

Stating the Case: Lawyering Programs

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SUMMER/FALL 2011

RUTGERS
School of Law | Camden

Greetings from Dean Solomon

Upcoming Pro Bono Dates:

- *September 9-10: Bankruptcy Training*
- *September 15: Federal Prisoner Re-entry Conference*
- *September 21: Philbrook Public Interest Celebration*
- *October 20: EJW Conference and Career Fair*

This inaugural issue of the Lawyering Programs newsletter celebrates some of the many recent achievements of our Clinic, Externship, Pro Bono, and Legal Writing programs. Students in those programs give a great deal back to our community while simultaneously developing a greater empathy for their clients—whether simulated or actual. Students working with clients also achieve a greater understanding of the social responsibilities associated with becoming a lawyer. Just as our students and faculty take pride in the scope and reach of our lawyering offerings, I also consider them a strength of our curriculum.

One of the prevalent themes you will find in this first issue is the amount and variety of collaboration across the lawyering curriculum. That type of cutting-edge curricular development

helps distinguish and define the Law School. I hope that you will enjoy the several articles in this volume. I congratulate all of those involved with the creation of this new publication that we are able to offer you.

- *Rayman Solomon, Dean*



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In Focus: The Rutgers Model of Collaboration

Legal writing courses and clinical work are two fundamental parts of a law student's education. But while most law schools separate the two, the Rutgers School of Law-Camden is taking a different approach. Our concept of "Lawyering Programs" focuses on strategically exposing law students to the multiple roles that attorneys simultaneously play: scholars of law, client counselors, and advocates in court. That's why, on any given day, you can walk down the hallway on the second floor and see the collaborations between the faculty members at the Rutgers School of Law-Camden. Many of our legal writing professors teach extensively in, or work with, the clinical and pro bono programs. Likewise, our clinicians regularly draw upon the expertise of the writing faculty in teaching the

writing aspects of their cases.

"Our model of collaboration is still somewhat atypical in law schools because clinic and legal writing are typically at chronological ends of a law student's educational experience. Legal writing is still seen as a something that is primarily taught in the 1L program, while clinic tends to be a capstone 3L experience," says the Director of Lawyering Programs, Ruth Anne Robbins, who teaches courses in both departments. The two disciplines have different historical origins, which help explain why they grew up separately in the past several decades. The first legal writing courses had roots in the composition and rhetoric programs at universities, while the genesis of early clinics is associ-

ated with public interest organizations. The world is changing, however, and Rutgers–Camden is on the forefront. “At orientation, legal writing and clinic are purposefully introduced together,” says Robbins. “So, the first time that 1L students meet one of the legal writing professors, she is standing next to a clinician. We want students to take away that visual image.”

That isn’t just for show either. One example of how the collaboration pays off occurred during the spring 2011 semester when a group of 1L law students were invited to observe 3L students in the Domestic Violence Clinic students, who were representing a plaintiff at a trial. The 1L law students had written a memo about simple assault, then a brief about domestic violence. They had already been given sample briefs about domestic violence law, written by former clinic students. The clinic students had also served as consultants to the creation of the 1L brief simulation’s fact pattern. Serendipitously, at the trial they observed, the 1L students became consultants themselves when they realized that their knowledge of New Jersey simple assault law from their memo was crucial to the 3L students’ closing argument.

And that’s just one example of how the collaborations work on a daily level. The model of integrated lawyering at Rutgers–Camden includes courses that are cutting edge, nationally. Those include hybrid legal writing/clinic and hybrid doctrine/clinic courses, our pro bono research program, upper level writing courses that focus on interdisciplinary theories of persuasive lawyering strategy. Prof. Victoria Chase, Associate Dean and also a clinician, says, “Law students can have experiences with the combined programs through their entire law school careers. There is very little in our curriculum that does not connect doctrinal classes with client opportunities.” This year, the law school is working to bring our internal appellate advocacy program, Hunter Moot Court, into the sphere of legal writing and clinic collaborations. The curriculum borrows from our upper level writing courses and the simulation—designed to help bridge experiential learning between the 1L and 3L years—was created with an eye towards students learning about client-centered lawyering strategies at the appellate level. Both clinicians and legal writing professors have been heavily involved with the re-imagining of the program’s educational goals.

Faculty and Staff Pitch in with Summer Law Institute

Faculty and staff from across disciplines pitched in to assist with the 2011 Summer Law Institute (“SLI”), a project of the Pro Bono Program at Rutgers–Camden Law School and NJ LEEP, Inc. Approximately 18 high school students spent the month of July in an intensive summer law program focusing on criminal law and trial procedure and culminating in a mock trial. The Institute, directed by Pro Bono Program

Director Jill Friedman and staffed by law students, is designed to increase diversity in the legal profession by exposing Camden teens to law-related careers and opportunities. In addition to a range of judges, lawyers and pro bono attorneys in the community, SLI guest lecturers included perennial favorite Hon. Dennis Braithwaite, Prof. Greg Lastowka (intellectual property), Pro Bono Program Assistant Director and writing specialist Pam Mertsoc-Wolfe (writing workshops), Prof. Kim Mutcherson (reproductive technologies), Prof. Jason Cohen (advocacy), and Prof. Alison Nissen (study skills). Adjunct Professor Hon. Joel Schneider, Magistrate Judge in the District of New Jersey, and law school alumna Chief Bankruptcy Judge Judith H. Wizmur hosted the students in their Camden courtrooms and chambers, and served as mock trial judges in the Archer & Greiner Moot Courtroom.



Summer Law Institute students with Judy Wizmur (CLAW '74). Photo by A. Schwartz

Recognition

- **Prof. Victoria L. Chase and Meredith L. Schalick** were invited by the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts to present a training on ethical issues in child welfare cases at the Children in Court Summit in May 2011. More than 150 judges, attorneys, court staff and social workers attended Profs. Chase and Schalick’s training session on various aspects of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Code of Judicial Conduct.
- **Prof. Jill Friedman** was appointed to the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of Equal Justice Works, the premiere organization dedicated to creating a just society by mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice. Students are invited to participate in EJW’s annual Conference and Career Fair, Oct. 20-21, in Washington, DC. For more information: <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/events>



- On March 19th, 2011, **Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest Programs Eve Biskind Klothen** was awarded the Founders Award from Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (VIP) at its 30th Anniversary Gala. Dean Klothen, VIP’s founding director, was honored for her "vision, passion and unwavering dedication," which were acknowledged to be crucial in VIP’s continued growth and success as a national model.



Classes In Focus

Advanced Legal Writing: Community Based Practice

Experiential learning is really taking off as Rutgers continues to expand its collaborative legal writing and clinic curriculum. The hybrid writing clinic, *Advanced Legal Writing: Community Based Practice*, is another example of our lawyering faculty's commitment to producing practice-ready graduates.

Taught by Prof. Jason Cohen, the clinic is partners with the law department of Philadelphia's Mazzoni Center, which offers free legal services to low-income members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) communities.



Rutgers students Sara Fusco, Neha Pasricha, Alex Rubenstein, Meagan Iosca; Legal Director Amara Chaudhry

In its first inception in spring 2010, students performed general research projects and drafted large, survey-type memoranda based on legal issues the Center encounters on a daily basis. The general research of one student, Erick Rojas, was used by the legal director, Amara Chaudhry, in her representation of a client seeking a divorce from a same-sex marriage performed in another jurisdiction. Erick was specifically invited by Amara to the oral arguments over the summer. Although the Philadelphia family court judge did not grant the client's divorce, Erick saw first-hand how the assigning attorney converted his general research into client-specific arguments and advocacy, and commented after the hearing that it was the "highlight" of his law school career.

The spring 2011 course brought even more exciting experiences. Beginning with an orientation session at the Center's Philadelphia offices, the students met with the legal director, staff attorney and other law students from Penn, Villanova, and Temple. In addition to a general introduction to the organization and its clients, students were surprised to learn that they would be performing pre-litigation research and writing for a potential discrimination lawsuit brought on behalf of a transgendered client. Rather than just general, survey-type legal writing, students this semester used their lawyering skills to answer targeted legal questions on jurisdiction, substantive discrimination law and litigation strategy. Throughout the semester, to meet the assigning attorney's needs, students researched and wrote on federal and state constitutional law, Title VII, Pennsylvania's Human Relations Act, ordinances, statutes of limitation, common law tort claims, public policy and potential defenses.

True to real-life practice, that semester was very fast paced. Beyond the classroom time and individual conferencing on their work with Prof. Cohen, students had significant interaction with the assigning attorney. Much class time was devoted to learning how to manage the assigning attorney/junior attorney relationship, including learning the appropriate substance, tone and frequency of the junior attorney's communication with the assigning attorney. One student actually spent a day in the Philadelphia prothonotary's office, researching and copying pleadings from other pending litigation files.

The class also gave students the opportunity to break the chains of formulaic 1L memo writing. Since the students were performing research, writing and analysis for a client who wanted to bring a lawsuit, the aim wasn't just to find and identify the case's weaknesses and potential roadblocks. Rather, the students had to creatively think about legal ways *around* those weaknesses and roadblocks in a manner consistent with both the client's and assigning attorney's goals. This changed their ideas of what an "objective" memo should be in practice. One 2L student said this aspect of the class was essential to the type of research and writing he'd perform months later for a big firm summer internship.

The work seemed to resonate with the students, who appreciated the "real-life" aspect to the course:

- "This was probably my favorite course that I've taken in law school . . . It was interesting and challenging to write a memo where the facts and the law had not been specifically shaped to ensure that both sides of the case had good arguments."



Mazzoni Center Legal Director Amara Chaudhry, Sara Fusco, Meagan Iosca, Alex Rubenstein, Neha Pasricha

- "I enjoyed meeting and communicating with the attorneys at the Mazzoni Center as well. Needing to conform my work to what they wanted added an element to the class."

As the legal market adapts to leaner economic times, Rutgers, and its innovative lawyering curriculum stands ready to meet these challenges; and the school's partnership with the Mazzoni Center will continue to offer students hands-on practical experience.

Notes from the Pro Bono Program

Prof. Todd Berger, Managing Attorney of the Federal Prisoner Pro Bono Reentry Project



Todd A. Berger is a 2003 graduate of Temple University School of Law. He also earned an L.L.M. in Trial Advocacy from Temple University in 2007. Prior to coming to Rutgers he worked as an assistant public defender with the Defender Association of Philadelphia, representing indigent defendants throughout all stages of the criminal justice system: from preliminary arraignment through trial and post-verdict motions. He worked as a supervisor in both the Municipal Court and Felony Waiver Units, assisting new attorneys in trial preparation and courtroom practice. He also served in the Major Trials Unit representing clients in jury trials involving the most serious non-homicide felony charges. His teaching career began as a Lecturer in Law at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, where he taught in the Criminal Defense Clinic.

Federal Prisoner Re-entry Program Adds a New Dimension to Pro Bono Opportunities at the Law School

Rutgers Law students have multiple opportunities to help underserved individuals and entities with legal problems, while also learning important lawyering skills themselves. The well-established Bankruptcy, Children's SSI, Domestic Violence, Financial Literacy, Immigration, Legal Research, Mediation, Street Law, Voters' Rights, and many other projects continue to thrive and grow. But 2010-11 brought an exciting new opportunity for law students to make a difference.

Jose Cabrer^as* served eight long years in federal custody for mistakes he made as a young adult. When Mr. Cabrer^as was released from prison, he came home to North Camden with a new sense of purpose and responsibility. Finally sober for the first time in his life—and with help from the Office of Federal Probation—Mr. Cabrer^as got a job and started paying taxes. He learned how to use a computer and registered for classes at Camden County College. He began to get to know his son, David, who had not even been born when his father “went away,” and he began to pay child support to young David's mother. But just as he was getting on his feet again, Mr. Cabrer^as learned that he was in arrears for child support and traffic tickets he had not paid while incarcerated. During all the years he was away, no one—not his lawyer, not the prison authorities—had advised the family court that he was detained.

Until recently, scores of former federal prisoners like Mr. Cabrer^as returned to Camden with stories just like his: child support arrears, unpaid traffic and other fines, outstanding

warrants on minor infractions, lingering legal problems that threatened their ability to reintegrate into productive lives. But thanks to the newly established Federal Prisoner Re-entry Pro Bono Project, guided by Prof. Berger, Rutgers Law students have the opportunity, with assistance and cooperation from federal probation officers, to help clients resolve civil legal issues which impede successful reintegration into the community. Chief among those issues are drivers license restoration, child support, identity issues and others. Each volunteer student makes an initial commitment to the project from the beginning of the semester until final exams. During that time, students meet with their clients throughout the semester as necessary, or until the resolution of the client's case. Students provide the legal research and support needed to achieve an appropriate legal resolution. 3L students may represent the client in court under a student practice rule.

By working closely with Prof. Berger to provide high-quality legal services to each client, participating law students have a world-class experiential learning opportunity. Additionally resolved are the civil legal issues that so often plague those seeking a successful return to our communities.

** Representative composite “client”*

Pro Bono Awards

The Law School has expanded recognition for exceptional pro bono service. The *Horace Wu and Kate King Wu Pro Bono Award* recognizes in particular those students who help create synergies among projects or extend legal assistance to previously underserved communities. Jeanette Kwon (CLAW '11) and Erik Solivan (CLAW '11) won the inaugural Wu Awards.

In addition, the newly established *Dean's Pro Bono Publico Award for Exceptional Service* recognizes those students who complete 100 or more hours of pro bono service in one or more of the Law School's pro bono projects. Thirteen students were inducted as Dean's Pro Bono Award winners in 2011.

Bankruptcy Project Update

Through the Bankruptcy Project, students assist volunteer attorneys—many of whom are alumni—prepare Chapter 7 bankruptcy petitions, on behalf of low income clients suffering under crushing debt. During the 2010-11 academic year, the Project assisted over 100 clients. Training for this project takes place on Sept. 9 and 10.

Bankruptcy Project Intern

Interested in interacting with attorneys, clients, and fellow students? Need to satisfy your scholarship service requirement? If you can be available from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. two nights each week, contact Pam Mertsock-Wolfe (pmertsoc@camden.rutgers.edu) regarding this internship.

Pro Bono and Public Interest Highlights from 2010-11 and Preview of 2011-12

The 2010 Mary Philbrook Public Interest Reception, held in September, kicked off a successful year of pro bono/public interest activity. Annual events sponsored by the Pro Bono Program include the 1L Orientation Service Project, the campus-wide MLK Day, Jr. Day of Service Project and the year-end Pro Bono Recognition Reception. Additionally, the Pro Bono Program works closely with APIL on a daytime student auction and an evening alumni auction; last year the Program collaborated with APIL on the inaugural 5K Run for Justice. A record amount was raised in 2011 to fund summer public interest stipends for 31 students.

New in 2011 was presentation of the Rutgers Alumni Pro Bono Participation Award, which honors alumni who participate in Pro Bono Program sponsored projects; typically alumni participation involves supervising students substantively in the provision of legal services. Audrey Allen (CLAW '04), Maggie Niebler (CLAW '05) and Carole Wood, honorary alumna and former Philbrook Award winner, were honored for their participation in the Immigration Pro Bono Project.

This fall, Citizenship Rutgers, a University-wide initiative to assist green card holders with their naturalization applications, will take place in Camden on Saturday, Oct. 29.

Other new initiatives, including a new wills and advance directives pro bono project, are in the works! Stay tuned for those and fall training dates!

Please join us for the 2011 Philbrook reception, scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 21, which will honor Harold Garwin, Executive Director, Community Health Law Project and a CLAW '72 alum.

CLEs By Faculty

- Over the past year, in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion in *Padilla v. Kentucky*, finding that it was ineffective assistance of counsel to fail to advise a non-citizen defendant about the immigration consequences of a guilty plea, **Prof. Joanne Gottesman** has been actively involved in training state court judges on the intersection between federal immigration law and state criminal law. She presented on the topic at the Conference of Criminal Division Judges at New Jersey Judicial College in November 2010, at the Criminal Law Bench-Bar Conference at the Annual Meeting of the New Jersey State Bar Association in May 2011, and at the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges in July 2011. Prof. Gottesman is also preparing to address New Jersey municipal court judges at their annual meeting in October.
- **Prof. J.C. Lore** is a faculty member for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) and recently taught in the National Session for NITA in Boulder, Colorado. This program is considered the preeminent trial advocacy training program in the country. Among the many other faculty were Bob DuPuy, former President and Chief Operating Officer of Major League Baseball, and trial lawyers ranked among the top 10 of the last 100 years. The faculty is recruited from throughout the country to teach in this national program. Prof. Lore taught a wide-variety of trial skills to attorneys during the two-week program and gave a featured demonstration on direct examination.

Clinic Updates

Civil Practice Clinic (CPC)

During the past academic year, Civil Practice Clinic students provided greatly needed legal services to the South Jersey community. Appearing in courts across the state from Newark to Bridgeton, clinic interns represented clients in a wide range of practice areas, including family, immigration, Social Security Disability, consumer, and housing law.



Among more than 130 cases handled this year, Civil Practice Clinic students successfully advocated before the Social Security Administration on behalf of a mentally ill homeless man seeking Supplemental Security Income, prevented a

mother and child from being evicted from their apartment, resolved a medical debt collection case for a 93-year-old client, and obtained lawful immigration status for a teenage victim of sexual crimes.

While serving the South Jersey community, students enrolled in the Civil Practice Clinic also had the opportunity to hone their lawyering skills by interviewing and counseling clients, arguing motions in court, examining witnesses, negotiating with opposing counsel, taking and defending depositions, and drafting legal documents such as briefs, pleadings, motions, discovery requests, and settlement agreements. The clinic's work is supported by a generous grant from the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

In Their Own Words

Participating in the Civil Practice Clinic (CPC) has been the most valuable and rewarding experience of my time in law school. It has exposed me to the power of the judicial system and reconfirmed my belief that I can make a real difference in my future clients' lives. Through the cases assigned to my team and classmates, I was able to see the broad impact that lawyers have every day — from advocating immigration needs and social security benefits, to planning a will for a mother whose children have stolen from her, to removing a mistaken judgment that impedes a homeowner's ability to refinance, to defending an elderly woman facing a burdensome financial judgment. This first-hand experience acquired through the CPC has provided me a strong foundation on which to build a successful legal career.

- Jason Fortenberry, Class of 2011

Child and Family Advocacy Clinic (CFAC)

The Child and Family Advocacy Clinic (CFAC) provides legal services to abused and neglected children, as well as at-risk children with disabilities. These legal services help ensure that the child welfare system is adequately addressing the client's safety, permanency and well-being needs. In addition, the children being served by CFAC receive legal representation in special education and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cases. According to many of the students in CFAC, the biggest areas of skill development are client interviewing and courtroom advocacy.

"We're really able to advocate for children, ensure that their interests are represented in court, and that they have a voice," says Yuliya Plyushcheva, a 2011 graduate who lives in Cherry Hill. "By spending time with our clients, working the cases, and getting to know their world, we really try to create a little order and peace in the lives of the children and families we represent."

Students in CFAC spend many hours meeting with their child-clients to establish trust and rapport. Plyushcheva says making a connection with the children during interviews and meetings so they feel comfortable talking to them is one of the most important parts of the clinic, and helped her to understand the importance of context for all clients.

"Our clients have many strangers going in and out of their lives, including DYFS workers, therapists, and caregivers. This can be very confusing and stressful for the child, especially the young children," Plyushcheva says. "We really try to focus on the child, answer any questions during regular client counseling sessions, and communicate to them that we are there for his or her needs and interests."

One client, 14-year-old Abe (not his real name), and his grandmother are represented by CFAC in a special education case against a Camden County school district. Abe was originally represented by the clinic in a DYFS case, and when that

Something about our Faculty that You Might Not Know

- Prof. **Pam Jenoff** has published a new novel with Doubleday, *The Things We Cherished*. The novel is the story of Charlotte, a Philadelphia public defender who travels to Europe to take on the case of an accused Nazi collaborator who allegedly turned in his own brother, a Holocaust hero, to the Nazis. Roger mysteriously refuses to help in his own defense, indicating only that a missing antique clock holds the truth about what happened. The intervening chapters show the clock and the lives of those it touched throughout time, becoming in essence a metaphor for the 20th-century Jewish experience in Europe.



case closed, his legal custodian/grandmother retained CFAC for the special education matter. Abe has severe developmental delays and is very limited in his daily functioning. While acting as his Law Guardian in the DYFS case in the fall of 2009, the clinic successfully advocated for an out-of-district placement based upon Abe's complex educational needs. After the family recently moved to another town, the new school district attempted to transfer Abe from the out-of-district school to the new district's multi-disabled program. However, the students objected to the change in school placement based upon the lack of proper notice to the family. In addition, the students successfully argued that the proposed in-district program did not offer all of the services that Abe required under his existing Individual Education Plan. As a result, Abe continues to thrive in his out-of-district school, and according to his grandmother, the clinic students have been Abe's "guardian angels."

In Their Own Words

The Children's Justice Clinic was one of the main elements that attracted me to Rutgers School of Law-Camden. Yet, while I shared a passion for its goals and mission before entering law school, I could not have foreseen that this opportunity would exceed my expectations in every way. Participating in Clinic has been the most rewarding and challenging experience I have been presented with, and I have found it to be both eye-opening and career-defining.

Through the Children's Justice Clinic, I have developed practical lawyering skills that are simply unattainable in the classroom setting. Working under the supervision of the professor, my partner and I conducted discovery and client interviews, negotiated with opposing parties, made strategic decisions affecting our client's case, prepared cross examinations and detention arguments, and began to develop our courtroom presence and the confidence needed to become an effective advocate.

This opportunity to engage in hands-on representation is priceless for any law student. Not only do I feel much more prepared to enter the practice of law, but have gained valuable skills and experience that have helped to set me apart and interest employers in this difficult job market. Furthermore, I have realized that a possible career may lie ahead for me in criminal defense and public interest, which I had never before considered. At the same time, I have been able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our clients, by providing much-needed legal service to them during a time of crisis when a significant loss of liberty hangs in the balance.

Most importantly, our work in the Children's Justice Clinic does not start and end at the courtroom door. By identifying our clients' needs and goals, and helping them to obtain services and get their lives on a positive track, I have seen young clients faced with delinquency problems and seemingly insurmountable odds, begin to envision a meaningful future for themselves. There are simply no words to capture the feeling of making a difference in a young person's life. The Children's Justice Clinic is an asset to both the Camden community and Rutgers School of Law. I would recommend that every student, no matter their aspiration, experience this program during their study of law. Without question, it has been the highlight of my legal education!

- Christine Emery, Class of 2011

Welcome to Visiting Clinical Assistant Professor Christine T. Dougherty!

Due to high enrollment demand from students, Prof. Dougherty co-taught the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic during the 2011 summer session with Profs. Meredith Schalick and Sandra Simkins. Prof. Dougherty graduated from Temple Law School and has extensive experience with child welfare and public benefit cases. She will be teaching CFAC in the fall 2011 while Prof. Schalick is on leave.

Children's Justice Clinic (CJC)

Enabled by the generous funding of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the Children's Justice Clinic continues to provide legal services to children while inspiring its students to contribute to the common good throughout their professional careers. During the previous six months, the CJC represented children on 50 matters throughout southern New Jersey. During that time, the students contributed over 6,000 hours of free legal assistance to the South Jersey community. The students of the CJC had the opportunity to represent children in southern New Jersey in a wide range of delinquency charges and other matters. The range of cases the clinic has accepted recently include: minor disorderly

Something Else that you Might Not Know

- As a Commissioner on the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, Philadelphia's antidiscrimination agency, **Prof. Sarah Ricks** helped draft a report on intergroup conflict in the Philadelphia public schools, the culmination of 11 public hearings. She spoke at the March City Hall press conference releasing the Report. Prof. Ricks also helped draft the first overhaul of the city's antidiscrimination law in 60 years. The new ordinance expands both the plaintiff and defendant classes and increases the penalties. Sarah was invited to be present when Mayor Nutter signed the bill in March. Rutgers-Camden law students have played significant roles at the Commission on Human Relations as summer law clerks, translators, externs, and legal researchers for the Pro Bono Research Project and for the hybrid clinical/writing course, Public Interest Research and Writing.
- **Prof. Sheila Rodriguez** teaches first-year and upper-level legal writing and Animal Law. She also serves on the University of Pennsylvania's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which oversees all research, education, and training involving animals to ensure compliance with federal law. The University of Pennsylvania appointed Prof. Rodriguez as a non-scientist to represent the outside community's interest in the humane treatment of animals.

persons offenses involving crimes such as loitering, minor drug possession, truancy and traffic offenses. Other matters include assaults, drug sales, drug possession, burglary, harassment, violations of probation, violations of parole, court review hearings, and post-dispositional representation for children who are placed in a residential facility.

In 2008, Profs. Sandra Simkins (CJC) and Laura Cohen (Rutgers—Newark) formed a collaboration with the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender and other key stakeholders that was funded by the MacArthur Foundation to develop innovative models of Juvenile Justice reform. From 2008 to now, the grant has allowed the New Jersey team to improve access to counsel for children in the delinquency system. There are three key areas of focus: 1) providing New Jersey children with access to attorneys at their initial detention hearing, 2) providing access to counsel in the post disposition phase (or after the trial is over) and 3) improving special education advocacy.

The students of the CJC have the opportunity to be involved in a wide array of direct representation and policy work related to the MacArthur grant. Last year, CJC students wrote briefs and developed oral arguments for the New Jersey appellate division and the New Jersey Supreme Court in addition to consulting with National Juvenile Justice leaders on juvenile reform issues, and making sure children's rehabilitative needs were met while in placement.

gram has been able to hire experts and appraisers in two complicated real estate cases for elderly clients. In one instance, Rutgers students represented an individual whose home was damaged by fire. Repairs funded by insurance proceeds were performed incorrectly; complicating the case was the likelihood that the insurance adjuster had forged certain documents. In that case, the students were able to use handwriting experts to prove the forgery, and an appraiser to testify to the faulty workmanship in the repairs.

A substantial portion of Joe's generosity has also been used to obtain independent psychological evaluations of our

young Children's Justice Clinic clients: children whose difficult circumstances have landed them in trouble with the law. In each instance, armed with clinical evidence of the clients' potential for rehabilitation, our students have been able to persuade the Camden County Prosecutor to agree to treatment plans targeted toward improving our clients' psychological health and reducing the likelihood of recidivism.

These outcomes are good for vulnerable clients and good for public safety, and might not have been possible without the resources Joe provided to the Law School.

Recent Happenings

Camden Citizenship Rutgers

On April 9, 2011, Dr. Christine Brenner (associate professor of public policy at Rutgers-Camden), Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Public Interest Programs Eve Biskind Kloth, Prof. Joanne Gottesman, and a group of 17 Camden law students traveled to New Brunswick to participate in the first Citizenship Rutgers event. The worked alongside students, faculty, and staff from all three campuses as well as two of our law school alums, Jorge Coombs (CLAW '98) and Audrey Allen (CLAW '04).



Citizen Rutgers

Thanks to the effective outreach done by Anastasia Mann,

Director of the Program on Immigration and Democracy of the Eagleton Institute, nearly 100 attended, and in four hours the Rutgers volunteers assisted 91 Rutgers faculty, staff, students, and their family members prepare their applications for citizenship. All of them left with their applications ready to go, complete with the required photos and large addressed envelopes. Their countries of origin were all over the world; multi-lingual students were speaking at least a dozen different languages.

This university-wide initiative was achieved through the efforts of all three campuses, and provided a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about immigration law, policies and procedure, as well as the true meaning of service.

Once Upon a Time... There was a Third Legal Storytelling Conference

Although this is our first Lawyering Programs newsletter, this isn't my first newsletter article about the Applied Legal Storytelling conferences. I like to write newsy articles about them. Whenever I write one I seem to start with a sentence like this: "What was the biggest storytelling news of the summer?" And the answer that I give always goes something like this: "Right, the release of [fill in Harry Potter reference here]." And, then I break the fourth wall and wistfully sigh that I am not supposed to use my airtime to talk about [repeat Harry Potter reference]. This article hasn't begun much differently, has it?

Now that I have that out of my system, I will buckle down and talk about this summer's third Applied Legal Storytelling conference. The conference series' purpose is to provide a forum for scholars and practitioners to talk about the nature of storytelling as it pertains to the practice of law and the teaching of law students. This year we had the pleasure of traveling to the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, for our three-day dialogue. Over 100 people were in attendance, including professors, deans, practitioners, and

law students.

What is Applied Legal Storytelling? We have been debating that since the conference series began in 2007. Essentially, it is about deliberately incorporating storytelling theory and techniques into the practice of law and into legal education. Although legal writing and clinical professors have been collaborating at individual law schools for many years, this was the first large-scale endeavor of the national legal writing and clinical organizations. The conference was co-sponsored by the Legal Writing Institute (LWI) and the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA).



Presentation at the Storytelling Conference

So, what does this have to do with Rutgers? A lot, really.

There is always a large Rutgers presence at these conferences—there are always several of our lawyering professors in attendance and/or presenting. I am also one of the conference founders and co-organizers. So, you can bet that the program had some pretty formatting. This year Prof. Todd Berger spoke about times when criminal defense lawyers should *not* tell their client's stories. He explored the power of story from the standpoint of understanding that sometimes the best lawyering strategy is to meet the other side's story with silence.

I co-presented with Prof. Steve Johansen of Lewis & Clark "Re-inventing the Second Semester," an argument that legal writing courses should re-orient themselves to focus on the three intertwined concepts of "persuasion, client, storytelling" rather than on the mechanics of a particular document that we call the legal brief. For example, legal arguments contained in briefs are pathways towards the resolution of the client's dilemma, and are thus part of the overall storytelling scheme. They are not something unique to a particular type of document.

Hopefully this snapshot of Rutgers' contributions to this summer's conference will intrigue you enough to want to know more about the proceedings. The opening plenary was given by clinicians at Hofstra who have learned from pros at NBC/Universal how to storyboard a trial just like the pros storyboard movies and television shows. The opening evening also included a debate about whether the conference nomenclature should be "storytelling" or "narrative" or something else entirely (the debate has not yet concluded). In the regular sessions there were presentations about specific types of storytelling in particular areas of law ranging

Upcoming Events

- The Camden launch of Citizenship Rutgers is planned for Saturday, Oct. 29 at the Campus Center. A number of alumni immigration attorneys have volunteered but more volunteers are welcome. Interested individuals should contact Prof. Joanne Gottesman at jgottesm@camden.rutgers.edu.
- The Rutgers School of Law-Camden Federal Prisoner Reentry Project and the Institute for Professional Education will host a Third Circuit Prisoner Reentry Conference in the Campus Center's Multi-Purpose Room on Thursday, Sept. 15. The purpose of the conference is to facilitate collaboration between the various entities doing reentry work and to exchange the best and most innovative ideas in the reentry field.

from child welfare to housing. Some of the most unique topics included the relationship of storytelling in Napoleonic-era maps to modern computer programs that allow someone to show a story in beautiful graphic form; the identification of character arcs in the recent health care reform litigation; the stories of women experiencing law school (presented by two wonderfully poised law students); and the current debate in Great Britain about defendants' inability to question certain witnesses in court or sometimes to even know who they are. That last presentation dropped the jaw of every American law professor in the audience.



Prof. Todd Berger presenting at the Conference

Thanks to the hard work of the conference hosts at the University of Denver, all of the presentations are available on streaming video. You can see it on their law school website <http://www.law.du.edu/storytelling-conference/program>

The conference organizers have already begun plans for the fourth conference, which will be going back to London, where it all began. We would love to see you there.

- Prof. Ruth Anne Robbins



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