



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW

DIVERSITY SERVICES

LAW
WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY



American University Washington College of Law (WCL) has long worked to ensure our institutional environment reflects a new era of inclusion and change. Through collective and concerted efforts, we have shaped an institution that promotes and celebrates diversity in all aspects of our community.

These efforts have established WCL as one of the most diverse law schools in the country. While taking pride in that distinction, we will continue to strive for higher levels of excellence in every regard, including diversity.

Our ongoing initiatives reflect the diversity statement formulated by the Faculty Committee on Admissions, which notes that “diversity in the student body . . . supports our long-term professional mission of providing a first-rate education for those who will become leaders in the practice of law, the courts, the professoriate, and the broader community.”

We invite you to come and experience the exciting developments taking place at WCL — a superb, vibrant, and diverse educational institution with a core commitment to inclusion and opportunities for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Grossman', written in a cursive style.

Claudio Grossman, Dean



Checking in at First-Year Diversity Day



Welcome Reception



Dean's Diversity Council Spring Luncheon speaker Shirley Rivadeneira '04 with students



Office of Diversity Services

The Office of Diversity Services works with all segments of WCL — students, administration, faculty, alumni — to address issues of importance to underrepresented individuals within the law school and in the world of law practice. These collaborations frequently result in a program or activity with a diversity focus as initiated by a particular program or administrative office. Thus, Diversity Services enhances the WCL experience by:

- Working cooperatively with the **OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS** to reach out to diverse populations through targeted recruiting visits, mailings, and special programs such as the Law School Admission Council's DiscoverLaw recruiting program, CLEO (Council on Legal Education Opportunity) workshops, and the annual welcome reception for incoming students
- Consulting with the **OFFICE OF CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** to address methods for improving representation in the profession through, for example, promoting participation in minority job fairs and firm-sponsored diversity activities

- Co-sponsoring the **CLINICAL PROGRAM'S** annual Diversity Luncheon designed to introduce students from underrepresented populations to the hands-on experience offered by WCL's 10 clinics
- Participating in the **LEGAL RHETORIC PROGRAM'S** summer Legal Analysis Program (LAP), a two-week introduction to WCL and the study of law for first-year students

Additionally, the director of the office counsels students individually and through meetings with student groups interested in maintaining the quality of student life as experienced by under-represented populations. These groups include, but are not limited to, representatives of African-American, Latino, and Asian students, along with Lambda and any other group genuinely invested in the well-being and advancement of groups who have experienced lack of access due to historic, statutory, or other obvious forms of discrimination.



Diversity Services Director Sherry Weaver and APALSA Board



Welcome Reception for entering diversity students



Diversity & Student Organizations

While the faculty, administration, and staff work closely with one another to provide an academic and administrative framework to support our students' academic endeavors, the students themselves bring a special energy to collaborations with those supporters and among themselves. The student organizations related to underrepresented populations are especially effective in this regard as they team up to plan and execute a variety of programs related to the study and practice of law. They may be contacted through the email addresses or Web sites indicated in the self-descriptions or through the Office of Diversity Services.

Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)

The Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) represents and supports the Asian Pacific American community at WCL and is open to all students. APALSA provides opportunities to network with legal professionals and facilitates student involvement in broader issues relevant to the Asian Pacific American community. 1Ls can receive upper class mentors to help ease the transition into law school. For more information, email apalsa@wcl.american.edu.



Rosy Lor '04, receives APALSA Alumni Award



Professor Tony Varona directs a Lambda Symposium panel



Rep. Joseph Cao (R-LA, 2nd Dist), APALSA Dinner

Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

The Washington College of Law Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is committed to engaging the WCL and D.C. legal communities with the legal and social issues of special concern to all. BLSA sponsors enriching academic, social, and cultural events that seek to educate and to foster solidarity among the WCL black community. Further, BLSA creates opportunities for members to reach their full potential so that one day they contribute to the legal community. Examples of the many services BLSA offers include: a mentorship program that pairs incoming students with upperclassmen; connecting current students with alumni in their chosen field of law; and free membership in national and regional BLSA organizations, which organize socials, job fairs, and conferences. For more information, e-mail blsa@wcl.american.edu.

Lambda Law Society

Lambda Law Society was founded in 1984 as a political, educational, and social organization to provide information on gay-related legal issues, eliminate stereotypes about homosexuals, and foster a positive image of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals throughout the law school community. Lambda is also affiliated with the Washington, D.C. attorney organization, GAYLAW, and the National LGBT Bar Association. Lambda programs include speakers involved in current legal issues, films, panel discussions, community service, and social events. Membership in Lambda is open to all students, regardless of sexual orientation. For more information, visit www.wcl.american.edu/org/lambda.



The Office of Diversity Services and the Office of Student Affairs, in collaboration with interested student groups, including **BLSA** and the **Women's Law Association**, have adopted Washington Middle School for Girls (WMSG) — located in Southeast D.C. Service and outreach opportunities have included a donation drive for winter gloves and scarves; participating in holiday parties with the middle school students; and creating and executing a fun, informative and interactive law curriculum for WMSG's afterschool club program.

WMSG is designed to increase academic achievement and retention rates of African American girls as they make the transition from elementary and middle school to high school.



Diversity and the Student Organizations (continued)

Latina/o Law Students Association (LaLSA)

Formerly the Hispanic Law Students Association, LaLSA provides a forum for Latino issues — both international and domestic — that are important to WCL students. LaLSA's main objective is to promote Latino awareness and participation in the legal community through programs designed to assist students in all aspects of student life, from law school admission to life after graduation. Programs include networking opportunities, mentorship, speakers, seminars, community service projects, and debates on Latino issues. LaLSA co-hosts the Hispanic Law Conference, where Premio Inspiración and the Goldman-Grossman Award were inaugurated. LaLSA also gives annual scholarships to high school students who have contributed in a measurable way to the Latino community. For more information, visit www.wcl.american.edu/org/lalsa.

The Modern American

The magazine, dedicated to diversity and the law, was founded by students in 2005. It has become known for its wonderfully provocative cover art and broad spectrum of subject matter. Significantly, in only its second year of publication, *The Modern American* was recognized as first runner-up in the competition for the American Bar Association's Henry J. Ramsey Jr. Diversity Award. The staff of the magazine also holds a diversity symposium during Founders' Celebration each spring. For more information, visit www.wcl.american.edu/modernamerican.

A Comprehensive List of Student Organizations

- Action for Human Rights
- Administrative Law Review
- African Justice Initiative
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Society
- American Jurist
- American University Law Review
- APALSA
- Black Law Student Association
- Business Law Brief
- Business Law Society
- Christian Law Society
- Communications & Media Law Society
- Criminal Law Brief
- Criminal Law Society
- Disability Law Society
- Energy Law Alliance
- Environmental Law Society
- Equal Justice Foundation
- Evening Law Students Association
- Federalist Society
- Health Law & Justice Initiative
- Health Law & Policy
- Human Rights Brief
- Immigrants' Rights Coalition
- Intellectual Property Society
- International Law Review
- International Trade Law Society
- Islamic Legal Forum
- Israel & Law Society
- J. Reuben Clark Law Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law
- JD/MBA Club
- Lambda Law Society
- Latino/a Law Students Association (LaLSA)
- Law & Government Society
- Law Revue
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Legislation & Policy Roundtable
- LINK
- LLM (ILSP) Association
- LLM (Law & Government) Association
- Mock Trial Honor Society

Progressive People of Color Caucus (PPOCC)

PPOCC was founded in 2009 to provide a safe space for progressive students of color at WCL to address issues of race and oppression affecting communities of color at WCL and in the greater D.C. area. PPOCC organizes programs and campaigns encouraging the WCL community to analyze the law through a critical race perspective and then strives to implement policies that reflect this lens. As a consensus-driven, self-governing group, PPOCC ultimately strives to strengthen communities of color through education, engagement, organizing, advocacy, and direct action. For more information, contact ppocc.wcl@gmail.com.

South Asian Law Students Association (SALSA)

SALSA represents the South Asian community at WCL and seeks to promote greater cultural understanding among all peoples through social and educational programming. SALSA's programming addresses a wide range of issues of concern to the South Asian population as well as the law school community at large. Past events include prominent speakers on current legal issues, career panels, workshops, networking opportunities with the South Asian Bar Association (SABA), and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA), and social events with other local SALSAs. SALSA has twice had the privilege of co-hosting the National South Asian Summit at WCL with the national advocacy organization, South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT). Through programs like these, SALSA hopes to strengthen and build community at WCL. SALSA is open to all WCL students. For more information, visit www.wcl.american.edu/org/salsa.

- Modern American
- Moot Court Honor Society
- National Lawyers' Guild
- National Security Law Brief
- Native American Law Student Association
- Persian Law Society
- Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity International
- Poverty Law Society
- Public Interest Student Coalition
- Society for Justice in Palestine & Israel
- South Asian Law Students Association
- Sports & Entertainment Law Society
- Student Bar Association
- Students United
- Sustainable Development Law & Policy Journal
- The IP Brief
- Women's Law Association



Latino Alumni Association receives award at annual Hispanic Law Conference dinner



Dean's Diversity Council

A significant collaboration is that between Diversity Services and the Dean's Office, as represented by the Dean's Diversity Council (DDC) founded in 2001. DDC members — individually and collectively — assist with a variety of efforts designed to help students from underrepresented and disadvantaged communities succeed in law school, on the bar exam, and in the profession. Members volunteer as mentors and participate in law school programs, pre-law advisement, and job search counseling.

Council membership, many of whom are alumni, includes judges, practitioners, faculty, and friends of the law school. The fall annual meeting customarily consists of a program followed by a career-oriented session that enables members to engage directly with students.

Diversity Services and the council inaugurated the DDC Speaker Series, which brings members into the law school to speak on topics of their choice. Series speakers and topics have included:

- **The Honorable Hiram Puig-Lugo:** "International Child Custody"
- **Professor Cynthia E. Jones:** "Wrongful Convictions"
- **The Honorable Robert M. Bell:** "Judicial Independence"
- **Linda M. Estrada, Esq.:** "Your Legal Career: The Plan, The Path, The Reality"
- **The Honorable Ricardo M. Urbina:** "Conscience as an Element of Advocacy"
- **Shirley Rivadeneira, Esq.'04:** "Safeguarding the Voting Rights of Minority Voters: The Potential Impact of Law Students & Lawyers on the 2012 Elections"



Alumna and DDC Member Jill Cummins '87 with 1L Brooke Coleman at the DDC Annual Dinner



DDC Alumni member Sanya Sukduang '99 with Dean Grossman



Panel, DDC Annual Meeting

Dean's Diversity Council Members

Michael Barbosa, Esq. '99

New York

The Honorable DeLawrence Beard,

(Retired)

6th Judicial Circuit of Maryland
Maryland

The Honorable Robert M. Bell,

Chief Judge

Court of Appeals of Maryland
Maryland

Midwin Charles, Esq. '99

Midwin Charles & Associates LLC
New York

Eugene Chay, Esq. '98

Spriggs & Hollingsworth
Washington, DC

Jill Cummins, Esq. '87

Allstate
Maryland

Linda Estrada, Esq.

Hispanic Bar Association of the
District of Columbia
Washington, DC

James Ferg-Cadima, Esq. '01

Illinois

Miriam Friedland, Esq. '01

New Mexico

The Honorable Stuart Ishimaru

Equal Employment Opportunity
Commission
Washington, DC

Janene Jackson, Esq. '98

D.C. Chamber of Commerce
Washington, DC

Prof. Cynthia Jones '89

American University Washington College
of Law
Washington, DC

Claudia McKoin '99

Council of the District of Columbia
Washington, DC

The Honorable Hiram Puig-Lugo

D.C. Superior Court
Washington, DC

Robert Raben, Esq.

The Raben Group
Washington, DC

Professor Ezra Rosser

American University Washington College
of Law
Washington, DC

Sanya Sukduang, Esq. '99

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett
& Dunner
Washington, DC

The Honorable Ricardo M. Urbina

U.S. District Court for the
District of Columbia
Washington, DC

Rhonda VanLowe, Esq.

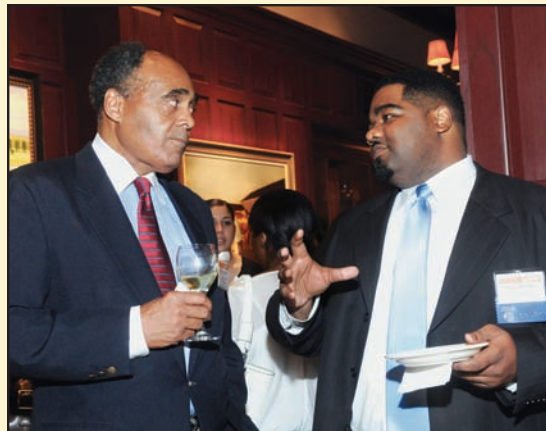
Rolls-Royce, N.A.
Virginia

Omar Vargas, Esq. '98

Pepsico
Washington, DC



The Modern American Symposium Panel



DDC Member Judge DeLawrence Beard and alumnus Miguel Martinez at Welcome Reception



Professor Davis and DDC Member Rivadeneira, DDC Annual Meeting



Special Events

The Office of Diversity Services originates and cosponsors a variety of special events, among which are two major conferences: the Sylvania Woods Conference on African Americans and the Law and the Hispanic Law Conference and Career Fair. Both are established components of the spring Founders' Celebration, and both celebrate their discrete cultures while offering programs that focus on culturally-relevant legal issues and ideas. Diversity Services also organizes the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemoration and the Hispanic Heritage Month program.

Other special events supported by Diversity Services include:

- The Modern American Symposium
- International Week
- APALSA Alumni Awards Dinner
- Lambda Law Society Symposium



Left to Right by row: MLK Speaker Prof. Perry Wallace; Alumna Judge Jeannie Hong '92 and alumnus Eric Huang '05; Prof. Vladeck moderates the Modern American Symposium; MLK Commemoration Collaborative Readers; Panel, Lambda Symposium; Alumni Career Table Talk at the Woods Conference; and Woods Conference Awards recipients



During an elevator ride from the first-floor lobby to the sixth-floor cafeteria at Washington College of Law, you may encounter a faculty member and student having a discussion in Spanish about human rights conditions in Darfur. You may see a list of events for that week that could include a book signing by a law professor; a student-sponsored panel debate on marriage equality; or an ice cream social for students from the all-female inner city Washington middle school with which we have begun a pre-law partnership. A lot goes on here, almost all of it for figurative or literal student consumption.

Faculty members are exceptionally accessible, and many administrative offices maintain open-door policies, or offer readily-available appointments. Whether the question is about a stubborn, yet tantalizing, legal concept or where you're supposed to park, an answer is generally at hand.

In the classroom, discussion around a controversial issue may occasionally create a challenging moment. However, we believe that this venue is perfect for learning and practicing those real world skills of active listening and diplomatic argumentation that we all, if we're fortunate, will develop over the course of our lives. We also believe we have the interconnected framework in place to assist with the development of those skills.

Finally, we embrace the notion of the well-rounded person. While acquiring the *juris doctor* is without question Job One, we recommend that our students, to the degree possible, engage in extracurricular activities. Our hope is that you will maintain a healthy balance in life as you work toward your goal.

If law is what beckons, we advise you to keep up the GPA, conquer the LSAT, and join us at Washington College of Law to begin your journey toward whatever your dream of law practice may encompass.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry C. Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sherry Weaver
Director, Office of Diversity Services





DIVERSITY IN THE STUDENT BODY...SUPPORTS OUR LONG-TERM PROFESSIONAL MISSION
OF PROVIDING A FIRST-RATE EDUCATION FOR THOSE WHO WILL BECOME LEADERS IN
THE PRACTICE OF LAW, THE COURTS, THE PROFESSORiate, AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
W A S H I N G T O N , D C

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY SERVICES

4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20016

202-274-4032 • 202-274-0787 fax

diversity@wcl.american.edu • www.wcl.american.edu