois College of Law and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz—and his unique perspective and training has contributed significantly to the mission of the Center. Last year, Professor Omari taught Constitutional Law and Privacy Law—two courses he will be teaching again this year—drawing on his background in Internet governance, entertainment law, and civil rights. The students appreciate what Professor Omari brings to the classroom, with one calling him “a great professor and a huge asset to Gonzaga Law.”

Professor Omari is an emerging scholar in his field of law and technology. With a focus on Brazil's new Internet Bill of Rights, the *Marco Civil da Internet* (MCI), Professor Omari's current work explores broad questions about Internet access as a civil right, protection of net neutrality, and openness in the online realm. In the past year, he published “Digital Access Amongst the Marginalized: Democracy and Internet Governance in Rio de Janeiro,” in *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, a peer-reviewed journal. He has also authored a second article, “Is Facebook the Internet? Ethnographic Perspectives on Net Neutrality in Brazil,” which is currently under review at *Law and Social Inquiry*. His third article, “The Values of Internet Governance: Lessons from Brazil,” is a work-in-



progress, which he intends to submit to law review journals this fall. Professor Omari also regularly presents on his research at conferences and to other faculties.

“My time at Gonzaga has been uniquely rewarding,” Professor Omari states. “I’ve had an opportunity to teach and engage with students whose backgrounds are distinct from my own, which has furthered my intellectual and cultural growth as well as the growth of my students. The faculty here in the Law School have been encouraging and supportive of my work and professional development. And, working at Gonzaga Law has provided opportunities for service on various committees not just in the Law School, but in the university at large.”



Welcome to our New Space

In December 2018, construction began on a new suite for the Center for Civil and Human Rights. The suite is located on the third floor of the law school, centrally located in the heart of the building. The choice of location was deliberate. Positioned in a highly visible area, the Center sends a clear and powerful message about the importance of social justice work to the identity of Gonzaga Law School.

The Center suite is designed to accommodate a number of programs and events under the Center. It includes the Assistant Director's office, along with a reception area, and two additional offices for the staff of the Moderate Means Program. The suite also includes a student space, where students volunteering for the Moderate Means Program, the Juvenile Records Sealing Project, and other Center programs may conduct phone interviews and do work. At the far end of the suite, the Center boasts a state-of-the-art conference room. The conference room has adjustable seating to accommodate conferences, meetings, presentations, and classes. With large windows overlooking the Spokane River and downtown, the Center conference room is a highly desirable space for meetings and events.



The Pursuit of Justice Annual Conference: Law, Leadership, and the Role of the Civil Rights Activist

September 28, 2018

The Center for Civil and Human Rights held its formal launch on September 28, 2018, when it hosted the all-day conference: “The Pursuit of Justice: Law, Leadership, and the Role of the Civil Rights Activist.” The conference brought together leading experts from around the country to discuss evolving approaches to civil and human rights. Approximately 200 people, consisting of lawyers, judges, activists, faculty, staff, and students, were in attendance.

The conference consisted of three panels and two keynote speeches. The morning panel, entitled “Confronting Bias in the Criminal Justice System,” featured panelists Jack Chin (UC Davis), Brooks Holland (Gonzaga), Alexis Karteron (Rutgers), and Nancy Leong (Denver). The panel discussed recent research identifying the prejudices and biases that are ingrained in the American mind and the ways in which the law can address the impact of these biases on the criminal justice system. The afternoon panel focused on “Interdisciplinary Avenues to Justice.” The panelists included Alexes Harris (UW-Sociology), Rachel Safran (UW-Medical), Tirien Steinbach (East Bay Law Community Center), and Jeffrey Omari (Gonzaga). The panel discussed new ways that the work of lawyers and legal scholars can be informed by the work of other fields. The final panel discussed “The Future of Social Justice Lawyering,” and included panelists Bob Chang (Seattle), Justin Hansford (Howard), Jacqueline McMurtrie (UW), and Dean Carla Pratt (Washburn). The panel discussed how lawyers’ role could or should change in the fight for civil rights and how best to advocate for the marginalized and underserved.

Justice Mary Yu of the Washington Supreme Court provided the lunchtime keynote. Yu is the first Asian, first Latina, and first LGBTQ justice on the Washington State Supreme Court. In her keynote, Yu focused on how injustice and inequality have been addressed (and sometimes ignored) by the Washington Supreme Court. “As lawyers,” she said to a room full of attendees, “each one of us bears personal responsibility for ensuring that



due process is actually afforded to all, and that our justice system operates without bias.” It is a simple proposition, she noted, but recognized that at times it “can be daunting and challenging.” After discussing a number of cases from the Washington Supreme Court, Yu concluded by urging students and lawyers to consider how cases before the court might be used to impact the greater good in a positive way. As she said, the justices are listening, and are hoping to do the same. A full transcript of Justice Yu’s keynote address is published in volume 54, issue 2 of the *Gonzaga Law Review* (2019).

To conclude the day’s events, the Center hosted a reception and dinner keynote address by Kenneth Mack, professor of law at Harvard Law School, titled “Civil Rights and State Violence: Past, Present, and Future?” Like the other conference luminaries, Mack is a professor and prolific, respected scholar whose 2012 book, *Representing the Race: The Creation of the Civil Rights Lawyer* (Harvard University Press), was a Washington Post Best Book of the Year, a National Book Festival Selection, was awarded honorable mention for the J. Willard Hurst Award by the Law and Society Association, and was a finalist for the Julia Ward Howe Book Award. Professor Mack’s keynote offered a provocative interpretation of several canonical civil rights cases as he encouraged tomorrow’s civil rights lawyers to think broadly of how to best serve marginalized and disadvantaged populations.

Inaugural Center for Civil and Human Rights Annual Lecture: Kimberlé Crenshaw, “On Intersectionality”

February 28, 2019

The Center for Civil and Human Rights welcomed famed legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw to the Hemmingson Center on February 28, 2019, where she gave the inaugural Center for Civil and Human Rights annual lecture. Crenshaw—who holds faculty positions at both UCLA and Columbia law schools—is a major scholar in race and the law, feminist legal theory, and critical race theory. She is best known for having coined the term and theorized the concept of intersectionality to describe instances where people experience simultaneous prejudices based on race, gender, and other identities.

Crenshaw’s lecture was open to the public and one of the largest attended this year, with over 700 tickets distributed to the Gonzaga community and its friends and partners at Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, Whitworth University, and the larger Spokane community. Crenshaw’s lecture came at a critical juncture in our discussions about diversity and inclusion, especially as our region confronts the challenges of an increasingly diverse population. Crenshaw’s lecture was co-sponsored by Gonzaga’s Center for Public Humanities, Gonzaga’s Unity Multicultural Education Center, and Gonzaga’s Chief Diversity Officer.



Jason A. Gillmer: On the urgency of intersectionality

Spokesman-Review
March 30, 2019
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The term “intersectionality” is not a word that most of us use in everyday conversations. But it is a concept that impacts many people in ways that, unfortunately, routinely escalates injustice and inequality in everyday lives. Intersectionality refers to the notion that a person’s identity is often shaped by multiple constructs – race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and so forth – yet rarely does life or the law account for the complexities of these overlapping experiences.

Last month, Gonzaga University welcomed famed legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw to give the law school’s inaugural Center for Civil and Human Rights annual lecture. Crenshaw, a professor of law at Columbia University and UCLA, is the leading authority on intersectionality, having coined the term roughly 30 years ago to describe the unique way African-American women experience the law. Black women, she argues, often experience intersecting patterns of racism and sexism in ways that cannot be wholly captured by looking at race and gender separately. Yet our legal regime, along with our antiracist and feminist discourse, seems incapable of recognizing how multiple forms of discrimination can combine to impact people, further marginalizing those already on the margins.

Crenshaw’s case in point: in 1976, Emma DeGraffenreid, a black woman, accused General Motors of employment discrimination. At the time, GM employed black men (along with white men) on the factory floor and white women as secretaries and administrative assistants. Black women, however, routinely were denied opportunities in both positions. When DeGraffenreid sued, she alleged that the discrimination was not about race or sex, but about race and sex. Unable to comprehend how the two separate identities could combine into one, the court dismissed her claim, leaving DeGraffenreid without a job and countless other black women without a voice.

Crenshaw further developed her theory in the shadow of the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill conflict, in 1991. As a member of Hill’s support team, Crenshaw witnessed how

SCHOLARLY EVENTS

white feminists rallied to Hill's defense when she alleged that Thomas sexually harassed her, seemingly unaware of – and hence unprepared to address – society's long-held views about the sexual myths of black women as overly lascivious and incapable of being raped. At the same time, Thomas' supporters, including many people fighting for racial justice, failed to take the claim against Thomas seriously, dismissing Hill's claim as the latest spin on the stereotype of the hypersexualized black male. The end result – a stoic Hill standing alone in front of a largely white male audience and an angry Thomas complaining of a “high tech lynching” – left us without any meaningful opportunity to engage in a nuanced discussion of sexual violence and its impact on women of color.

Crenshaw's theory of intersectionality has only grown in salience in the 30 years since she first gave it a name. People are coming to understand more and more that invisible intersections often compound bias and discrimination. Last week, in her discussion at Gonzaga, Crenshaw also made clear it is not just about black women. Sexual orientation, class, religion, immigration status, disability – in addition to race and gender – all shape individual experience. What is important, she has said, is that we use intersectionality theory to “see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects.” By shining a light onto these intersections, we can better address instances of injustice and inequality for traditionally marginalized and underrepresented people.

Crenshaw's lecture was a fitting start to the law school's Center for Civil and Human Rights annual speaker series. Her talk came at a time when Gonzaga University and the larger Spokane community are working toward creating a more diverse, inclusive and culturally competent environment. Overall, in the Spokane school district, students speak 56 different languages, 24 percent identify as children of color, and 57 percent qualify for federal free/reduced meals. At Gonzaga University, 27 percent identify as students of color, and at Eastern Washington University (the area's most diverse university), 32 percent of students identify as diverse. Unfortunately, our region has struggled with acceptance of people who reflect our nation's changing demographics. Crenshaw's presence on campus hopefully is a step in the right direction in raising awareness of the work to be done.



Speaker Series: John Kroger, “The Fourth Amendment in the Age of Trump”

April 25, 2019

The Center for Civil and Human Rights hosted Professor John R. Kroger in April 2019 as part of its annual speaker series. Professor Kroger is currently a visiting law professor at Harvard Law School and the former President of Reed College, where he served from 2012 to 2018. Prior to Reed, Professor Kroger was the Attorney General of Oregon from 2009 to 2012. He also was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in New York and a faculty member at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Professor Kroger's lecture was titled, “The Fourth Amendment in the Age of Trump.” In his lecture, Kroger detailed the current law governing our right to privacy under the 4th Amendment, noting its dual requirements of objective and subjective expectations of privacy. Professor Kroger explained that we cannot claim that our rights have been infringed unless society agrees we have a reasonable expectation of privacy and, as individuals, we also do not expect the information to be public. Yet, as Professor Kroger detailed, Americans, particularly the Millennials and Generation Z, are willingly giving away these hard-fought protections through our continuing and pervasive use of social media. Professor Kroger maintained that the law must change to keep up with technology, a position he developed further in an article that he is publishing in volume 55, issue 3 of the *Gonzaga Law Review* (2020).

“The Bill of Rights are guiding lights to how we live our lives and give us individual protection from the government,” Dean Jacob Rooksby said of Professor Kroger's visit. “It's important for students to learn if there's been a change in interpretation for one of those rights and what that means for civil rights.”

Third Annual Human Rights Symposium: Freedom of Expression as a Human Right

Florence, Italy
June 2-3, 2019

On June 2-3, 2019, Gonzaga University School of Law hosted its third annual human rights symposium in Florence, Italy. This year's theme was "Freedom of Expression as a Human Right," and it explored the history, values, tensions, and future of free expression. Held at Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Italia, the conference unpacked these questions across three panels and two keynote speeches.

The Center for Civil and Human Rights worked with the Director of Global Legal Education Brooks Holland to plan the conference, along with the Director of Gonzaga in Florence Jason Houston, Gonzaga University's Center for Global Engagement, and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Italia. As part of its role, the Center sponsored the first evening's keynote speaker, Dr. Teresa Sullivan, President *Emerita* of the University of Virginia. In 2010, Dr. Sullivan became the University of Virginia's eighth president and its first female president. During her eight-year tenure, Dr. Sullivan became known for her ability to encourage civil dialogue on difficult subjects, the very topic of this year's symposium. She established, as part of UVAs bicentennial, the President's Commission on Slavery and the University. She also provided courageous public leadership in the aftermath of the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville in 2017 that led to race-based violence and generated international attention. Her keynote address, titled "Academic Freedom," explored the tensions between supporting marginalized often unpopular groups and open and free dialogue in the academic setting.

The following day, leading experts helped sharpen the focus on how freedom of expression can best serve as a foundation for human rights around the world. The presenters included jurists, academics,



and other human rights experts from the United States, Italy, Spain, Croatia, South Africa, Australia, the Philippines, and Chile. They covered topics from religious and cultural expression, technology and democracy, and hate speech and harmful expression. The Honorable Raul Cano Pangalangan, Judge of the International Criminal Court, gave a lunchtime keynote on "Non-Traditional Demands on International Criminal Courts."

The conference concluded with a dinner at one of Florence's top restaurants, L'Ortone.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



Jurist-in-Residence: Justice John Charles Thomas, Virginia Supreme Court

March 18–22, 2019

This past spring, the Center for Civil and Human Rights welcomed the Honorable John Charles Thomas of the Virginia Supreme Court as its 2019 jurist-in-residence. Justice Thomas was the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court of Virginia, in 1983. After 7 years, Justice Thomas retired from the Supreme Court and he is now a senior partner at the Virginia firm of Hunton Andrews Kurth, where he focuses on appellate practice, general litigation, and alternative dispute resolution.

During his visit to Gonzaga, Justice Thomas taught a short course entitled, “Civil Rights Lawyering.” The course covered a range of topics important to students interested in becoming civil rights lawyers, including a discussion of the litigation strategies of Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP, race and the criminal justice system, the administration of justice, voting rights and gerrymandering, and diversity in legal education and the profession. Justice Thomas’ unique background growing up in segregated Virginia provided a first-hand perspective that his students found compelling. “Listening to his stories gave me not only a deeper understanding of law and history, but it touched me on a human level,” said Dlovan Schatlo, a rising 3L. “Leaving the class, I knew more than ever that I want to be a better lawyer and make a change for the greater good.” To add additional insight into particular subjects, several Gonzaga faculty members sat in on the classroom discussions,

including Professors Jason Gillmer, Brooks Holland Jeffrey Omari, Upendra Acharya, and Dean Jacob Rooksby.

As an accomplished judge, practitioner, and poet, Justice Thomas encouraged lively debate both in the classroom and outside of it. He delivered the William O. Douglas Lecture to a packed courtroom, provocatively questioning whether the Constitution, as written, is capable of answering today’s civil rights issues. He also met with undergraduate students considering careers in law in an event organized by law students and Gonzaga’s Unity Multicultural Educational Center. While at Gonzaga, Justice Thomas also met with members of the Spokane legal community, attending the Spokane County Bar Association’s Diversity Section meeting. He also met with students and faculty and delivered a lecture at Eastern Washington University.

“The Civil Rights Lawyering seminar provided a space for students to discuss systemic problems in U.S. law on a deeper level than doctrinal classes provide. Our class benefitted from frank discussions that furthered our understandings of civil and human rights in the context of U.S. history, modern politics, and our individual and shared experiences.” Madilyn Bates, 3L.



Civil Rights Moot Court Team Howard University

March 1-2, 2019

This past year, the Center for Civil and Human Rights established a Civil Rights Moot Court Team to compete in the William B. Bryant-Luke C. Moore Civil Rights Moot Court Competition. The Bryant-Moore Invitational is one of the premier civil rights competitions in the nation. Held every spring at Howard University in Washington D.C., law students from across the country convene to argue current civil rights topics affecting our nation.

Gonzaga University fielded two teams to participate in the competition, with three people on each team. One team consisted of third year students Destiny Soto, Marye Scott, and Daniel Hershkowitz. The other consisted of second year students Francis dela Cruz, Kimberly Holdman, and Devon Haugan. Natasha Hill, a civil litigator at the Law Offices of Natasha L. Hill, Esq. coached both teams and helped prepare them for the

competition. Hill was impressed by the dedication of the Gonzaga students, stating “Our teams put in dozens of hours preparing for oral argument. I was impressed by each student’s ability to incorporate feedback they received during practice rounds to improve and polish their arguments for competition. I was equally impressed with the discourse that took place during the semester regarding the 1st and 4th amendment rights at issue. Students openly discussed varying viewpoints, including the real life ramifications court’s rulings on such matters have in everyday society.”

The competition was held on March 1-2. A dozen or so schools participated in the competition, with some schools—including Gonzaga—fielding multiple teams. The questions involved free speech and 4th Amendment issues, arising out of a protest over excessive use of force by police against people of color. Both Gonzaga teams impressed the judges. “There was a sincere devotion to keeping the judges engaged throughout the mooting rounds,” said Hill. “Passion for the protestors and pragmatism for the state was displayed appropriately and several judges took note of this during judging. I look forward to what rights next year’s problem offers up.”

“Passion for the protestors and pragmatism for the state was displayed appropriately and several judges took note of this during judging. I look forward to what rights next year’s problem offers up.”

Francis dela Cruz participated as a 2L on last year’s team and will be coming back to head another team this year. Commenting on his experience, dela Cruz said “Being a part of the Civil Rights Moot Court Team was such a memorable experience. To see the Supreme Court building for the first time in the morning of the competition, and to later compete within the hallowed halls of Howard University are memories that I will always cherish. Despite the long hours of research, writing, and practice, one cannot help but feel inspired by the subject matter and the historical significance of its corresponding case law.”

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Citizenship Week

April 8-9, 2019

Naturalization for resident immigrants has taken on new meaning in this era of forced migration, walls, and deportations. Last April, the Center for Civil and Human Rights offered opportunities for students to learn more about what it takes to become a U.S. citizen, celebrate with new Americans as they take the oath of citizenship, and volunteer to counsel immigrants interested in exploring citizenship requirements.

The week began with a presentation by Professor Megan Ballard, an immigration law expert, who outlined what it takes to become a citizen. Participants tested their knowledge of U.S. government and history by taking part of the citizenship exam. Later that day, the Center conducted a training session for students interested in counseling immigrants interested in pursuing citizenship. The session prepared students to help prospective applicants understand the eligibility requirements for naturalizations, and also helped prepare them to volunteer with an immigrant Consultation Clinic, planned for the summer.

On April 9, the Center hosted the monthly Citizenship Oath Ceremony, conducted by the United States Citizen



and Immigration Service (USCIS), at the law school. Sixty persons from over 30 countries took the oath of citizenship, which was administered by Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington. “Attending the naturalization ceremony was a powerful experience,” said Hisrael Carranza, a rising 2L. “I could not help but be filled with joy as I watched people from all over the world take that crucial step. I am happy for them and their families who I am sure will also feel the positive impacts of what they did that day.” Following the ceremony, student volunteers were on hand to counsel immigrants on the eligibility requirements for naturalization.

MJC Student Liaisons: Real Talk

Spring 2019

In early 2019, law student liaisons from the Minority and Justice Commission (MJC) collaborated with the Unity Multicultural Education Center (UMEC) and the Center for Civil and Human Rights to bring



“Real Talk about Law School” to the Gonzaga University undergraduate campus. “Real Talk” was a series of evening forums and events on January 31, February 19, March 18, and April 25, which gave undergraduate students a glimpse of when to expect when applying to and attending law school, and life after law school.

The MJC student liaisons (Rina Bozeman, Francis dela Cruz, Sather Gowdy, and Briana Ortega) worked with UMEC’s Deb Ellis and the Center’s VAP Jeffrey Omari to develop a program for undergraduate students considering law school. Over the course of four events, undergraduate students heard from law students, attorneys, law professors, and special guest Justice John Charles Thomas, the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court of Virginia. MJC law student Francis dela Cruz stated that the “Real Talk” panels, and especially Justice Thomas’ event, were “enlightening experiences for undergraduate and law students alike.”

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Grants

Summer 2019

The recipients of the 2019 Center for Civil and Human Rights \$5000 summer grants are 2L Bailey Pahang and 3L Rebecca Smith. Both Pahang and Smith are Thomas More Scholars, and spent their summers advocating for marginalized communities and individuals.

Smith worked at the Housing Preservation Unit at Bay Area Legal Aid in Contra Costa County, California. During her internship, she advocated for clients facing evictions and homelessness by drafting fair housing complaints, writing motions, and assisting with reasonable accommodation requests. Upon reflecting on her experience, Smith states, “The cases I have worked on this summer have illuminated the importance of civil legal aid for poor and vulnerable communities, and the creative possibilities of using the law to correct injustices. I have also developed a staunch belief and interest in the need for collaboration between criminal justice work and civil legal aid.”

Pahang worked at the ACLU-WA in Seattle, Washington, where she worked in their Policy Advocacy Group. In this position, she advocated for marginalized communities through legislative efforts and community education. Pahang worked on a variety of projects, including addressing barriers for pregnant students in the public education system; educating the public on the new immigration law, Keep Washington Working Act; and drafting an amicus brief on a civil asset forfeiture case. When reflecting on drafting the amicus brief, Pahang said, “In a matter of days, I went



Rebecca Smith, 3L



Bailey Pahang, 2L (center)

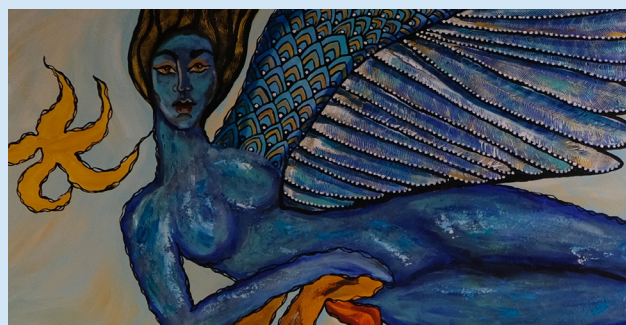
from having no clue what civil asset forfeiture even was to laying the groundwork for high impact litigation. I will never forget when my supervisor informed me that he decided to place my name on the brief after reading what I had written—to have someone I deeply respected have such a strong belief in me planted a seed that maybe I do have a place in this legal system after all. I will hold onto my summer at the ACLU-WA for the rest of my life and sincerely hope that I will find my way back there one day soon.”

Smith and Pahang were selected as recipients of the \$5000 summer grants from a competitive application process in Spring 2019. Recipients of the grant must be doing summer internships involving legal work important to the Center and its mission, and qualifying positions must be located at least 150 driving miles outside the Spokane area, and must be for at least 10 weeks or 350 hours.



1st Annual Center Art Competition

Spring 2019



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



This past year, the Center for Civil and Human Rights helped establish and fund a new Immigration Clinic at Gonzaga Law School. The new Immigration Clinic—which is set to open at the start of the 2019 fall semester—will provide immigration legal services for qualifying immigrants and refugees living in the Inland Northwest.

The Immigration Clinic is a community-based collaboration with Catholic Charities Eastern Washington. Catholic Charities is a faith-based organization serving the needs of the poor and vulnerable in Eastern Washington for over 100 years. Megan Case, a staff attorney at Catholic Charities, will run the Immigration Clinic at the law school. Case states, “Immigration is unfortunately one of the most contentious issues facing our society today. Gaining experience in this field of law will help prepare our students for career opportunities in law firms, non-profit legal organizations, government, and international organizations—both in immigration law and a wide variety of other legal arenas. The need for immigration attorneys is growing now more than ever as governmental policies continue to change and as foreign nationals continue to come to the United States for sanctuary, a better life, to reunite with family, or to pursue educational or business opportunities.”

The new Immigration Clinic is part of University Legal Services (ULA) at Gonzaga Law School, a non-profit law firm that provides legal advice, representation and counseling without charge to low-income community members. Students in the Immigration Clinic interview clients, gather evidence, conduct research, file applications, and participate in hearings—all under the supervision of Megan Case and the ULA staff. “I am very excited to be part of the new immigration clinic,” said rising 3L Alejandra Lopez. “I’ve always been very interested in immigration law so when I saw that the law school was starting the clinic I jumped at the opportunity. I’ve seen a tremendous need in the community, and I am very happy to be part of a program that will help those in need.”

The Immigration Clinic is an integral component of the Center for Civil and Human Rights. The Immigration Clinic will help sponsor community outreach programs, citizenship day clinics, panel discussions, keynote speakers, and conference participants. Importantly, participation in events focused on immigration and immigrant rights will involve the entire Gonzaga community, drawing on the expertise, enthusiasm, and interest of the undergraduate and graduate programs.

Local Spokane artist, Melissa Cole, was the winner of the 1st Annual Center for Civil and Human Rights Art Competition. Ms. Cole’s piece, “Pillars,” rose above the numerous entries received by the Center, to take the \$1000 prize and the opportunity to display the artist’s artwork near the Center on the 3rd floor of the Law School.

The Center created this competition to build a bridge between the Law School and the greater Spokane community, as well as to enrich the educational experiences of students. The competition asked local artists to envision a piece of art which would capture the social justice mission of the Center; serve as a positive symbol for the Law School and the community; enrich

the aesthetics of the Law School; and connect the community to the Center.

In May 2019, Ms. Cole created her piece, “Pillars,” as a 13’ x 8’ mural next to the Center. Over a week period, Ms. Cole used acrylic paint and mirrors to produce the striking mural which, Ms. Cole states, was inspired by the mission of the Center. She states that the lower figures represent the Center’s commitment to the three pillars of excellence: research, education and community engagement, and that by building upon this strong foundation, positive steps can be made toward achieving equal rights for all humans, represented by the upper figure.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Moderate Means Program

In 2019, the Center for Civil and Human Rights began overseeing the WSBA Moderate Means Program (MMP) at Gonzaga Law. The MMP is a state-funded program designed to fill a gap in legal services. It is for persons of moderate means, that is, those who have income levels that are too high to qualify for free legal services but who are unable to afford an attorney on their own. Maggie Schott supervises law students at Gonzaga as they conduct intakes and refer income-eligible clients to participating attorneys who have agreed to offer reduced-fee representation.

“As the supervising attorney for the Moderate Means Program,” Schott states, “I see the pride and satisfaction students feel when they put their law training into practice and use their skills to assist someone in crisis. Many law students are passionate about social justice; this passion translates into true action when students connect clients with attorneys who can assist them as they navigate the legal system.”

From the program’s start at Gonzaga through August 1, 2019, over two hundred Gonzaga Law student volunteers have handled over 9,700 requests for services from applicants around Washington state.

“As early as their second semester of law school, Gonzaga’s MMP students begin developing key lawyering skills in the areas of client interviewing, case assessment, issue spotting, and drafting case summaries. Our students receive real-world exposure to the legal issues facing middle-income clients, and provide meaningful access to justice in keeping with the mission and values of Gonzaga University.”

Laurie Powers, Assistant Dean of Professional Development. Powers began the MMP program at Gonzaga Law School in 2011.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Center Sponsorship of Social Justice Events and Programs

In an on-going effort to support social justice work and raise awareness of issues facing marginalized and underserved populations in the community, each year the Center for Civil and Human Rights provides financial support to a limited number of events and programs. This past year, the Center was a financial contributor to several events and programs, including the Forgotten Prison podcast, from KNKX Public Radio in Seattle; the Best of the Fest: Social Justice Film Festival at the Magic Lantern Theatre in Spokane; and the Holocaust Remembrance Art Competition at Gonzaga Law School.



Holocaust Remembrance Art Competition

April 2-15, 2019

The Center displayed art work from local middle and high school students at Gonzaga Law School as part of Holocaust Remembrance this past spring. The art competition is put on annually by Temple Beth Shalom, in partnership with Gonzaga's Institute for Hate Studies. This year's theme was "Speaking Up for the Other."

Best of the Fest: Social Justice Film Festival

March 1-3, 2019

The first-ever Best of the Fest: Social Justice Film Festival was held in Spokane at the Magic Lantern Theatre on March 1-3, 2019. Over the course of three days, community members were able to watch six films with a social justice theme. The Center was a named sponsor of the event, which, in addition to the showing of the films, included panel discussions involving Gonzaga faculty members Mary Pat Treuthart and Genevieve Mann.



Forgotten Prison Podcast

January 22 – February 26, 2019

The Forgotten Prison podcast is a six-part series focusing on stories from McNeil Island, a now-closed prison on the Olympic Peninsula. At the time of the last episode, the podcast had been downloaded approximately 240,000 times, providing significant visibility for the Center and its mission.

McNeil Island in South Puget Sound is the Alcatraz you've never heard of. The now-abandoned prison on McNeil operated for 136 years. Today, the island is home to the Special Commitment Center, which houses Washington state's "sexually violent predators." A collaboration between KNKX and the Washington State Historical Society, Forgotten Prison tells the stories of inmates, guards, and children who grew up on the island. The history of this forgotten place can tell us a lot about how and why we lock people up.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

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- Mary Pat Treuthart

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School of Law

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