

Center for  
**CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS**  
at Gonzaga Law

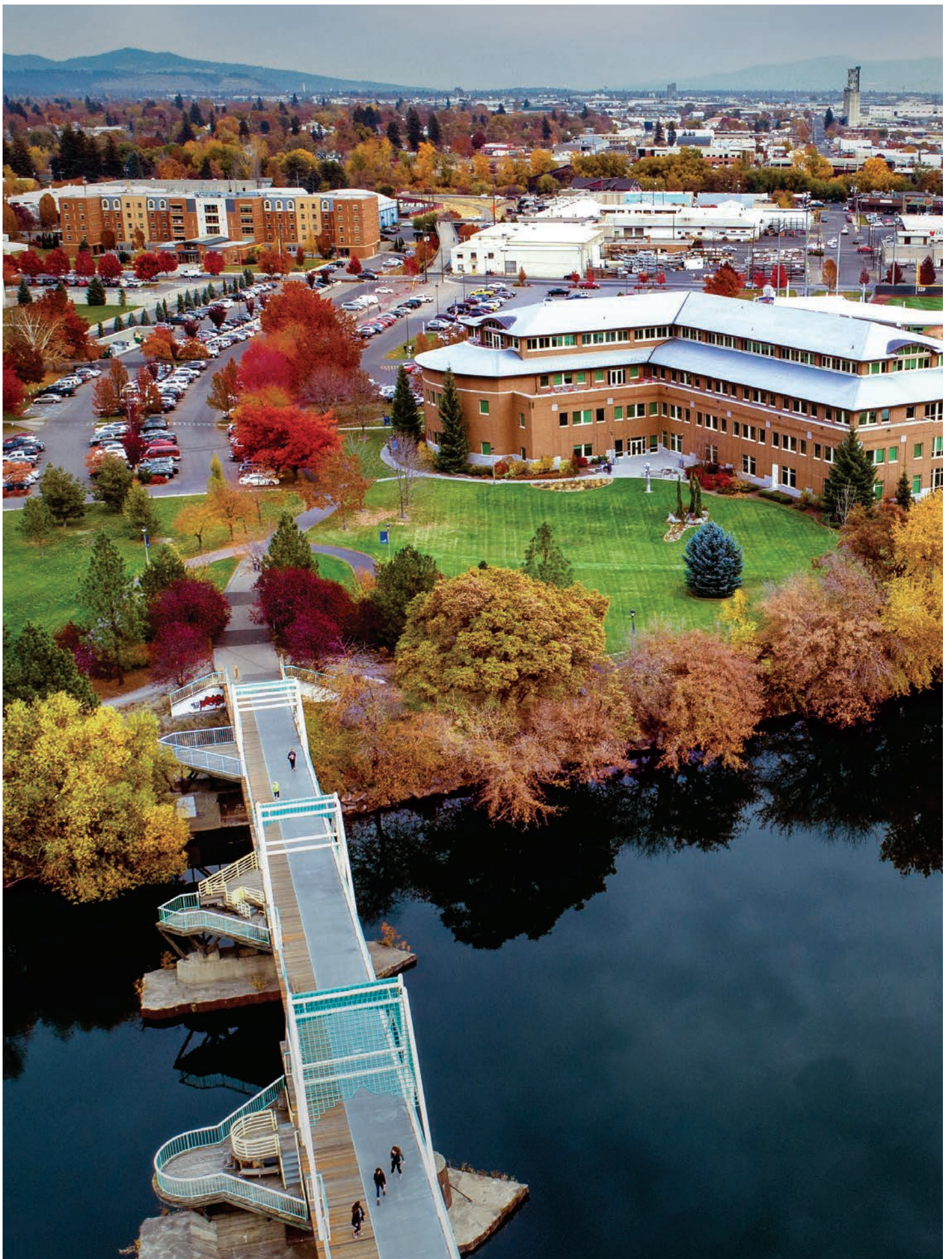


Annual Report 2019 - 2020

**GONZAGA**  
UNIVERSITY

| School of Law







# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR.....	4
YEAR IN REVIEW .....	5
FACULTY FEATURES.....	6
SCHOLARLY EVENTS.....	8-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Center for Civil and Human Rights Annual Lecture: Patrisse Cullors, Co-founder of Black Lives Matter“Behind the Hashtag”</li><li>• Supreme Court Year in Review CLE</li><li>• The Pursuit of Justice Annual Conference: “Music, Medicine, and Mascots: Furthering Social Justice in the Age of Intellectual Property”</li></ul>	
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.....	11-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thomas More Social Justice Scholars</li><li>• Certificate in Civil and Human Rights Recipients</li><li>• Addressing Bias &amp; Microaggression in the Practice of Law</li><li>• Coming to the Table: Free Speech in the Classroom</li><li>• Civil Rights Moot Court Team</li><li>• Social Justice Lunch Series</li><li>• Summer Grant Recipients</li></ul>	
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT .....	15-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name and Gender Change ID Clinic</li><li>• Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic</li><li>• Gonzaga Law in Action Nogales Trip</li><li>• Gonzaga Law in Action Seattle Trip</li><li>• Moderate Means Program</li><li>• Real Talk about Law School</li></ul>	
THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS .....	20

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year marks the third anniversary of the Center for Civil and Human Rights. Looking back, it is remarkable how far we have come in such a short period of time. From a single office, to a small suite on the third floor of the Law School, to our new, multi-office space on the second floor of the Clinic, we have experienced a tremendous amount of growth both in our programming and our personnel, as we continue to pursue our mission of creating 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. In this year's Annual Report, we are proud to showcase our accomplishments and activities over the 2019-2020 academic year.

The year began with our annual Pursuit of Justice conference. This year's theme was "Music, Medicine, and Mascots: Furthering Social Justice in the Age of Intellectual Property." Over the course of a full day, we saw faculty and other experts from around the country discussing the interconnectedness of IP law to social justice concerns. The panels focused on such topics as the impact of trademark law on expressive speech interests of individuals and marginalized groups, of patent law on the cost of prescription drugs, and of copyright norms and how they impact access to knowledge in our increasingly tech-heavy world.

A later highlight occurred in February, when we hosted Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of #BlackLivesMatter. At the time, we could not have predicted the racial unrest that would engulf the country following the murder of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer. But in many ways that made her presence here on campus even more powerful. She spoke to a capacity crowd about the importance of community organizing and on-the-ground activism, providing students and members of the public with the inspiration and the tools to stand against systemic racism and police brutality.

Over the summer, we also said good-bye to one member of the Center team and welcomed another. Jeffrey Omari, our inaugural Visiting Assistant Professor, successfully landed a tenure-track position at Northern Illinois University School of Law. While we are saddened to see him go, we are also incredibly excited to report that Danielle Wingfield-Smith, J.D., Ph.D., is joining us as our next VAP this fall.

As for our educational programming, we continue to be amazed at the number of students who carry their passion

for social justice into practice. This past year, we fielded two teams to participate in a national Civil Rights Moot Court competition, and we provided summer grants to four students working at unpaid internships in areas important to the Center. We also awarded our first cohort of graduating students a Certificate in Civil and Human Rights after they successfully completed the necessary course work, public service hours, and other requirements. Several students also participated in our Gonzaga Law in Action program, an alternative spring break designed to put students into the field. One group went to Seattle to work with attorneys from Columbia Legal Services on criminal justice matters; another went to Nogales, Mexico to help asylum seekers. Finally, we started a new Social Justice Lunch Series where students heard from practitioners and other experts about a current topic in civil and human rights.

In this past year, we also continued to expand our community outreach. The most notable addition is our new Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic. The first law clinic of its kind in Washington—and one of only a handful in the country—the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic supports those who are marginalized and underserved because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The Center also established a separate Name and Gender ID Clinic, designed specifically for members of our transgender and gender diverse population needing assistance with name and/or gender marker changes on identification documents. We also continued our role supporting the Moderate Means Program, among other efforts.

We recognize that we are releasing the Annual Report during very uncertain times. In addition to the mounting deaths and untold hardships stemming from COVID-19, we are in the midst of an epic struggle against a criminal justice system that is still unwilling to say that Black Lives Matter. We hope that you enjoy reading about the Center's work this past year; we also hope that we can work together to address systemic racism and institutional bias, and to make this world a better place.



Jason A. Gillmer

John J. Hemmingson Professor of Civil Liberties  
Director, Center for Civil and Human Rights

# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



38

GUEST  
SPEAKERS



1300+

Attendees for speaker series,  
conferences, and presentations



3000+

Volunteer pro bono hours  
provided by law students



Number of law  
student volunteers:

137

600+



Community Members Assisted



New collaborations  
with community partners

Center for  
**CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS**  
at Gonzaga Law

### **Danielle Wingfield-Smith, J.D., Ph.D.**

#### **Visiting Assistant Professor**

Danielle Wingfield-Smith is the Center's new Visiting Assistant Professor (VAP). The VAP position 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 Wingfield-Smith received her Bachelor of Arts from the College of William & Mary, her Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond School of Law, and her Ph.D. from the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia. Before joining Gonzaga Law, Professor Wingfield-Smith held an appointment at the University of Virginia as a postdoctoral research scholar. While there, she served as a research associate at both the Center for Race and Public Education in the South in the Curry School of Education and the Center for the Study of Race and Law in the UVA School of Law. Her primary areas of scholarship are legal history, race and the law, constitutional law, and education law and policy. Professor Wingfield-Smith's writing has appeared in the *Journal of African American History* and the *Harvard BlackLetter Law Journal*.

"I am excited about the opportunity to join the faculty, students, and staff at Gonzaga Law, with whom I share the same mission of putting passion into practice," Professor Wingfield-Smith said.

Professor Wingfield-Smith will be teaching Family Law in the fall and Constitutional Law I in the spring.





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

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2018-2020

The Gonzaga Law School community is wishing Professor Jeffrey Omari good luck and safe journeys as he begins a new position as a tenure-track faculty member at Northern Illinois University (NIU) College of Law. Professor Omari held the Center for Civil and Human Rights' inaugural Visiting Assistant Professor (VAP) position from 2018 to 2020.

During his two years at Gonzaga Law, Professor Omari—who holds both a J.D. from University of Illinois College of Law and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz—taught Constitutional law and Privacy Law, and pursued a research agenda centered around internet governance, entertainment law, and civil rights. Professor Omari also provided leadership and guidance to groups outside the classroom. He was part of the planning committee which brought nationally known speakers such as Kimberlé Crenshaw and Patrisse Cullors to Gonzaga, and he mentored Gonzaga law students on the Washington State Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission. Reflecting on his experience, Professor Omari said, “The students, faculty, staff, and even the broader GU campus at large have all been very welcoming and supportive. Although my time at Gonzaga has come to an end, the friends and colleagues that I’ve established in this community will last a lifetime.”

At NIU, Professor Omari will teach Constitutional Law, Privacy Law, Torts, and Business Associations.

*“Constitutional law and privacy law can be courses in which debate can often be the most heated. It takes a patient and collected mind to navigate teaching the black letter law in those areas while at the same time encouraging beneficial debate on some of our most fundamental principles. Professor Omari did with this both a calm temperament and sincere interest in the many positions of his students. His new students will be lucky to have him.”*

- Nichole Anderson, recipient of the Pro-Bono Distinction & Morey-Maurice Pro Bono Award for the Class of 2020



## SCHOLARLY EVENTS



### Center for Civil and Human Rights Annual Lecture:

Patrisse Cullors, Co-founder of Black Lives Matter “Behind the Hashtag”

February 20, 2020

The Center for Civil and Human Rights welcomed Patrisse Cullors to the Woldson Performing Arts Center on February 20, 2020. Cullors co-founded a global movement in 2013 with a viral twitter hashtag #BlackLivesMatter. She is the founder of Dignity and Power Now and a senior fellow at MomRising, dedicated to ending maternal mortality and morbidity.

In 2013, Cullors, along with her co-founders Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi, launched Black Lives Matter following the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the death of Trayvon Martin, a Black teenager. With inspiration drawn from the Civil Rights and Black Power movement as well as her own experiences in community organizing around state violence, Cullors, and her co-founders, built awareness and power through demonstrations, media appearances, and social media engagement.

“There was a culmination, I think, of not just me, but many folks in my generation who said we were tired of [seeing Black persons killed during law enforcement actions and through violent acts by private citizens],” she said. “We had seen this happen in our neighborhoods, in our communities, for too many years.”

In her talk, Cullors spoke to a capacity crowd of 700 people about growing up in poverty in Los Angeles, and about how her family’s experience with the criminal justice system led her to devote her life to community organizing and social activism. “The message that resonated the most, and which I think provides a path forward for me, is the idea that we cannot force people to change their minds and believe in our work,” said Dalia Trujillo, 2L. “What we can do, however, is organize and bring people together and advocate for the community we want to be a part of.”

Cullors delivered her lecture three months before a white police officer killed George Floyd in Minneapolis, sparking protests in cities across the United States and the rest of the world. George Floyd’s murder provided a sobering reminder of the importance of Cullors’s message and the courage of all of those who are working to dismantle the structural and institutional racism that imperils the lives and well-being of people of color.

Cullors’s lecture was co-sponsored by the Center for Public Humanities, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Unity Multicultural Education Center (UMEC).



## SCHOLARLY EVENTS



### Supportive Programming

The Center co-sponsored several events during the month of Cullors's visit to help further the conversation around Black Lives Matter:

**"Beyond the Hashtag: Bridging the Gap Between Community and Police"** (Feb. 12, 2020). This panel and small-group discussion brought together GU students, law enforcement, and the community to discuss and share perspectives on the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

**"True Justice: A Social Justice Film Festival Encore Showing"** (Feb. 18, 2020). This event screened True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality, a film examining the personal journey of Bryan Stevenson, a public defender in Alabama and director of the Equal Justice Initiative, who is working to bring justice to the incarcerated, wrongfully convicted, and disadvantaged.

**"20/20: Clear Vision on Mental Health Among African American Men"** (Feb. 24, 2020). This presentation and panel discussion promoted health based initiatives to cultivate a healthy dialogue with African-American Licensed Mental Health professionals.

**"A Conversation with Ricky Kidd"** (Feb. 24, 2020). This event featured Ricky Kidd who told his story about being wrongly imprisoned for 23 years and subsequently freed due to work by the Innocence Project.

### Supreme Court Year in Review CLE

October 11, 2019

The Center for Civil and Human Rights partnered with the Spokane County Bar Association to host a CLE on noteworthy cases heard in the previous term by the Supreme Court which impacted the civil and human rights of individuals in this country. The all-day event included panels on Indian Law, Immigration, Gerrymandering, Civil Rights, and Criminal Law.

The Immigration Law panel was led by Megan Case (staff attorney for the GU Law Immigration Clinic), Vanessa Mathisen (private practice), and Gloria Ochoa-Bruck (City of Spokane), and they discussed the impact of *Dep't of Commerce v. New York*; *Nielsen v. Preap*; and *Rehaif v. United States*.

The gerrymandering panel was comprised of Professors Jim Thatcher (UW) and Benjamin Cover (University of Idaho Law School), who helped shed light onto two key cases, *Rucho v. Common Cause* and *Virginia House of Delegates v. Bethune-Hill*, and their impact on the redistricting efforts of 2020. The Indian Law panel discussed *Washington State Dep't of Licensing v. Cougar Den, Inc.*, and *Herrera v. Wyoming*; Professor Monte Mills (Montana), Jaime "Junior" Cuevas (Stokes Lawrence) and Fronda Woods (former Senior Counsel for Washington AGO) led the discussion on these cases.

The Civil Rights panel consisted of Professor Jason Gillmer (Center Director at GU Law), Jamie Hawk (ACLU-Washington), and Chris Lynch (Lee & Hayes) and they focused on *Am. Legion v. Am. Humanist Ass'n*, *Nieves v. Bartlett*, and *Iancu v. Brunetti*, among others.

The last panel of the day focused on Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure decisions from the last term, including *Flowers v. Mississippi*, *Gamble v. United States*, and *Mitchell v. Wisconsin*. The Criminal Law panel was led by Professor Brooks Holland (GU Law), Michiko Fjeld (Spokane Public Defender's Office), and Justin Bingham (Spokane City Prosecutor's Office).

## SCHOLARLY EVENTS



### **The Pursuit of Justice Annual Conference:** *“Music, Medicine, and Mascots: Furthering Social Justice in the Age of Intellectual Property”* September 20, 2019

The Center for Civil and Human Rights held its third annual Pursuit of Justice Conference on September 20, 2019, entitled “Music, Medicine, and Mascots: Furthering Social Justice in the Age of Intellectual Property.” The conference put IP into conversation with social justice by asking how the areas of patent law, trademark law, and copyright law can better serve the public good in the modern world. Over 100 people, including lawyers, judges, activists, faculty, staff, and students, were in attendance.

The conference consisted of three panels and two keynote speeches. The morning panel, entitled “Trademarks, Expressive Speech, and Social Justice,” featured panelists Margaret Chon (Seattle University), J. Janewa Osei-Tutu (Florida International University), and Dustin Marlan, (University of Massachusetts School of Law). The panel discussed the ways in which trademark law has been used as a sword to stifle fair competition and chill the expressive speech interests of individuals and marginalized groups, and asked what can be done about it. The second panel focused on “Patents, Public Health, and Social Justice.” The panelists included Mason Marks (Gonzaga University), Sandra Park (ACLU), and Madhavi Sunder (Georgetown University). The panel discussed the role patent law, policy, and practice impedes social justice—by, for example, pricing patients out of accessing covered medicines, devices, and treatments, particularly in developing countries—and asked what solutions or strategies exist for better utilizing patents

or calibrating patent law to promote the public interest. The final panel was on “Copyright, Digital Technology, and Social Justice,” and included panelists Brian Frye (University of Kentucky), Lateef Mtima (Howard University), and Cathay Smith (University of Montana). The panel explored the extent to which traditional copyright norms advance or impede access to knowledge in our increasingly tech-heavy world. Both Lateef Mtima and Madhavi Sunder gave separate keynote speeches to begin the conference and over lunch.

“While individual scholars have been writing about the intersection of intellectual property and human rights through their own discrete projects, this conference was remarkable in that it brought these patent, trademark, and copyright experts together to share ideas and explore these topics across various disciplines,” said Professor Jessica Kiser, who helped organize the conference and served as a moderator. “Both the presenters and the attendees left excited about the possibility for innovation that supports both financial prosperity and human flourishing.”





## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Class of 2021



Macy Disney



Russell Lytle



Andy Newman



Bailey Pahang



Dalia Pedro  
Trujillo

### Class of 2022



Carly Roberts



David Salgado



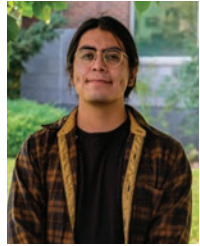
Emeline Smith



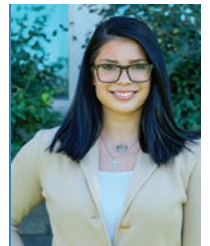
Jennifer Stuart



June Bordas



Alan Mendoza  
Ayala



Gaby Marquez

### Class of 2023

## Thomas More Social Justice Scholars

The Thomas More Social Justice (TMSJ) Scholarship Program is administered by the Center for Civil and Human Rights, and the program provides a unique opportunity for exceptional students to further their commitment to social justice and to become leaders in the profession. These scholars are awarded full tuition, regardless of financial need, to allow them to pursue careers in social justice and to serve the public good.

In October 2019, the 2L TMSJ cohort, **Macy Disney, Russell Lytle, Andy Newman, Bailey Pahang, and Dalia Pedro Trujillo**, hosted the yearly Social Justice Week at Gonzaga Law. This year's activities included a presentation on voting rights for incarcerated individuals by the ACLU, co-hosting the Social Justice Bluebook Relay, and a Social Justice Career Panel.

The 3L TMSJ cohort, **Mary Calderon, Jerusha Dressel, Josiah Lara, Rebecca Smith, and Jessica Trujillo**, completed their third year service project in early spring 2020. For their

project, the cohort created a Know Your Rights presentation for English as a Second Language (ESL) students and refugees in the Spokane community. This presentation provided the attendees with guidance on education, housing, domestic relations, and criminal justice issues. The presentation was simultaneously translated into various languages, and handouts were also translated into Arabic, French, Spanish, and Chinese. Congratulations to Mary, Jerusha, Josiah, Rebecca, and Jessica, as they move to the next stage of their careers!

The Center for Civil and Human Rights also welcomes the new cohort of TMSJ Scholars to Gonzaga Law School. This fall, three students (**June Bordas, Gaby Marquez, and Alan Mendoza Ayala**) will join the TMSJ program. The three new students bring wide-ranging experiences to Gonzaga Law School, including working with disabled students at a public school district, interning at the Spokane Prosecutor's Office, and spearheading the COVID-19 response at King County's 2-1-1 agency.



## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Certificate in Civil and Human Rights Recipients

The Center for Civil and Human Rights is proud to recognize four 2020 law graduates who received the Center's inaugural Civil and Human Rights Certificate: **Sara Duross, Alejandra Lopez, Rebecca Smith, and Jessica Trujillo**. The Certificate in Civil and Human Rights is a program that provides an opportunity for students to focus their legal education on the study and analysis of civil and human rights and the legal, theoretical, and policy perspectives associated with these rights. It also offers the opportunity for direct action in civil and human rights advocacy work, and development of professional experience in this field.



Rebecca Smith



Sara Duross



Jessica Trujillo



Alejandra Lopez

### Addressing Bias & Microaggression in the Practice of Law

January 23 – 24, 2020

At the beginning of the spring semester, the Center for Civil and Human Rights presented two workshops on Addressing Bias and Microaggressions in the Practice of Law. The workshops were led by KJ Williams, owner and founder of RISE with KJ (Radical, Insightful, Solutions to Create Equity). Ms. Williams previously worked for the Washington State Bar Association as the Diversity Program Manager.

These workshops introduced the concepts of implicit bias and microaggressions, and the strategies/techniques necessary to mitigate their impact in the legal profession and interpersonal relationships. These were interactive sessions meant to provide real time tactics for the development of anti-bias engagement in the practice of law and beyond.

### Coming to the Table:

### Free Speech in the Classroom

October 7, 2019

In fall 2019, the Center for Civil and Human Rights, Assistant Dean of Students Camesha Little, and interested law students created a lunchtime discussion on the 1st Amendment in the classroom. Professors Lynn Daggett and Joe Gardner and education law attorney Greg Stevens provided their insight and experiences in this area of the law.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



### Civil Rights Moot Court Team

For the second year in a row, the Center for Civil and Human Rights sent two teams to compete in a national civil rights moot court competition.

In 2019-20, the two teams participated in the 35th Annual National McGee Moot Court Competition held at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. The topic of the competition involved issues of privacy, search and seizure, compelled testimony, and a statute prohibiting race-based policing. The Gonzaga Law teams consisted of a 2L team (**Noelle Green, Russell Lytle, and Brielle Rumsey**) and a 3L team (**Nichole Anderson, Francis dela Cruz, and Jessica Trujillo**). Attorney Natasha L. Hill coached both teams, her second year in the role.

The 3L Team placed 4th overall out of 26 teams on their brief and made it to the top 4 to argue in the semi-final round at the oral competition. Nichole Anderson deserves a notable mention for her contributions, having received several perfect scores during the competition in rounds that were hard fought. Overall, both teams should be commended for the time and effort put in and the exemplary appellate advocacy skills exhibited in both their brief writing and oral presentations.

### Social Justice Lunch Series

The Center for Civil and Human Rights Social Justice Lunch Series began in September 2019 with a goal to bring notable speakers to Gonzaga Law School to speak about issues central to the mission of the Center: promoting access to justice, and helping individuals and communities that are marginalized, subordinated, discriminated against, targeted, or otherwise disadvantaged. Starting in April 2020, our Series moved to the Zoom format, which allowed our audience to expand beyond the law school, to include Gonzaga undergraduates, alumni, and community supporters of the Center.

**9/16/19:**

***Working with Transgender and Gender Diverse Clients***

Dusty LaMay, Lavender Rights Project

**11/11/19:**

***Human Rights and Global Businesses in Cambodia***

Piseth Duch, Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Fellow

**11/25/19:**

***Careers in Global Justice: From Guantanamo***

***Bay to Refugee Camps*** John Balouziyeh, Military Commissions at Guantánamo Bay, Michel Paradis, U.S. Dept of Defense, & Molly Kovite, American Red Cross

**1/27/20:**

***Discussion on Washington v. Arlene's Flowers with the AAG's office***

Hon. Rebecca Glasgow, WA State Court of Appeals, Div. II & Alan Copsy, WA State Attorney General's Office

**4/17/20:**

***Pandemic Privacy: A Conversation About Digital Surveillance***  
Prof. Mason Marks

**6/3/20:**

***Ramos v. Louisiana and the Civil Rights Implication of this Decision***

Prof. Brooks Holland

**6/23/20:**

***The Criminalization of Color: A Look to the Past to Understand Today***

Profs. Jason Gillmer and Brooks Holland

**6/29/20:**

***Countering White Nationalism & Paramilitary Groups in a Time of Protest***

Kate Bitz, Western States Center

**7/13/20:**

***Discussion of Black Lives Matter v. City of Seattle***

Joseph McMilian and David Perez, Perkins Coie, LLP

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Summer Grant Recipients

The Center for Civil and Human Rights, as part of its mission to address issues relating to civil and human rights through education, provides annual Summer Grants to law students pursuing unpaid summer internships in this area. This year, four students were selected to receive Summer Grants: **Kathryn Lucido** (2L), **Bailey Pahang** (2L), **Sarah Fortier** (1L), and **Sierra Paola** (1L). The four students each received \$3750 to support their unpaid summer internships.

Ms. Lucido worked with the San Francisco Public Defender's office where she handled cases in the juvenile felony unit and was part of the office's Racial Justice Committee. She states, "I was able to work on numerous cases in order to ensure that every juvenile who entered into the criminal justice system was guaranteed all of their constitutional rights. In a time of such uncertainty, these children desperately needed help to be released from custody or to work on their cases and I am thankful that the Center for Civil and Human Rights was able to afford me this opportunity."

Ms. Pahang interned with the Educational Opportunities Section of the U.S. Department of Justice in their Civil Rights Division in Washington D.C. While in the Section, she investigated school desegregation cases and school discipline practices, attended Congressional hearings on school re-openings during the pandemic, and examined the intersection of Title IX and IV for harassment cases



Bailey Pahang (2L)



Sierra Paola (1L)

in schools. Ms. Pahang states, "In the midst of two global pandemics—COVID-19 and anti-Blackness—engaging in educational equity work, with some of the fiercest leaders I have ever known, gave me purpose."

Ms. Fortier interned with JusticeMatters, Inc. in Durham, North Carolina, where she was placed in the immigration department and helped with their mission to combat human trafficking. During her internship, Ms. Fortier defended clients during their visa process, drafted appeal briefs, and prepared FOIA requests to government agencies. Reflecting upon her work, Ms. Fortier states, "This internship gave me the opportunity to seek justice for vulnerable clients in a new way, which confirmed my interest in public service."

Ms. Paola worked as a legal intern at Washington Civil & Disability Advocate in Seattle, WA, where she worked with individuals with disabilities who were facing discrimination at places of public accommodation, through government programs, in their housing, and at their places of employment. Ms. Paola states, "I was able to fully realize the extent to which individuals with disabilities in the US must self-advocate in order to be treated equally and to access all the same services and rights as other Americans. Disability rights have come a long way in the US over the past 50 years, but the fight must continue to ensure that all aspects of our society are built with people of all abilities in mind from the outset."



Kathryn Lucido (2L)



Sarah Fortier (1L)



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Name and Gender Change ID Clinic

In Fall 2019, the Center for Civil and Human Rights began a collaboration with Lavender Rights Project to create a Name and Gender Change ID Clinic at the Law School. This drop-in clinic offered help in navigating name and/or gender marker changes on identification documents such as State IDs, Social Security Cards, passports, and birth certificates. The clinic was held every third Wednesday at the law school, and is open to community members in Spokane and the surrounding areas.

Dusty LaMay, the Trans Advocacy in Rural Places Equal Justice Works fellow, was the supervising attorney for the

clinic in 2019-20, and under his guidance, volunteer law students provided direct assistance to clients who needed assistance with their identification. Said law student Christine Luckasen, "I love the ID clinic because it provides a safe space for the LGBTQ+ and transgender communities to have their basic legal needs addressed without fear of discrimination. Every individual I have worked with has been so friendly and grateful, and I wish we could host the clinic every single week because it is so fulfilling and I feel really lucky to have been able to be a small part of it."

### Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic

The Center for Civil and Human Rights is excited to announce the launch of the new Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic at Gonzaga Law School. The clinic—which will be part of the Center—aims to advance the equal rights and dignity of individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ through education, programming, advocacy, research, and legal representation. It was made possible by a significant donation from Joe Lincoln, an alumnus ('88; electrical engineering) and Regent of Gonzaga University.

"Gonzaga Law School is one of only a handful of institutions of higher education across the nation to launch this kind of initiative," said Jacob Rooksby, dean at Gonzaga's School of Law. "More notably, we are the first law school in Washington state, and in the Inland Northwest, to do so."

Gonzaga will join law schools at universities such as Harvard, Cornell, Emory, and UCLA in the development of an LGBTQ+ clinic, all of which are focused on outreach and promoting reforms that support those who are marginalized and underserved because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Professor Gail Hammer, who has operated several clinics at Gonzaga Law School, will direct the new Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic. Professor Hammer brings an unmatched passion for the position. She states, "The new clinic brings an exciting opportunity for students to put their passion into practice to advance civil and human rights for marginalized people, to help create a world that works for all."



The Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic will offer legal services to members of the public with the help of second- and third-year law students. Students will have the opportunity to handle all phases of representation, including interviewing and counseling clients, fact-finding, brief writing, and appearing in court hearings on behalf of clients.

Along with the Catholic Charities Immigration Clinic, the Lincoln LGBTQ+ Rights Clinic will be an integral component of the Center for Civil and Human Rights. The Center will assist with educational programming, panel discussions, keynote speakers, and community outreach. In addition, the Center will collaborate closely with Gonzaga University's Lincoln LGBTQ+ Resource Center, founded in 2004 with support from Mr. Lincoln. Participation in events focused on LGBTQ+ rights will involve the entire Gonzaga community, drawing on the expertise, enthusiasm, and interest of the undergraduate and graduate programs.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### Gonzaga Law in Action Nogales Trip March 9-13, 2020

During Spring Break 2020, five Gonzaga Law School students, three staff, and two alumni committed to spend their time assisting asylum seekers in Nogales, Mexico. The asylum seekers had recently entered the United States without visas, were detained for one to three days in Tucson, then were sent to Nogales, Mexico. The five Spanish-speaking students, **Amanda Breck** (2L), **Andy Havens** (1L), **Marthy Hernandez** (1L), **David Salgado** (1L), and **Anna Walls** (3L) provided legal advice to the asylum seekers under the guidance of Professor **Megan Ballard** and the Catholic Charities Immigration Clinic attorney **Megan Case**. Also participating in the trip were **Sarah Guzmán**, Director of Alumni Engagement & Strategic Initiatives Gonzaga Law alumni **Jessica Lewis** ('13) and **Emmanuel Elizondo Leon** ('16).



Changes in asylum law and policy are adversely affecting asylum seekers at the U.S. Mexico border. At the time of the trip, approximately 60,000 people fearful of persecution had been sent back to Mexico during the past year, where they must wait for their United States asylum court proceedings. Less than five percent of these asylum seekers are represented by a lawyer, significantly reducing their chances of success. Student David Salgado reflected upon his experience providing assistance during this trip: "We were perhaps the only people who were going to take the time and effort to prove to these asylum seekers that their lives and their stories matter. I will not soon forget the experiences that we were privileged enough to encounter ourselves."

The trip to Nogales was a collaboration between the Catholic Charities Immigration Clinic at Gonzaga School of Law, the Arizona-based Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, and the Kino Border Initiative, a Jesuit organization established in 2009 focused on humanitarian assistance, education, research, and advocacy.





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### Gonzaga Law in Action Seattle Trip

March 9-13, 2020

During Spring Break 2020, Gonzaga Law students put their legal talents towards advocating for one of the most marginalized populations in society: incarcerated individuals.

From March 9 to March 13, five law students participated in the Center for Civil and Human Rights' alternative spring break program, Gonzaga Law in Action (GLA). The students, **Shelbi Eller** (3L), **Hisrael Carranza** (2L), **Kathryn Lucido** (2L), **Bailey Pahang** (2L), and **Nick Cortes** (1L), worked with the advocacy agency, Columbia Legal Services (CLS), in their Seattle office. The students' spring break goal: support and assist CLS in their fight against mass incarceration.

During their week at CLS, the students worked on various projects, from researching the harm that communicable diseases may cause in jails, to researching prisons' compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act. They also received trainings in the areas of mass incarceration and immigration. One student, Kathryn Lucido (2L), said, "It was so wonderful to play a role, even a small one, in the

incredible work CLS does for those who are incarcerated. I'm very thankful for the opportunity to work with and learn from such an important advocacy group; and I am especially thankful that Gonzaga Law in Action opened the door for this incredible opportunity."

The Center for Civil and Human Rights created the GLA program to support law students who are dedicated to advocating for civil and human rights. Housing and travel expenses are provided to the students selected to participate in the program, and students may use their hours from GLA towards pro bono or public service hours.

This year's GLA took place during a particularly challenging time. At the beginning of March, the nation was just beginning to come to terms with the COVID-19 outbreak, and Seattle was the epicenter of the virus. Hisrael Carranza reflected on this experience: "Despite the craziness surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, I found the experience with Gonzaga Law in Action to be invaluable. Working closely with attorneys that are so passionate to alleviate the horrors of mass incarceration was a dream come true."



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### Moderate Means Program

The Center for Civil and Human Rights continues to oversee the WSBA Moderate Means Program (MMP) at Gonzaga Law. MMP is a state-funded program designed to fill a gap in legal services. It is for persons of moderate means, 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. Staff attorney 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. Data analyst, Anna Creed, also provides support for the statewide MMP, which includes programs at the Seattle University Law School and University of Washington School of Law.

The MMP continues to thrive as an opportunity for Gonzaga law students to connect with clients and to help them find attorney referrals. Since its inception, 291 Gonzaga Law students have volunteered to reach out to applicants, to hear their stories, and to help them find legal representation at reduced rates.

During 2019-20, Gonzaga Law students have logged 2,415.2 hours of volunteer time with the MMP and have handled

892 requests from people who cannot afford an attorney but make too much money to qualify for Legal Aid, conducted 605 client intakes, and made 261 attorney and LLLT referrals.

As part of their MMP training at Gonzaga, law students also receive training in trauma-informed advocacy, housing law, family law, and client-interviewing skills. Gonzaga law students also developed training videos to assist their future MMP colleagues and translated the program's materials into Spanish and Arabic.

Since much of the work done by the MMP is over the telephone and online, the program weathered the upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic with little disruption to service. In response to the pandemic and the need for help with unemployment benefits denials, the program has expanded its areas of practice to include unemployment benefit appeals along with the practice areas of housing, consumer, and family law it has always covered.

Students involved in MMP consistently report positive experiences. One student says, "MMP is such a unique legal service that does such amazing work. There are

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### **Moderate Means Program** *continued*

so many people who need help and would have been unable to receive it without MMP. Being able to watch as so many volunteers and attorneys come together to provide aid to those who are struggling has given me so much hope. I started with MMP my first year of law school and I stayed all three years because I love the work that I do and I believe that it is so important. It has been such a rewarding experience for me, and I have loved being a part of this program. I honestly think that this is an experience every law student should have.”

Another student says, “MMP was a truly transformative process and I learned so much, even with everything being over the phone and computer. Mainly I learned that a lot of our clients have been holding their burden, legal issue, alone and finally are allowed to share and shed that burden when we speak to them. I could go on, but my most important take away is that this program opened my eyes to the great legal need in my community, and I am thankful to this program for allowing me to assist with that need.”

For many students, participating in MMP reminds them why they came to law school in the first place:

“The Moderate Means Program has shed light on the humanitarian aspect of law during my journey as a law student. It has fostered my learning through mentorship and advocacy, and has validated my chosen career path.”

### **Real Talk about Law School**

October 8, 2019 (Gonzaga)  
and January 29, 2020 (EWU)

In 2018-19, the Center for Civil and Human Rights collaborated with Minority and Justice Commission students and Unity Multicultural Education Center (UMEC) to create the Real Talk about Law School presentation. This presentation was designed to give under-represented undergraduate students a glimpse of what to expect when applying to and attending law school, and life after law school.

In 2019-20, the Center worked with Thomas More Social Justice Scholar, Dalia Pedro Trujillo, and the Law School Admissions department to continue and expand this program. The Center also received a grant from the Law School Admissions Council's Diversity Matters program to support these presentations, which now included a full panel of diverse and under-represented law students. In October 2019, the Real Talk presentation took place at UMEC for GU undergraduates, and in January 2020, the presentation was given at Eastern Washington University (EWU). At EWU, at least 50 students crowded together to listen to Director of Admissions Susan Lee and the law student panel talk about the pathways to law school.

### **Youth Southeast Leaders Initiative**

October 28 – November 15, 2019

From October 28 to November 15, the Center for Civil and Human Rights collaborated with GU's Center for Global Engagement and University of Montana to host Piseth Duch, a Cambodian human rights attorney. Piseth visited Spokane under the Youth Southeast Leaders Initiative and during his stay, he observed state and tribal courts, attended GU Law classes, and presented in the Center's Social Justice Lunch Series on the topic of global businesses and human rights in Cambodia.

## THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

### **Board of Advisors (2018-2020)**

- Upendra Acharya, Professor of Law
- Catherine Clark, '91
- Colleen Durkin, '12
- Jeff Geldien, University Advancement
- James Headley, EWU
- Brooks Holland, Professor of Law
- Alejandra Lopez, Student Representative
- Genevieve Mann, Professor of Law
- Gloria Ochoa-Bruck, Community Member
- Jeffrey Omari, Assistant Professor
- Sandy Williams, Community Member

### **Affiliated Law Faculty & Staff**

- Upendra Acharya
- Megan Ballard
- Megan Case
- Anna Creed
- Michele Fukawa
- Jason Gillmer
- Gail Hammer
- Brooks Holland
- Inga Laurent
- Genevieve Mann
- Jeffrey Omari
- Kim Pearson
- Laurie Powers
- Maggie Schott
- Mary Pat Treuthart

***A special thank you to John Hemmingson  
for his generous support of the Center for Civil and Human Rights***



School of Law

**[gonzaga.edu/law/cchr](https://gonzaga.edu/law/cchr)**

**721 N. Cincinnati Street, Spokane, WA 99220-3528**

