



THE UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF LAW

Leadership in Public Service

Fall/Spring
2008-2009

University of Maryland School of Law
Career Development Office

The Verdict (1982)

Frank Galvin:
“Why are you doing this?”

Dr. Gruber: “To do the right thing. Isn’t that why you’re doing it?”

Dear Law School Community:

Thank you for your contributions to community and pro bono services to our communities. We have many highlights to showcase in the Leadership in Public Service Newsletter. Nonetheless, we are interested in sharing your stories.

Please check out the Leadership in Public Service: Community Service & Pro Bono Activities Survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=z52SBvQByPTM5n1SIAYdxQ_3d_3d

We welcome you to take a few moments to review and complete the survey.

The purpose of the Leadership in Public Service Program is to celebrate and support University of Maryland School of Law students in public service through community service and pro bono projects. Ultimately, we hope to inspire law students to become more involved in making a real difference in their communities as future leaders in the legal profession.

Again, thank you for taking time out of your busy lives into making a positive difference in our communities.

Take care and congratulations, Nina!

M. Teresa Schmiedeler, Esq.
Director, Pro Bono & Public Service Initiatives

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Public Service Pathway—Monique Dixon ‘96

Monique Dixon, JD ‘96, didn’t always plan on being a lawyer. When she was an undergraduate at Hunter College, she majored in psychology and planned on going to medical school. However, she also started working part-time at a personal injury law firm, and “found law to be fascinating,” she said. She began to see how the law could be used to improve people’s lives in meaningful ways.

Dixon decided to apply to law schools, and was at-

tracted to the University of Maryland because of its clinical law program. While there, she worked as a



teaching assistant for Professor Sherrilyn Ifill, whom Dixon credits with helping

her develop a passion for public interest law, as well as helping her find almost all of her jobs in the field. “Professor Ifill has been one of the most important mentors in my life,” Dixon said.

During one of Dixon’s summers in law school, she interned for a civil rights law firm in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she focused on

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Contact Us:

We are interested in sharing your stories. Please let us know about any member of the legal profession, faculty, staff or law students involved in either community service or pro bono projects. Please contact M. Teresa Schmiedeler, Director, Pro Bono & Public Service Initiatives, University of Maryland School of Law, 500 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2080.

Telephone: 410-706-2080
Fax: 410-706-0870
tschmiedeler@law.umaryland.edu or

Dixon Cont. from Pg. 1

employment discrimination practices. During another, she participated in the University of Maryland's Asper Fellowship program, and interned for the late federal district court judge, John R. Hargrove, Sr.

While in her last year of law school, Dixon interned for the Public Justice Center (PJC) in Baltimore, where she worked to ensure special education services were being provided to youth waived into the adult criminal system. Upon graduation, she clerked in the Baltimore City Circuit Court for the first African-American female judge in Maryland, Judge Mabel Houze Hubbard. Dixon "found exposure to criminal law to be very helpful," and after her clerkship ended, she returned to PJC as an Equal Justice Works Fellow. Dixon focused on complex litigation at PJC, and one

of the lawsuits she worked on included a class action against Perdue Farms for failing to pay its employees overtime wages.

Dixon's next move was to the Advancement Project, a civil rights project formed by the NAACP, which was "frustrated by the hostility displayed by federal courts toward civil rights issues." Dixon worked at the Advancement Project for eight years, and focused on a mix of litigation and policy work nationwide. One week she would be filing a lawsuit against the housing authority in New Orleans and, the next, working on a voting rights case. One of the biggest lessons she learned while at the Advancement Project was that "lawsuits are not the most effective way to push for social change," she stated. "Only in certain cases."

Currently, the Director of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Program at the Open Society Institute – Baltimore, Dixon has found a way to merge her passion for social justice issues with her firsthand knowledge of how many public interest offices operate. In her new position, she considers grant applications, meets with potential grantees, facilitates forums around pressing social issues affecting juveniles, and serves on various committees and taskforces.

Lucy Shum MDLC Summer Fellowship

Last summer, Arianne Wang, JD '10, interned at the Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC) in Baltimore, where she worked on projects related to children with mental illness in the health care and special education arena. Wang's responsibilities included monitoring residential treatment centers to make sure patients' rights and needs were being met. To accomplish this, she responded to telephone calls from students and parents/guardians, visited mental health facilities, reviewed injury reports and drafted complaint letters. Wang found communicating with the children to be particularly enlightening. She said, "Speaking with the children gave me a glimpse into their world and their daily

battles."

Wang also conducted advocacy work to make evidence-based practices offered by the Department of Juvenile Services and other state



agencies more accessible to delinquent youth with mental illnesses. She researched the use of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) in detention and juve-

nile justice centers across the nation, and analyzed the feasibility of using PBIS in Maryland's juvenile justice system.

Overall, Wang had a "wonderful time" at MDLC. "I was always busy with multiple intellectually stimulating projects, each with a different nature to provide variety," she said. "I learned an immense amount about children's mental health and the related community and legal subjects surrounding it. Everyone at MDLC was warm and helpful, providing a work experience that I think every law student should experience."

Leigh Maddox - Clinical Law Instructor for the Community Justice Clinic

When Leigh Maddox, JD '04, was 19 years old, her life was turned upside down when her best friend of many years was found raped and murdered. According to the police investigation, there were numerous assailants involved; however, only one person was ever convicted. Not wanting to make a “career out of suffering,” Maddox said, she channeled the anger, frustration and deep sadness she felt into a determination to right the wrong of her friend’s death, as well as that of every other innocent victim. She became a law enforcement official.

When Maddox joined the Maryland State Police in 1989, she had “little more than a high school diploma and a burning desire to make a difference in the lives of everyday people.” She worked for the state police for several years, and soon realized she wanted to assume a leadership role in her department. Realizing she would have to further her education in order to do so, Maddox began attending night school at Johns Hopkins University. She earned a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Leadership/Management in 2000.

Over the span of her career with the Maryland State Police Maddox worked in a wide-range of positions, including: patrol trooper and supervisor, criminal investigator, legislative coordinator, public affairs spokesperson, and undercover officer – once successfully infiltrating the Ku Klux Klan in a long-term assignment. Maddox loved law enforcement work because of the in-



sight it gave her into human nature and suffering, but she also felt the need to further develop her analytical skills. She wanted a “frame on which to justify [the] gut decisions” she made in her line of work. So, she applied to law school.

Maddox accepted a position at the University of Maryland School of Law as a Clinical Law Instructor for the Community Justice Clinic in 2008. Shortly afterwards, she was

appointed as a Special Assistant for State’s Attorney, Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office. In both of her roles, Maddox works with clinical students and Baltimore communities to encourage a restorative justice approach to the prosecution of quality of life crimes. Thus far, she has found her work involving drug nuisance abatement, vacant house receivership, and liquor boards to be the most meaningful. She said, “[These issues] have created opportunities for the student attorneys to interface with local communities; forced [them] to learn and apply both the law and the procedure; provided [them] the opportunity to draft, file and argue their first complaint before a judge; and, allowed all involved intersections from which to have meaningful discussions about justice and how we can utilize the system to work towards restoring communities.”

To this day, Maddox still makes decisions based largely on a “gut” feeling. But at least one of her major goals for attending law school has been accomplished. She noted, “...I can back [my decisions] up: if not with the law, then policy!”

Service Notes: Candace Holmes

On March 10, 2009 the Institute of Human Virology, JACQUES Initiative, and students from the schools of law, medicine, nursing, social work, pharmacy, and dental hosted the UMB Candlelit Vigil in honor of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. We had over 200 people in attendance, including volunteers, and friends and family of HIV/AIDS affected individuals. There were several prominent figures and speakers in attendance, including Pastor Frank Reid from Bethel AME Church, representatives from Rep. Elijah Cummings and Mayor Sheila Dixon's Offices. Several health service providers in the Baltimore City community attended the event and provided information on their respective

organizations and their services. We had rapid testing on site for those who were interested in knowing their status. We had visual and creative art displayed throughout the event, some of which was created by HIV/AIDS individuals. It was a great event in the sense that it brought various organizations and people from all walks of life together for one common purpose. The theme running throughout the night was that HIV/AIDS is right here at home and we need to take a more proactive approach in preventative treatment and educating our youth. Personally, I gained a greater understanding of the disease, treatment, and services available; however, I also realized that there is much work to be done in this area and that we all share the responsibility of doing what we can!!

Candace Holmes
JD Candidate, Class of 2009

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Gandhi

Maryland Katrina Project

During the second week of January 2009, approximately 75 law students traveled to Katrina-afflicted areas of the Gulf Coast to assist with civil and criminal legal work, as well as help rehabilitate or build new homes. Law students worked in the offices of the New Orleans Public Defender, Louisiana Capital Assis-

tance Center, and Mississippi for the Center on Justice. Their rehabilitation and building work took place in Biloxi, Mississippi.

The Maryland Katrina Project has been working in Katrina-afflicted areas of the Gulf Coast since 2006. To watch a documentary video on the project, please visit:

<http://www.law.umaryland.edu/students/life/orgs/katrina/>.

UMB Outreach Council and Club UMB

At the request of President Ramsey, a UMB Outreach Council was formed to create a partnership between the UMB graduate schools and the surrounding neighborhood grade schools. The Council is composed of approximately 35 students, faculty, and staff from UMB and representatives from three local community schools. It is coordinated by Barbara Klein and Brian Sturdivant of the UMB Office of External Affairs.

The three initial schools to participate in this partnership are: Vivien T. Thomas High School, Diggs-Johnson Middle School, and George Washington Elementary School. The Council's vision is to provide enriched educational, health, and career experiences and opportunities for community children through this coordinated partnership. The Council aims to strengthen the social impact of UMB in the local community, create many enduring positive relationships, and foster the growth of future Maryland leaders.

To that end, the Council has formed "Club UMB," a tutoring and mentoring program for children in the Council's three partnership schools. Club UMB asks for a volunteer commitment of two to four hours per month. Also, volunteers need to undergo a background check and participate in a two hour training led by Community Law in Action and the UMB Police. To fill out a volunteer application or for more information, please visit: <http://www.umaryland.edu/outreach/>

volunteer_LT.html or contact Brian Sturdivant at bsturdivant@umaryland.edu. You could make the difference in the life of a child!

MLK Service Projects

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Celebrate the service legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Information and pre-registration for the following designated volunteer service projects:

UMB Outreach School Projects: Vivien T. Thomas; Diggs-Johnson Middle School and George Washington Elementary School.

Freedom Academy

Teen Court

Urban Debate League

University of Maryland and BFA Join Together to Help Victims of Katrina

Veronica Berruz from the Juvenile Law Clinic and several students from Baltimore Freedom Academy made a presentation to the Strauss Foundation asking for funds so that the BFA students could go to New Orleans to help Katrina victims. The BFA students working under the direction of Ms. Berruz have spent the whole year studying the problems of Katrina and developing an action plan and budget that would enable them to go to help people less fortunate

than themselves in New Orleans. At the presentation, the students used posters and spoke of the devastation and needs of the New Orleans community. Jan Rivitz, Executive Director of the Strauss Foundation, wanted to know how the experience of these students in New Orleans would be shared with the larger BFA community. The students talked about how they were going to keep

a journal, do an assembly for the school and help other students work with community service when they return. Jan Rivitz was so impressed with the students that at the end of the presentations, she gave them a check so that they will be able to spend their spring vacation working to help others.

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**First Annual Veterans' Legal Assistance
Conference – Friday, April 17, 2009**

Great work Veronica and BFA students.

**Maryland Spring Service Day
Saturday, April 4, 2009**

Many members of our law school community volunteer their time in community service and pro bono projects. In honor of the generosity and commitment to service of the members of the Class of 2008, we have dedicated Saturday, April 4, 2009 as a spring Leadership in Public Service Day to encourage our law school community to become more involved in making a real difference in our community.

Service projects included: Habitat for Humanity, Our Daily Bread and Gwynns Falls Trail: Project Clean Stream. Co-sponsored by the Leadership in Public Service Program, Career Development Office and the Class of 2008 Fund.

www.law.umaryland.edu/alumni/events/spring_service

The University of Maryland School of Law, Leadership in Public Service Program, hosted a Pro Bono Conference & Training for law students and attorneys on Friday, April 17th. The conference addressed veterans issues from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. followed by a free training from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the University of Maryland School of Law. The keynote speaker was Brigadier General James A. Adkins, Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Maryland, who identified challenges facing Maryland's veterans and how the legal community can help. Schweitzer Fellow and Class of 2010 law student, Noah Isserman, and Justin Browne, Class of 2008, and Co-Chair of the Maryland State Bar Association's Military Law Committee partnered with the Homeless Persons Representation Project, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland and University of Maryland School of Law, Leadership in Public Service Program to raise awareness and increase the number of volunteers for veterans. The 2009 ABA Enterprise Fund Veterans Advocacy Pro Bono Project recently awarded a grant to the Homeless Persons Representation Project to work with its partners to establish a state-wide Maryland Emeritus Attorney Veterans Initiative to provide legal representation to veterans who are homeless or at risk at homelessness in Maryland. This grant will provide free training to pro bono attorneys interested in representing veterans applying for VA disability and pension benefits. For more information, please contact Teresa Schmiedeler, Director, Pro Bono & Public Service Initiatives, University of Maryland School of Law at tschmiedeler@law.umaryland.edu

2008 Summer Corps Members

Equal Justice Works is excited to announce our 2008 Summer Corps members. Because you are an Equal Justice Works law school, your students were eligible to apply for this program. With a record number of applications this year, the selection process was very competitive. We would like to extend our congratulations to **University of Maryland School of Law** for its student participation in Summer Corps this year!

Your 2008 Summer Corps members are:

- **Candace Holmes**, American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, (Civil Rights/Civil Liberties)
- **Robin Jacobs**, Public Justice Center, Baltimore, MD, (Civil Rights/Civil Liberties)
- **Kerstin Miller**, Catholic Charities of DC - Immigration Legal Clinic, Silver Spring, MD, (Immigrant Populations/Minorities)
- **Rhona Williams**, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco, CA, (Civil Rights/Civil Liberties)

This year's Summer Corps members represent 125 Equal Justice Works law schools. These 350 first- and second-year law students will each receive a \$1,000 AmeriCorps education award voucher upon completion of a minimum of 300 hours of summer service at a nonprofit public interest organization. Summer Corps members will provide critically needed legal assistance to low-income and underserved communities in 38 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, Summer Corps members gain first-hand experience and legal skills in areas such as client intake, individual representation, research and writing.

Summer Corps members are engaged with a broad range of issues, including civil rights, community economic development, death penalty, disability rights, housing, domestic violence, education, public benefits and workers' rights. For more information about the Summer Corps program, visit <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/programs>.

In addition, for a map of Summer Corps host organizations and members, visit <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/usmap>.

We thank you for your continuing support of our programs and congratulate you on your 2008 Equal Justice Works Summer Corps members!

Sincerely,

Equal Justice Works

Thank you to the many Paul's Place Tutoring Project law student volunteers!

HIGHLIGHTS: Community Service Projects

We are interested in sharing the many stories of students, student organizations, faculty and staff members involved in good works. Many members of our law school community volunteer their time in community service and pro bono projects. Below we have highlighted some of the community service projects at the School of Law:

The University of Maryland School of Law Saturday Service Projects

For several years, the Law School has organized a variety of "Saturday Service Projects," where law students spend a Saturday volunteering with local nonprofit organizations. This past year, students volunteered at Our Daily Bread on several occasions, Gwynn Falls Trail, Habitat for Humanity in the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood, and the Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity.

Students Supporting the Women's Law Center

On Wednesday, April 8, 2009, the Students Supporting the Women's Law Center (SSWLC) hosted its annual spring symposium at the law school. This year's symposium focused on domestic violence, and featured speakers included domestic violence expert from the House of Ruth, who spoke on the cross-cultural effects of domestic violence, and Judge Videtta Brown, a Maryland District Court Judge, former Division Chief of the Domestic Violence Division for the State's Attorney's Office for Baltimore City, and adjunct faculty member at the law school, where she teaches a seminar on domestic violence and the law.

Maryland Public Interest Law Project Annual Silent Auction

On Thursday, March 5, 2009, the Maryland Public Interest Law Project (MPILP) hosted its annual silent auction to raise funds for University of Maryland law students to work full-time this summer for a non-profit or governmental organization providing legal services to underrepresented individuals or communities. MPILP also recognized Dean Karen Rothenberg and Professor Brenda Bratton Blom for their support of public service projects.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to Leadership in Public Service, Community Service and Pro Bono Award recipients: Lucy Hirsch, Lydia Nussbaum, Claire Pierson and Nina Wu



Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland is a partnership of the Maryland State Bar Association and the Maryland Legal Services Corporation.

Thank you to Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc. (PBRC) for partnering with us in our efforts to find ways to expand pro bono opportunities for our law students. The Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc. (PBRC) is the statewide clearinghouse and coordinator of pro bono legal services. The Center's mission is to promote equal access to justice by coordinating and supporting volunteer civil legal services, providing resources and support for legal advocates for the poor, and promoting cooperation within the legal community. Check out PBRC's website at www.probonomd.org.