
THE WOMEN AND THE LAW PROGRAM ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

MAKING WOMEN'S LEGAL HISTORY



To celebrate the opening of the new Tenley campus, the Women and the Law Program collaborated with the Pence Law Library to curate ***Making Women's Legal History***. This gorgeous display captures the contributions of WCL's founders, faculty, and students to the integration of women in the practice of law and the advancement of women's rights. We were thrilled to give feminist icon Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg a tour of the artwork. The exhibit now lines the walls of "Founders Hall" on the Terrace Level of the Yuma Building. Come to WCL to see it in person! If you can't make it to campus, you can see a digital copy of the exhibit on the Program's website at www.wcl.american.edu/gender/wlp.

GET INVOLVED!

We need more photos for our archives! If you have any photos from events, lectures, receptions, or news clippings, particularly from 1960-1980, please send them to us. Email **Sarah Barnett**, Program Coordinator of the Women and the Law Program at womenlaw@wcl.american.edu.

NEW INITIATIVE: THE GENDER AND LAW LUNCH & LEARN SERIES



Each year, the Women and the Law Program collaborates with our active student groups and faculty to sponsor roughly twenty panels and conferences on substantive topics of interest to our students and the public. We have launched a new **"Gender and Law Lunch & Learn Series"** to give WCL students an opportunity to explore the myriad intersections of women's and LGBTI rights in an intimate setting that encourages engagement and discussion. Topics so far have included: **Revenge Porn, Cyber Stalking, & Online Harassment; Gender Equality and the World Bank;**

Access to Justice for Female Victims of Sexual Violence in Colombia; Advancing Women's Rights in Afghanistan; Promoting and Defending Reproductive Rights in Mexico; Human Rights of Sex Workers; Recent Developments in Women's and LGBTI Rights at the United Nations; Violence Against Men and Boys in Conflict and Custodial Settings; and more. Panelists are drawn from our rich feminist faculty as well our incredible WCL alumni community. Learn more by visiting our Past Events page at https://www.wcl.american.edu/gender/wlp/past_events.cfm. Find out more about future events via our weekly News & Events Bulletin.

GET INVOLVED!

Do you work at the intersection of Women's Rights or LGBTI rights and the law? Do you want to come and talk about your work with our students over lunch? If so, please contact **Sarah Barnett**, Program Coordinator for the Women and the Law Program at womenlaw@wcl.american.edu.

GENDER AND THE PRACTICE OF LAW: SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS



The Women and the Law Program teams up with the WCL Externship Office to offer resume review sessions and externship fairs designed especially for students who want to pursue career opportunities in gender and law. Both the resume review and externship fairs provide an opportunity for our students to receive personalized advice from alumni practitioners in their fields of interest.

The Program also creates materials to help students identify organizations for externships and fellowships with a focus on gender and law. All Women and the Law Program staff provide many hours of individual career counseling to students and alumni interested in careers in both international and domestic settings.

GET INVOLVED!

Would you like to mentor a current WCL student who shares your interest? Would you be willing to speak on a career panel or review a student resume? Do you have a job or internship posting you'd like us to share with our students? If so, please contact Sarah Barnett, Program Coordinator for the Women and the Law Program at womenlaw@wcl.american.edu.



Congratulations to this year's Women and the Law Leadership Award, Lisa Dewey WCL/JD '93!

STRENGTHENING VICTIMS' ACCESS TO JUSTICE - AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GENDER AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW PROJECT



The Women and the Law Program and the War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) have collaborated since 2008 on the "Gender and International Criminal Law Project," which supports the use of international law to hold perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence committed in conflict accountable. Together we created genderjurisprudence.org, a powerful database containing judgments, decisions, orders, and other relevant documents issued by internationalized criminal courts and tribunals that have been coded and made readily searchable for issues relating to sexual and gender-based violence.

THE WOMEN AND THE LAW PROGRAM AND THE WAR CRIMES RESEARCH OFFICE HAVE HAD A BUSY YEAR! TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES.

In addition to keeping the database current, we wrapped up a three-year "Strengthening Victims' Access to Justice in Bosnia" project funded by the U.S. Department of State. We developed research tools and trained legal professionals and victim's advocates who press for accountability for conflict-related gender-based crimes throughout Bosnia.

In Fall 2016, we were awarded a grant by the U.S. Department of State for "Strengthening Government Ability to Hold Perpetrators Accountable for Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the Central African Republic." The project responds to the need for accountability for the widespread sexual and gender-based violence committed during periods of civil conflict in the country. We are collaborating with partner organizations in the Central African Republic to create French-language legal research tools and conduct in-country and online training tailored to local needs.

Finally, we received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to assess needs for training and materials to address widespread impunity for sexual and gender-based crimes that occur in conflict and periods of mass repression in Latin America, as well. Thanks to funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, we gathered judges, prosecutors, and victim's advocates from the region to share information about the key issues and challenges they face.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE PROJECTS' GREATEST IMPACT?

Investing in people yields the greatest impact. Our goal has been to help practitioners—prosecutors, judges, victim advocates and other stakeholders—to be better connected with each other, and to gain access to better resources and training for the best possible outcomes. We will continue to invest in the practitioners on the front lines who are bringing these cases to fruition and ensuring justice for the victims by providing training opportunities, developing research tools, and supporting their work through in-depth research assistance. We have also trained dozens of WCL students in the gender-related aspects of international criminal law and humanitarian law. They work with us as research assistants, digging deep into case documents and helping us to provide technical support to courts and advocates around the world.

WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE?

We are constantly seeking funding to support the database and our related projects. Courts in Bosnia have an estimated 1,200 war crimes cases left to prosecute. That translates to potentially thousands of victims of sexual and gender-based crimes who are still awaiting justice more than twenty years after the war. Hundreds of additional prosecutors, judges, and victim advocates could benefit from training and research tools to continue the progress we have witnessed as Bosnian courts have increasingly adopted international standards with regard to defining sexual and gender-based crimes and responding to victims' needs. In Latin America, we will continue to support organizations, as they work to hold perpetrators of conflict-based SGBV accountable. Additionally, we are seeking funding to provide additional support to help build local capacity in Africa to bring additional cases, and confront impunity for sexual and gender-based violence committed in conflict and repressive circumstances.

Resources!

Learn more about The Gender & International Criminal Law Project and use our specialized database of cases addressing sexual and gender-based crimes at genderjurisprudence.org.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: STUDENT DEBT & EDUCATION JUSTICE PROJECT PROFESSORS ANN SHALLECK AND DANIELA KRAIEM

Program Director Ann Shalleck and Associate Director Daniela Kraiem published articles addressing why law school clinics should represent student borrowers harmed by fraudulent schools and abusive debt collectors, and how to reframe the conversation about higher education finance.

- **ANN SHALLECK**, *Thought and Advocacy About Student Debt: Representation of Low-Income Borrowers in Law School Clinical Programs*
- **DANIELA KRAIEM**, *The Cost of Opportunity: Student Debt and Social Mobility*

Learn more about why higher education finance is a feminist issue at StudentDebtJustice.org.

SPECIAL WELCOME TO WCL'S FIRST FEMALE DEAN SINCE 1947

CAMILLE A. NELSON: A FORCE FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY



The Women and the Law Program faculty and staff are thrilled to welcome Dean Nelson to the law school. In addition to being a leader in legal education, Dean Nelson is a top-notch legal scholar, whose work sits at the intersection of race, gender, and disability. A few of her publications include: *Masculinities and the Law: A Multidimensional Approach*; *Loving v. Virginia in a Post-Racial World: Rethinking Race, Sex, and Marriage*; *American Husbandry: Legal Norms Impacting the Production of (Re) Productivity*; *Multicultural Feminism: Assessing Systemic Fault in a Provocative Context*; and *Of Egg-shells and Thin Skulls: A Consideration of*

Racism-Related Mental Illness Impacting Black Women. In 2013, Dean Nelson was honored as one of the "Top Women of Law" by Lawyers Weekly, and was named to the Power 100 most influential Black attorneys by *On Being a Black Lawyer* from 2012-2015. She has also received the Ida B. Wells Award from Massachusetts Black Women Lawyers. Dean Nelson currently serves on the advisory board for Mina's List, an organization that "seeks to realize women's equal and substantive representation in national governments around the world." Welcome Dean Nelson!

THE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE LAWYERING WEBINAR SERIES



This summer the Women and the Law Program will host its fourth annual "Reproductive Justice Lawyering Webinar Series" as part of an ongoing collaboration with If/When/How—a national network of law students and legal professionals advocating for reproductive justice.

By offering this webinar series, we hope to give attorneys the opportunity to learn about emerging issues and to facilitate a sense of community for those practitioners working in more isolated areas.

Over 150 attendees representing over fifty organizations registered for last year's three-part series covering the contraceptive coverage mandate, implications of the *Zubik v. Burwell* decision, and how to create policies that shift views away from teen pregnancy prevention to supporting young parents. Upcoming topics will include the decriminalization of HIV, access to healthcare for pregnant women and mothers, and local level advocacy.

INTERESTED? Register for our upcoming webinars on June 28th and 29th, or watch archived recordings of the entire Reproductive Justice Webinar Series and find out more about how to earn CLE credit by visiting https://www.wcl.american.edu/gender/wlp/wilp_lsrj_reprojustice_webinar_series.cfm.

Looking for a job in Women's Rights?

Want to attend WCL or community events on gender-related topics?

SIGN UP FOR OUR WEEKLY EVENTS AND JOBS BULLETIN!



**WOMEN AND THE
LAW PROGRAM**

Keep in touch! Email us at womenlaw@wcl.american.edu.

Director Ann Shalleck, Associate Director Daniela Kraiem, Program Coordinator Sarah Barnett