

Robert Dinerstein is professor of law, director of the clinical program (1988-96 and 2008-present), and director of the Disability Rights Law Clinic (2005-present) at AU's Washington College of Law, where he has taught since 1983. He was the law school's associate dean for academic affairs from 1997-2004. He specializes in the fields of clinical education and disability law, especially mental disabilities law (including issues of consent/choice, capacity and guardianship), the Americans with Disabilities Act, Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, legal representation of clients with mental disabilities, the interaction between disability and the criminal justice system, and disability and international human rights.<p>

Dinerstein was appointed by President Clinton in 1994 to serve on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation (on which he served until 2001). He has consulted for the World Health Organization regarding the revision of mental health laws in Ghana and Malawi, and was a signatory to the Montreal Declaration on Intellectual Disabilities, adopted in Montreal, Canada in October 2004. Prior to joining AU, Dinerstein worked as an attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section, where he handled federal court cases on the rights of people institutionalized in mental hospitals, institutions for people with intellectual disabilities (mental retardation) and juvenile institutions, prisons, and jails. In addition to the Disability Rights Law Clinic, which he founded (and which handles special education, admission/commitment of people with intellectual disabilities, guardianship, ADA, and other cases), he teaches a seminar on law and disability and has taught interviewing and counseling, legal ethics, the supervised externship seminar, and the criminal justice clinic (which he directed from 1989-1995).<p>

Dinerstein is actively involved in organizations related to legal education nationally. He is a member of the Council of the American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, and previously was on the section's Standards Review Committee. He has been a member of over 15 ABA-AALS joint site inspection teams, chairing two teams. Within the Association of American Law Schools, he has, among other things, chaired the section on clinical legal education, committee on clinical legal education, committee on sections and the annual meeting, and the planning committee for the 2006 clinical teachers' conference (and has been a member of a number of other planning committees). He currently serves as chair-elect of the AALS section on law and mental disability as well as the secretary of the section on disability law. Previously, he served on the association's Membership Review Committee.<p>

Dinerstein currently sits on the boards of directors of the Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, Inc. (president), Equal Rights Center (treasurer), and Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, Inc. (treasurer), and in the past has served on the boards of the District of Columbia Bar Board of Governors (2002-05), Society of American Law Teachers, Mental Disability Rights International, Legal Counsel for the Elderly, and Maryland Disability Law Center, among other organizations. He has made numerous presentations on clinical legal education

and disability law, among other topics, and has published a number of articles, chapters and other writing on these subjects. He is co-editor and co-author, with Profs. Stan Herr and Joan O'Sullivan, of *A GUIDE TO CONSENT* (AAMR, 1999); author of "Guardianship and Its Alternatives," in *ADULTS WITH DOWN SYNDROME* (Siegfried M. Pueschel, ed., 2006); and co-author of the forthcoming *LAWYERS AND CLIENTS: CRITICAL ISSUES IN INTERVIEWING AND COUNSELING* (Thomson West, forthcoming 2009). He has an A.B. degree from Cornell University and a J.D. degree from Yale Law School.

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