

Public Service Project Bulletin

a division of Washington University School of Law



THE PUBLIC SERVICE
PROJECT WAS ESTABLISHED
TO:

Provide desperately needed
services to the St. Louis
community;

Prepare students to be
competent, ethical lawyers
working toward a more just
society by instilling in them
a sense of professional
responsibility that includes
a commitment to public
service;

Help students learn about
representing the under-
served and to inquire into
the effectiveness of the law
and legal institutions;

Provide students with valu-
able practical experience
and the opportunity to
interact with members of
the St. Louis community.

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Making a Difference with the Mel Brown Family LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Currently 25 graduates participate in the Washington University School of Law Mel Brown Family Loan Repayment Assistance Program. The Public Service Project Bulletin will spotlight a participant in each issue.

Michael Hely and Micah Rose share several things in common. Both are members of the Washington University School of Law Class of 2003, are attorneys at the Senior Citizens' Law Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico, share a commitment to public service, and benefit from the Mel Brown Family Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP). The Senior Citizen's Law Office (SCLO) provides quality civil legal services to Albuquerque residents, ages 60 and older, in order to uphold their rights, maximize their autonomy, and ensure that they receive the benefits to which they are entitled.

Rose is strictly a consumer attorney, providing legal services to Seniors who have been taken advantage of financially or deprived of their rights as a consumer. "I truly love my work and the ability to swing the mighty hand of justice down upon businesses and hold them accountable for their greed," comments Rose. Rose always knew that he wanted to do public service. After graduating from Washington University in 1996, he spent four years counseling adults with major mental disorders, at-risk youth, and victims of abuse. Rose made the decision to come to law school after he became frustrated with counseling modules. While at Washington University School of Law, he spent a summer in Nepal helping to write legislation to impede the sex trade epidemic, worked under the tutelage of Dan Glazier at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, and worked at the ACLU to help combat the USA PATRIOT Act.

Hely's practice is divided between health care advocacy, consumer advocacy, and a small amount of protective services. As a health care advocate, he advises on health insurance and benefit matters and handles Medicare and Social Security benefit appeals as well as appealing coverage denials by other health care entities. In his consumer work, his practice involves seniors who have been victims of predatory sales, credit and collection practices including landlord-tenant matters. Hely remarks, "The best part of my job is getting to help people out of messes that appeared insurmountable to them when they walked in the door. It was exciting recently to win two cases for one client who had been double-crossed by two different agencies while caring for his severely ill spouse." He adds, "[Unfortunately], I am getting sadly used to seeing cases where children and grandchildren have swindled their parents and grandparents out of their own homes and/or life savings. It is hard to realize that, even with a favorable judgment, you may not be able to collect what was stolen - including the broken family relationships."

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Student Organization Spotlight

JUST DEMOCRACY

Contributions by Katharine Fullenkamp, JD '05

In 2000, Katharine Fullenkamp watched all the problems with the electoral process and felt that that the country could do better. She was especially upset by the stories that came out of St. Louis: thousands of voters turned away because they'd been placed on an "inactive" list, lines that were hours long, polls closing early, and contentious court battles. Therefore, when she heard about Just Democracy, the nonpartisan group started out of Harvard Law School that was using law students to protect voters' rights, she decided to found a chapter at Washington University. "I knew I wanted to do something this election, but was turned off by all the partisan fighting. Many people believe voting was just a problem in Florida, but St. Louis had a lot of problems too. I jumped at the chance to really help voters," remarked Fullenkamp.

The response from the students was tremendous. Right away several third year law students committed to help form an executive board -- Tom Hayde, Mark Spykerman, Aravind Muthukrishnan, Megan Largent, and Dan Riordan. After the first meeting, several first year law students joined the board: Becca Schendel, Josh Glickmann, Derek Teslik, and Sana Abdullah. Fullenkamp was named president. She also became regional coordinator for all chapters

in the northern Midwest. After a voter registration drive, which registered almost 100 law students, and additional recruiting pushes, JD grew to be one of the largest groups at the Washington University School of Law. "We are a nonpartisan group whose goal is ensuring fairness in the upcoming election. We are not advocating one position. Rather, we are advocating fairness in the voting booth on Election Day," explained Fullenkamp.

The response from the community was also welcoming. Just Democracy was invited to join a coalition of voters' rights groups and started working with Marie Kenyon, the incoming president of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL). With Marie's help, the group was able to connect with members of the Board of Elections (BOE). As a result, the BOE held special trainings for Just Democracy members, one at BAMSL headquarters and one at Washington University. The BOE also allowed Just Democracy members to work partial day shifts, allowing more busy students to volunteer. Through Just Democracy, over 60 students volunteered on Election Day, thanks in part to several professors who excused absences from class. "The goal was to get more qualified, knowledgeable and well-trained election workers inside the polls to prevent a repeat of the

problems that occurred in 2000," said Fullenkamp.

On Election Day, the majority of the JD volunteers worked as election specialists in precincts in the city. This position was new to the 2004 election. As specialists, the JD volunteers worked to solve any problems that arose. They handled voters placed on the inactive list, provisional balloting, and many other questions of election law. Response from voters, the BOE, and fellow poll workers was overwhelmingly positive. According to records kept during the day, hundreds of votes were probably saved as a result of Just Democracy's actions.

Washington University Just Democracy continues to be a force in protecting and educating voters. Currently the group is working on staffing polling places in the local elections this spring, going into local high schools to educate students about voting and voting rights, working with the BOE to revise their training procedures, continuing their student voter registration efforts, and compiling a nonpartisan voters' guide. Their continued efforts should help ensure that elections in St. Louis are more fair and just, with every lawful vote counting.



Members of Just Democracy worked with members of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis:

Back Row (Left to Right): William Bay, Aravind Muthukrishnan, Rochelle Skolnick, Thomas Hayde, Marie Kenyon: President-Elect of BAMSL;

Front Row: Meghan Largent, Katharine Fullenkamp, Denise Lieberman: Legal Director, ACLU of Eastern Missouri, Lynn Whaley Vogel, Vice-President of BAMSL.

OF NOTE

By Meredith Schnug, JD '06

LAST FALL...

Equal Justice Works hosted its first Faculty-Student Public Interest Reception. In addition to Equal Justice Works' public service activities and informational programming, the student organization wants to foster interaction between students and faculty who share a common commitment to public service. The event gave students an opportunity to meet and talk with professors about their experiences in public interest law and public service. Over 20 faculty members were present. They shared stories and advice about public interest involvement in a variety of areas, including legal aid, civil rights, environmental law, and civil liberties. Debra Jacob, President of Equal Justice Works and JD '06, stated: "The event was really successful. I think both the professors and the students were excited to be a part of it. Hopefully, this reception will become an annual event at Wash U."

THIS SPRING...

The Public Service Advisory Board is launching a new program with the same goal of strengthening faculty-student

connections on public interest issues. The Faculty-Student Public Service Roundtable series will feature some of the law school's most distinguished faculty. Small groups of students will have the opportunity to converse with the professors and learn more about their nationally recognized work. The first Faculty Roundtable features Professor Peter Joy. Professor Joy was awarded the prestigious Association of American Law Schools Pincus Award for his outstanding contribution to clinical legal education. In addition to his role as Director of the Criminal Justice Clinic, Professor Joy has been an active public interest lawyer. Most recently, serving on the Legal Committee for the ACLU of Eastern Missouri, Professor Joy filed an amicus brief in the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Sell v. United States*, dealing with the forced medication of persons charged with non-violent offenses.

The Public Service Advisory Board and Equal Justice Works have brought several St. Louis attorneys to the law school as part of the ongoing Brown Bag series. The Education Law Brown Bag featured Jacqueline Kutnik-Bauder, JD/MSW '97, from Legal Services of Eastern

Missouri, Ken Chackes from Chackes, Carlson & Spritzer, LLP, and Phyleccia Reed, JD '99, from Tueth, Keeney, Cooper, Mohan & Jackstadt, P.C.. The panel discussed education law from a variety of perspectives and offered insight on the opportunities available within the field. The next Brown Bag will address the topic of fellowships, including the benefits of being a fellow and how students can apply.

The Public Service Project and St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers & Accountants for the Arts (VLAA) coordinated a training for students, attorneys, and accountants titled, "How to Form a Nonprofit, Tax-Exempt Organization." Over 70 people participated. After the training students will be paired with supervising attorney's to work with the clients of VLAA who would like to form a nonprofit arts organization. The program also counted toward the continuing education requirements for the attorneys and accountants

Members of the School of Law Class of 2003 and staff attorneys at the Senior Citizens' Law Office in Albuquerque, NM, Micah Rose (left) and Michael Hely (right) receive forgivable loans through the Mel Brown Family Loan Repayment Assistance Program.



(continued from front cover)

Both Hely and Rose thoroughly enjoy their work. Hely started law school at the age of 33 to gain a more powerful tool with which to advocate on matters important to him. "My drive to do the work is entirely selfish – I cannot do work that does not interest me or which I do not see as having intrinsic value," he explains. "Making money for money's sake, or propping up corporate raiders has no purchase on my imagination." Rose adds, "As 50 percent of my waking life is to be spent at my place of work, I decided to make it enjoyable."

While Rose has no concrete plans for the future, Hely envisions himself running his own nonprofit law or plaintiff's law firm focusing on probate, plaintiff's consumer law, and health-care advocacy. For now, both are grateful for LRAP. "LRAP has made it possible to pursue public interest work despite the fact that my student loan payments equal a large chunk of salary," says Hely. Rose jokes, "[Because of LRAP] I am able to pay off my ski chalet in Switzerland earlier than my financial advisor has projected, and oh yeah, I am also able to eat every day."

Hely and Rose offer similar advice for law student wishing to pursue public service careers. "The academic and professional legal community has a nasty habit of trying to make individuals who pursue a public service career feel as though they are inferior. Ignore that," advises Rose. Hely adds, "I think you really have to focus on what is important to you and not compare your life with those who are chasing the corporate carrot. People who choose public interest work are generally people with their heart in the right place so they are kind and generous with their knowledge and time, open and accepting, and considerate of others."

For more information about LRAP, contact Elizabeth Patton, Asst. Director or Student

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During the Fall 2004 semester, members of the law school community contributed over 2000 volunteer hours to numerous organizations including:

American Red Cross
Beyond Housing
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri
Boy Scouts of America
Cambios
Clayton School District
Commission on Presidential Debates
Epworth Children & Family Services
Forest ReLeaf
Fox Theatre
Gateway Greening
Gateway Legal Services
Hispanic/Latino Community Social Action
Interfaith Legal Services for Immigrants
International Institute
Just Democracy
Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
Lydia's House
Mathews-Dickey Boys' & Girls' Club
Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel
Our Little Haven
Ready Readers
Ronald McDonald House
School District of University City
Shriner's Hospital for Children
St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center
St. Louis Effort for AIDS
St. Patrick Center
St. Louis Public Schools
St. Louis Volunteer Lawyers & Accountants for the Arts
Sunshine Ministries
Veteran's Administration Medical Center
Voices for Children
Wellston School District

SPRING 2005 CALENDAR

JANUARY

Saturday 15

School-Wide Volunteer Activity with the St. Louis Area Food Bank
9 am - 12 pm

Wednesday 19

Public Interest Law Speakers Series & Black Law Students Association
Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Speaker: "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Legacy: An Economic Justice Imperative" by Susan R. Jones, Professor of Clinical Law & Supervising Attorney, Small Business Clinic, The George Washington University
11 am, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

Saturday 22

"How to Form a Nonprofit Tax-Exempt Organization" Volunteer Training
10 am - 12 pm, Room 401

Wednesday 26

Public Interest Law Speakers Series: "Marriage or Multiple Options? The Changing Law of Personal Relationships" by Nan D. Hunter, Professor of Law & Co-director, Center for Health Law & Policy, Brooklyn Law School; Founder, American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian & Gay Rights and AIDS Projects
11 am, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 2

Public Service Brown Bag Discussion: Education Law
11 am, Room 404

Tuesday 8

Public Interest Law Speaker Series & Tyrell Williams Lecture: "A Conversation with Former Solicitor General Theodore B. Olson" by Theodore B. Olson, Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP
4 pm, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

Saturday 12

School-Wide Volunteer Activity with Special Olympics
12 - 2 pm; Washington University Athletic Complex

Wednesday 16

Public Interest Law Speaker Series: "Law, Politics, & Social Justice: Breast Cancer Advocacy & Public Policy" by Frances M. Vicso, President & Member, Board of Directors & Executive Committee, The National Breast Cancer Coalition
3 pm, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

Tuesday 22

Faculty-Student Public Service Roundtable featuring Professor Peter Joy
12-1 pm, Room 203

Friday 25

Government & Public Interest Job Fair
12-3 pm, Janite Lee Reading Room

MARCH

Tuesday 1

Student Bar Association Blood Drive
9 am - 3 pm, Room 404

Saturday 5

School-Wide Volunteer Activity with the International Institute
9:30 am - 1:30 pm; International Institute St. Louis

Wednesday 16

Public Interest Law Speaker Series: "New Wine & Old Wineskins; The Continuing Challenges Posed by Reproductive Technology" by Marjorie M. Schultz, Professor of Law, University of California-Berkeley
11 am, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

Wednesday 23

Public Interest Law Speaker Series: "African Americans and the Problem of Patriotism" by Randall L. Kennedy, Professor of Law, Harvard University
11 am, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

APRIL

Date & Time TBA

School-Wide Volunteer Activity

Friday 1

24th Annual Women's Law Caucus Auction
5 pm, W.L. Hadley Student Commons

Friday 1

Public Interest Law Speaker Series & Keynote Speaker, Poverty, Wealth, and the Working Poor: Interdisciplinary & Clinical Perspectives: "Ending Poverty as We Know It: Guaranteeing a Right to a Job at Living Wage" by William P. Quigley, Janet Mary Riley Distinguished Professor of Law & Director, Loyola Law Clinic and Gillis Long Poverty Law Center, Loyola University, New Orleans
9 am, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

Wednesday 13

Public Service Brown Bag Discussion: Community Development
11 am - 12 pm, Room 404