Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse Launched

BY CYNTHIA GEORGES

THE SCHOOL OF LAW has launched a new Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse, http://clearinghouse.wustl.edu. Margo Schlanger, professor of law, teamed up with colleagues and students from across the University to create this innovative Web-based repository of documents related to important civil rights litigation.

Over the past 50-plus years, civil rights litigation has greatly affected Americans’ lives. It has secured our constitutional rights. And it has dramatically improved many of our public and private institutions, among them government organizations, schools, prisons, mental health facilities, police departments, child welfare agencies, and large and small employers, Schlanger notes.

Consider the landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education, which outlawed racial segregation of public education, transforming American schooling, politics, and life.

“Brown is unique,” explains Schlanger, “but cases that followed on its heels similarly closed some institutions and opened others, dominated local and state budgets on occasion, and set regulations that have affected many millions of people.”

Nonetheless, Schlanger says, information about these cases has been exceedingly difficult to locate. Until now.

To begin to remedy this problem, Schlanger created an electronic library that makes available to the public for the first time, free of charge, a large body of civil rights cases and the settlements, court orders, opinions, case study research, key filings, and other documents. The repository already houses thousands of documents related to more than 1,000 civil rights injunctive cases—those seeking policy or operational change (as opposed to monetary awards). It is the first major project sponsored by the School of

(continued on page 6)
Leila Nadya Sadat, the Henry H. Oberschelp Professor of Law, received the 2006 Article of the Year Award from the International Association of Penal Law (American Branch) for her piece, “Exile, Amnesty and International Law.” The association’s annual award recognizes the “best scholarly contribution to the field.”

Sadat’s article considers state and international practices regarding amnesties for “jus cogens” crimes, including genocide and crimes against humanity. In her examination of cases both from Latin America and from international courts and tribunals, she stresses that amnesty for “jus cogens” crimes “can foster a culture of impunity in which violence becomes the norm, rather than the exception.”

Sadat also considers what judicial, legislative, and international treaty constraints currently exist in amnesty cases.

The new facility will create increased opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations among our faculty and students and their colleagues in the social sciences.”

Patricia Rolfe

Social Sciences & Law Facility Taking Shape

By Ann Nicholson

Construction is under way for the new Social Sciences & Law Building, which is being erected on a site west of Olympian Way, just southwest of Anheuser-Busch Hall. Ground was broken for the four-story, Collegiate Gothic building on September 5, 2006; the targeted date for completion is June 30, 2008.

“The construction project is on schedule,” notes Patricia Rolfe, facilities manager at the law school. “We look forward to 2008, when the new facility not only will provide us with much-needed space, but also will create increased opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations among our faculty and students and their colleagues in the social sciences.”

At the same time, the fundraising effort, led by National Council members Thomas R. Green, JD ’58, and Steven N. Rappaport, JD ’74, is going well, notes Gina Sholtis, director of development:

“Tom and Steve have been instrumental in helping us raise, to date, $1.43 million in gifts and pledges toward our $4 million goal. We are grateful for their leadership.”

About 15,000 square feet of the new building’s 83,000 net square feet have been earmarked for the law school. The new space will be used for two 45-person classrooms and two seminar rooms; an office suite for student organizations and space for law reviews; and a suite for the School’s Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies, Center for Research on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Center for Empirical Research in the Law.

The Arts & Sciences portion of the new building will include classrooms, a lecture hall, offices, and suites for academic centers. The Departments of Political Science, Economics, and Education, and various centers—including the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy; the Center in Political Economy; and the Center for New Institutional Social Sciences—have offices or other spaces planned in the new building.

This architectural rendering depicts Boston architect Rayford Law’s concept for the new Social Sciences & Law Building.
Trial Team Takes Second in Nationals

THE SCHOOL OF LAW’S TRIAL TEAM finished second in the Tournament of Champions Competition held at Stetson University, October 26–28, 2006. The tournament is an invitation-only competition, limited to schools with the most successful records in the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) Student Advocacy Competition and in the National Trial Competition.

“Trial competitions, like the Tournament of Champions, are so valuable to our students because they provide first-rate training in trial advocacy—training that will serve them well in practice,” says Michael Koby, Trial & Advocacy Program director.

Washington University students have been national champions in the National Trial Competition twice and national finalists, semifinalists, or quarterfinalists 12 times. Since 2000 the Trial Team has placed second in the NITA Tournament of Champions, been a regional winner and national quarterfinalist in the ATLA Competition, and placed second in the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Competition.

Current Trial Team members are Bridget Barbera, Ethan Corson, Adeyinka Faleti, and Marisa Maclennan. Judge David C. Mason is the head coach, and Emily Hughes, David Fahrenkamp, Mark Dupont, Rachel Fuchs, Jennifer Lorentz, Paula Luepke, Mark Rudder, and Lyn Ruess are assistant coaches.

First-Year Law Students Learn Tips for Business Etiquette

BY JANET EDWARDS

Etiquette quiz: During a business dinner, your client asks for the basket of rolls. Do you pass it to the right or to the left? Which bread plate is yours? Which water glass?

EARLY 50 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS learned answers to these questions and many others during a professional etiquette session led by Joan Newman, JD ’72, LLM ’73. She is the founder of Joan Newman & Associates, a training and development consulting firm, and a former partner at Thompson Coburn LLP.

The etiquette class met recently in the formal ambiance of the University’s Whittemore House. A beginning session on how to mingle effectively preceded an actual dinner—served on white tablecloths and featuring the full, confusing complement of place settings.

From the sidelines, Newman served up tips, tricks, and anecdotes regarding manners and other “strategic” skills.

“Etiquette is a way for law students to distinguish themselves at job interviews and business/social functions,” Newman says. “What happens if young lawyers don’t look or act right? Their career will be limited. My goal is to help them feel more comfortable because they can then focus more on who they’re with and what they’re talking about.”

Before the training, law student Brent Burpee said he knew only enough to keep his elbows off the table. He now knows to pass shared food to the right, use the bread plate to his left, and drink from the water glass on his right.

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MICHAEL KOBY
Judgment at Nuremberg

The School of Law hosted a three-day symposium, “Judgment at Nuremberg,” commemorating the 60th anniversary of the international military tribunal. The event, which took place in Anheuser-Busch Hall on September 29–October 1, 2006, was sponsored by the School’s Whitney R. Harris Institute for Global Legal Studies and Washington University’s Department of Philosophy. Co-sponsors included the Robert H. Jackson Center, the American Bar Association Section on International Law, and the American Society of International Law. Law professors Leila Sadat and John Haley and philosophy professor Larry May were the conference organizers.

MARY BUTkus PHOTOS

PHILIPPE Kirsch, president, International Criminal Court

M. Cherif Bassiouni, International Human Rights Law Institute

Patricia ViSEur-SellErS, former prosecutor, international criminal courts in Yugoslavia

Nuremberg Prosecutors
From left: Henry King, Ben Ferencz, Whitney Harris

Hans hessemann (left), City of Nuremberg mayoral office, and Francis Slay, mayor, St. Louis City

Whitney Harris, Nuremberg prosecutor, and Hans Peter kaul, international Criminal Court
PATRICIA WALD, President’s Intelligence Commission

DAVID CRANE, former chief prosecutor, Special Court for Sierra Leone

CHRISTOPHER DODD, United States senator, Connecticut

PATRICIA WALD, President’s Intelligence Commission

CHRISTOPHER SAFFERLING (left), Erlangen University (Germany), and THERESA GALAKATOS, participant
Greenfield Helps Draft Debt Legislation

Michael M. Greenfield, the Walter D. Coles Professor of Law, helped formulate has become law in three states. The Uniform Debt-Management Services Act, which will soon be effective in Utah, Delaware, and Rhode Island, is designed to regulate consumer credit-counseling and debt-settlement companies. Greenfield helped draft the model legislation for the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL). Additional states are expected to enact the law soon.

“The debt-management industry has grown significantly over the years, in part because recent amendments to the federal bankruptcy act require debtors to seek credit counseling before declaring bankruptcy,” Greenfield says. “The new Uniform Debt-Management Services Act is designed to assist states with regulating this industry and to protect consumers from unfair or deceptive practices.”

The act outlines specific requirements for credit counseling providers, including regulations surrounding agreements with consumers, agreements with creditors, disclosure, and bonding. It provides consumers and public officials with remedies against those who violate its requirements.

Greenfield previously has lent expertise to NCCUSL projects related to revising Uniform Commercial Code Articles 2, 3, 4, and 9 and to drafting the Uniform Consumer Leasing Act.
School Hosts Appellate Court, Ukrainian Judges

THE SCHOOL OF LAW HOSTED A SPECIAL SESSION of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District, on October 24, 2006. Among those in attendance was a delegation of judges from Ukraine, who were in St. Louis on a visit organized by the city’s chapter of the World Affairs Council. The court periodically holds special sessions at law schools as part of an educational outreach program.

During the special session, attorneys from both sides argued cases involving a property dispute over fences in a subdivision, a contract dispute that resulted in a $1.2-million jury verdict, and the criminal appeal of a father convicted for his role in the shooting death of his daughter’s abusive husband. Chief Judge Booker T. Shaw and Judges Lawrence E. Mooney and Patricia L. Cohen presided.

After the special court session, the Ukrainian judges met with the Missouri judges and law school faculty, discussing the legal and judicial systems in both jurisdictions. The delegation then delivered a panel presentation to law students on current developments in Ukrainian law. The judges were drawn from throughout Ukraine, including Kyiv, Odessa, and Donetsk. They serve at the trial and appellate level on Ukraine’s civil, criminal, and military courts.

Judge David Herndon, United States District Court, Southern District of Illinois, accompanied the delegation, which was hosted at the law school by Michael Peil, assistant dean for international programs.

Clinic Supports Medicinal Plant Project

BY ANN NICHOLSON

THE SCHOOL OF LAW’S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & BUSINESS FORMATION LEGAL CLINIC is partnering with The International Center for Indigenous Phytotherapy Studies (TICIPS). The TICIPS consortium is led by the University of Western Cape in South Africa, the University of Missouri, and the Missouri Botanical Garden. The project, which focuses on the use of South African plants for medicinal purposes, is funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

TICIPS researches the safety and efficacy of South African phytotherapies, promotes conservation of plant biodiversity, preserves traditional healers’ knowledge of medicinal plants, and strives to educate health-care providers and consumers about phytotherapy.

“The project is currently focusing on two herbal remedies in South Africa,” notes David Deal, administrative director for the Intellectual Property & Business Formation Legal Clinic and lecturer in law. “One is a potential treatment to alleviate symptoms of HIV/AIDS, and the other is a potential treatment for tuberculosis.”

Deal and Karen Tokarz, professor of law and director of Clinical Education & ADR Programs, recently visited South Africa and connected with faculty and officials at the University of Western Cape in Cape Town and the University of Kwa Zulu Natal. They also met with traditional healers who potentially could become involved in the TICIPS project. South Africa recently joined the growing list of countries enacting a Biodiversity Act that addresses biodiversity, genetic resources, and traditional knowledge.

“In the coming year, the clinic will assist TICIPS in complying with the regulatory provisions of the new South African Biodiversity Act,” Deal says. “The project will both help the consortium and be a great learning opportunity for our students.”

“The clinic will assist TICIPS in complying with the new regulatory provisions.”

DAVID DEAL
Honoring Women

Members of the Women’s Law Caucus celebrate International Women’s Day. (Top, left to right) Dara Strickland, Lauren Wojtowicz, Melanie Dailey; (bottom, left to right) Julie Arkush, Frances Petruso, Tracey Ohm. The 2006-07 event will be in spring 2007 at the law school. Check the Web site for more information (law.wustl.edu).