

News & Notes

Northwestern University School of Law

Fall 2006

Former War Crimes Ambassador Joins Center for International Human Rights as New Director

An Interview with David Scheffer

Earlier this year David Scheffer joined Northwestern Law as the Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw/Robert A. Helman Professor of Law and director of the Center for International Human Rights (CIHR). He took over CIHR from its founder, Douglass Cassel, who is now a law professor at the University of Notre Dame. Scheffer's distinguished résumé includes U.S. ambassador at large for war crimes issues from 1997 to 2001, in which role he acted as chief U.S. negotiator in UN talks to establish the permanent International Criminal Court and helped negotiate the creation of the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia. He was senior adviser and counsel to Madeleine Albright during her term as U.S. permanent representative to the UN. Scheffer recently taught as a visiting professor at Georgetown University Law Center, George Washington University Law School, and Northwestern Law. He served as the senior vice president of the UN Association of the USA in 2002-03. He has held staff positions with the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the U.S. Institute of Peace. Scheffer graduated from Harvard and the Honour School of Jurisprudence at Oxford and received an LLM from Georgetown. Here, he talks about the directions in which he is leading the Center for International Human Rights.



David Scheffer (photo by Jim Ziv)

Q: *What are the CIHR's areas of emphasis?*

A: *Most of our areas of emphasis in this academic year are new directions — highly topical and exciting areas of work — so we have a very dynamic time ahead for the center and the faculty and students working with it. As we secure requisite funding, CIHR is launching four major*

projects. The first is to develop American perspectives and proposals for the 2009 Review Conference of the International Criminal Court. The second is to engage in research, organize roundtable discussions, and develop legislation to advance the emerging principle of the responsibility to protect civilian populations at risk from armed conflicts and atrocities. The third, focusing on corporate human rights responsibility, is to develop an executive training program to brief corporate officials in human rights law; we will also pursue clinical work by students in relevant cases. The fourth is to run human rights law briefings for Seventh Circuit Court federal judges and Illinois state judges. We are also engaging students in clinical work for the international criminal tribunals and assisting with internships at those courts.

Q: *You're not the only person who joined the CIHR this year. Sandra Babcock, your clinical director, is also new. Is the CIHR growing?*

A: *The CIHR is growing. We now have four outstanding faculty members directly associated with the center who are engaged in all of our programs, in addition to teaching the courses for the LLM in international human rights. Aside from myself, they are Professor Sandra Babcock, who is clinical director and an expert on the death penalty and international law; Professor Bridget Arimond, who is the new director of the LLM in international human rights program following her superb supervision of recent years, and who teaches Human Rights Advocacy; and Professor Stephen Sawyer, who teaches interesting courses on international human rights law in transitional societies and from a comparative perspective. I teach the International Human Rights Law and the International Criminal Law courses and oversee all of the CIHR's programs.*

Q: *The CIHR isn't even a decade old. In what ways do you think it has made its mark so far?*

A: *I think the clinical work in which the CIHR faculty members have engaged students and our oversight of the LLM program are our most important achievements. This work has included an inquiry into human rights crimes occurring during the sectarian violence in Northern Ireland in the 1970s, litigation before the U.S. Supreme Court involving the*

Continued on page 3

Message from the Director

Thomas F. Geraghty, Professor of Law, Associate Dean of Clinical Education, and Director, Bluhm Legal Clinic



Tom Geraghty (photo by Jim Ziv)

This newsletter focuses on the Bluhm Legal Clinic's international initiatives. We are most fortunate to have David Scheffer and Sandra Babcock join us this year. As David Scheffer explains in this newsletter's lead article, his work, and the work of Bridget Arimond, Sandra Babcock, and Stephen Sawyer will provide our students with a range of clinical experiences including internships in international

criminal courts, work with international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the death penalty and access to justice, and representation of victims of human rights abuses who seek asylum in the United States.

Just as representation of clients provides the best lesson about the complex social and legal issues that affect the quality of justice in the United States, hands-on clinical experience in the international arena provides students with lessons and perspectives that cannot be taught in the classroom. In-depth understanding of the issues that prompt calls for international human rights protection is essential to making wise judgments about our own domestic and foreign policy.

Our students are our future leaders. Their ability to make wise decisions will be enhanced by knowledge gained at the Center for International Human Rights through their work with faculty, clients, NGOs, and government officials from diverse social, political, ethnic, and national backgrounds.

These opportunities are made possible by outreach to human rights organizations in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Through the work of our clinical faculty, we have developed relationships with human rights advocates and scholars around the world that will enable our students to experience the most exciting and innovative approaches to human rights advocacy.

As part of the effort to expand our students' and our faculty's horizons, we will reach out to attract young human rights advocates to our International Human Rights LLM program. This year, we are fortunate to have a talented group of LLM candidates including, Sandra Adong, a human rights lawyer from Uganda, and Charles Majinge, from the legal clinic and the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania. These two outstanding young lawyers bring us important lessons from the field and commitments to the highest ideals of humanitarian law. Through them and their successors, through our faculty and students, we will continue to foster a community with a commitment to the study and advancement of justice.

Meet the faculty members of the Center for International Human Rights:



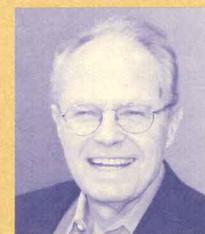
*David Scheffer, Director
and Mayer, Brown, Rowe
& Maw/Robert A. Helman
Professor of Law*



*Sandra Babcock,
Clinical Director and
Clinical Associate
Professor of Law*



*Bridget Arimond,
Director, LLM Program for
International Human
Rights; and Clinical
Assistant Professor of Law*



*Stephen Sawyer,
Clinical Assistant
Professor of Law*

Guantánamo detainees, Alien Tort Claims Act cases, representation of individuals and the state of Mexico regarding the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and the preparation of memoranda of law for the international and hybrid criminal tribunals. Our amicus brief in [the Guantánamo case] *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* earlier this year was largely embraced by the majority and plurality opinions of the Supreme Court in late June. The CIHR also has joined with the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium to hold annual conferences styled as “Transatlantic Dialogues.” The dialogues are our second partnership with the University of Leuven; our two institutions and the T.M.C. Asser Institute in The Netherlands offer a two-week course on human rights each summer in The Hague and in Leuven.

Q: You had a Transatlantic Dialogue this fall, didn't you?

A: Yes, Professor Sawyer suggested that we hold our fifth Transatlantic Dialogue with the Catholic University of Leuven on the humanitarian, security, and judicial challenges of Darfur and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The symposium was held October 5 and October 6 at the Law School. We had an outstanding group of speakers, including the South African ambassador to the United States, a top official of the International Committee for the Red Cross, and distinguished practitioners and professors working on these two critical regions.

Q: There must be a lot of students who are very interested in the CIHR. How many students are involved at any one time?

A: We usually have 10 to 12 students in the LLM in international human rights program each year, in addition to a sizable number of JD students taking the relevant courses and engaging in clinical work. We anticipate the JD students' involvement to increase substantially this year as our new programs are launched.

Q: The issues in which the CIHR is involved must attract considerable attention from the media.

A: Yes, I am afraid that comes with the turf. I've been working with the media for 30 years now, often on a daily basis, and expect that to continue. I am currently a CNN legal analyst for the Saddam Hussein trials, so that keeps me quite busy on the trial days. The other faculty members of the CIHR also are often in the news as well and will continue to be as we move ahead. The whole subject of international law covers such a broad area. Across the spectrum of human activity, international law is there day after day after day, so I'm pleased for the opportunity to get out there and talk about issues. So much of international politics intersects with international law now. I believe media audiences benefit from the input of international lawyers who can unravel some of the complex web of issues emerging each day across the global landscape.

New Program

New Clinic Program Involves Students in Supreme Court Advocacy

This fall the Bluhm Legal Clinic launched a new program that offers students the opportunity to work on cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. The program was created in partnership with Sidley Austin LLP.

“Through this program, our students will be able to participate in Sidley Austin's pro bono Supreme Court practice on all aspects of advocacy before the court,” said Tom Geraghty, director of the Bluhm Legal Clinic.

Students work under the supervision of partners and associates from Sidley Austin, including Northwestern Law alum Carter Phillips (JD '77), a partner at the firm and one of the country's leading Supreme Court practitioners. Phillips has argued more than 50 cases before the Supreme Court.

“From day one Northwestern Law students will be involved in the challenging work that goes into advocating before the U. S. Supreme Court,” said Phillips. “They will be involved in strategic discussions and research on case selection, and they will help write cert petitions, the pleadings that can make the difference in whether

or not the court will review a particular case.

“And students will play significant roles in all that goes into preparing advocates to argue before the court. They will help draft briefs and conduct research on a myriad of issues, including the most interesting and controversial issues of law.”

For the classroom component of the program, clinical faculty will instruct students on Supreme Court practice and help them develop sophisticated research and writing skills. Students will also receive instruction in advocacy, effective presentation of issues to the court, and oral presentation.

For the last 12 years, the Supreme Court pro bono practice of Sidley Austin LLP has been improving the quality of advocacy before the court by helping federal defenders and private counsel think strategically about which cases should be taken to the court and how they should be presented. The Sidley Austin practice works primarily on criminal cases with lawyers representing primarily indigent defendants.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for students to get involved in the most prominent legal work in the country,” said Jeffrey Green, the Sidley Austin partner who is responsible for designing the new program. “What the students will do will live in the law far beyond the litigation.”

Center on Wrongful Convictions Partners with High School Students to Exonerate Man Posthumously

Steven Drizin, legal director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions, has spent much of his legal career working with teenagers as clients, but he experienced teenagers in an unusual capacity during the last academic year — as partners fighting a wrongful conviction.

Two seniors and one junior from Stevenson High School in suburban Lincolnshire teamed with the CWC to help win the exoneration of long-dead Clyde Kennard, who had been wrongfully imprisoned in a case Drizin calls “the saddest” in Mississippi’s sorry civil rights record.

The students’ history teacher, Barry Bradford, contacted Drizin in 2005 for a legal opinion. His students — seniors Callie McCune and Agnes Mazur and junior Mona Ghadiri — had chosen Kennard for their National History Day project and wanted advice about how to use their research to have Kennard exonerated posthumously. Should they go to court? Petition the current Mississippi governor for executive clemency?

Drizin, who had never heard of Clyde Kennard despite his much-better-than-average knowledge of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, looked at their findings and offered more than advice. He took on the case — not taking it over from the students but offering to partner with them.

“It was awesome for regular teenagers to be meeting with a Northwestern lawyer, and it was really awesome for me because I want to be a lawyer,” said Mona Ghadiri, “but the whole intimidation thing lasted only the first couple of seconds. I learned a lot from him — that persistence is very important in these kinds of situations — that there are lots of different angles you can approach a problem from.”

An African American and a veteran of two wars, Kennard was convicted in 1960 and sentenced to seven years in prison for allegedly stealing \$25 worth of chicken feed. Kennard, who had attended high school and three years of college in Chicago, had returned to Mississippi with a year to go on his political science degree to take over the family farm in Hattiesburg from his ill stepfather. Segregationists framed Kennard for theft after he refused to back down from his intention to finish his degree at the all-white Mississippi Southern College, now the University of Southern Mississippi. He was convicted by an all-white jury on the testimony of one alleged witness. Kennard was diagnosed with colon cancer while in prison and died in 1963 at age 33.

In 2005 a Mississippi reporter at the *Clarion-Ledger*, Jerry Mitchell, conducted a three-month investigation into how Kennard was framed. Mitchell was a great resource as the Stevenson students began their project. After the CWC got involved, other Mississippians



were brought in, including Lt. Col. Raylawni Branch, who knew Kennard and two years after his death became the first black person admitted to Mississippi Southern. She persuaded Johnny Lee Roberts, the man who had made the false accusation against

Kennard, to recant. Bobby Owens, the Mississippi-born law student whom Drizin assigned to the case, arranged for Sarah Geraghty of the Southern Center for Human Rights (and daughter of Bluhm Legal Clinic director Tom Geraghty) to take an affidavit from Roberts.

Meanwhile, the Stevenson students continued their historical investigation. With help from their school’s audiovisual department, they produced a video documentary containing interviews with key figures in the case and Kennard’s family. They offered the video for free on the web site that Bradford maintained, www.clydekennard.org.

“It was a cool experience of what it’s like to investigate and use that to form a legal case,” said Callie McCune, who enters the College of Wooster in Ohio this fall.

Along with learning investigative techniques, the students learned that the work of combating wrongful convictions can be an emotional rollercoaster. With Kennard dead more than 40 years, the appropriate legal remedy was unclear. The CWC petitioned the Mississippi Parole Board to recommend that Gov. Haley Barbour pardon Kennard posthumously. But although Barbour publicly declared a belief in Kennard’s innocence, he refused to grant a pardon, and his appointed parole board declined to recommend one. Bradford approached former federal judge Charles Pickering, the father of an acquaintance, who secured the signature of prominent Mississippians on a petition to the Forrest County Circuit Court, where Kennard had been convicted. A circuit judge, taking into account the petition, the CWC’s legal brief, and the Stevenson students’ research, on May 17 declared Kennard’s conviction null and void.

“We were so happy that something we’d worked so hard on ended up turning out the way we wanted it to,” Mona Ghadiri said. “It was the highest high; I hope my life doesn’t peak at 17. Now Clyde Kennard can be remembered as a great person instead of as a convicted felon.”

“I never expected to be able to change history as a high school student,” added Callie McCune. “It feels good, but history shouldn’t have needed to be changed. And we can’t forget that injustice is still going on.”

A consciousness of injustice is a focus of Bradford's history classes. This was the third incident in Mississippi civil rights history that Bradford's students have taken on as a project.

"I was a bit surprised to find such a commitment from high school students, since the 1950s and 1960s are like ancient history to them," Drizin said. "Their activism and concern are really a tribute to what Barry Bradford is doing in his classroom. He is bringing history alive to students, allowing them to revisit history and proving that individuals have the power to change it — much the same as attorneys at the CWC are teaching law students when we seek to exonerate wrongfully convicted inmates."

Bradford called the experience of working with the CWC "a highlight" of his career. "We would have been able to publicize the injustice done to Clyde Kennard, but without Steve Drizin and the CWC, his innocence wouldn't have been legally recognized," he said. "Steve's dedication made the exoneration possible." For his part, Drizin said the experience of working with the high school students was so "rich" that he'd "love to repeat it" with another of Bradford's classes.

Case Updates

CWC Wins Not Guilty Verdict for Client Accused of Killing Son

Faculty and students of the Center on Wrongful Convictions were part of the defense team that successfully represented clinic client Julie Rea Harper in her acquittal on July 26 of the 1997 murder of her 10-year-old son. The CWC defense was led by Ronald S. Safer of Schiff Hardin LLP and Northwestern Law clinical professors Karen Daniel and Jeffrey Urdangen, and included the help of numerous current and former clinic students including Judy Royal (JD '81), a volunteer attorney; **Stephanie Horten (JD '04)**; **David Lieber (JD '05)**; and **Lucinda Gryzenia (JD '06)**. Harper was convicted and served two years in prison before an Illinois appeals court reversed her conviction on a technicality. A serial killer on Death Row in Texas eventually confessed to the crime, and Harper's defense team used extensive forensic evidence to demonstrate that there was a third person in the house who not only killed Joel Kirkpatrick but also attacked Harper.

Program on Civil Litigation wins \$500,000 for Ethiopian Business Owner

Two students, working under the supervision of Sam Tenenbaum, in the Program on Civil Litigation successfully represented an Ethiopian trading company in a commission dispute with a U.S. supplier of water systems to the Ethiopian government. Throughout May, the students, **Joe LaFramboise (JD '06)** and **Julio Gurdian (JD '06)**, handled the pretrial arguments, gave the opening statement, examined one of the U.S. company's principals, and drafted the written closing argument. Outside the courtroom, they examined and organized thousands of documents and developed several winning theories. Their work paid off on July 28 when the court awarded a \$500,000 judgment in their client's favor and held the U.S. company owners individually liable.

CWC Wins New Trial for Lake County Man

Lake County Circuit Court Judge Christopher C. Starck has granted a new trial to Juan Rivera, a man who was convicted of the murder and sexual assault of 11 year old Holly Staker in 1993. The only evidence against Rivera was a confession, wrung out of him after a gruelling interrogation that led Rivera to experience a psychological breakdown. The interrogation was not recorded and the confession (at least in its first two variations) did not match the evidence of the crime. More than a year ago, the CWC obtained new DNA testing of minute quantities of sperm found on swab sticks from Staker's original rape kit. The testing, completed by Ed Blake, produced a complete male profile that did not match Rivera. Since then, there have been many other rounds of testing that have neither linked Rivera to the crime nor identified other suspects.

CFJC Obtains Asylum for Guatemalan Refugee

Faculty and students from the Children and Family Justice Center successfully obtained asylum for a center client on Feb. 21, 2006, after three years working on the case. The client, Juan, fled Guatemala when he was 16. He and his siblings were physically and psychologically abused by their father; however, family and authorities neglected to act. Juan waited almost four years for a hearing on the merits of his asylum claim. The center's legal team was able to persuade the immigration judge that (1) a group of siblings constitutes a particular social group under the asylum statute; (2) child abuse, where severe and sustained and ignored by government authorities, constitutes persecution; (3) a father may be a persecutor under the statute where the status of the victim motivates the abuse and where there are no meaningful government mechanisms to stop the violence; and (4) reaching the age of majority does not eliminate the fear of future persecution at the hands of an abusive parent. Supervised by Vanessa Melendez Lucas (former clinical assistant professor at Northwestern), many students contributed to this case, including most recently **Jessa Desimone (JD '07)**, **Angela Buenaventura (JD '06)**, and **Jennifer Lee (JD '06)**.

Report from Dar es Salaam

by Alex Aixala (JD '08) and Rachel Steinback (JD '08)

Last April, when Professor Geraghty presented us with the opportunity to spend our summer doing a legal internship in Tanzania, we immediately jumped at the chance. The prospect of working for a non-governmental organization (NGO) focusing on the defense of human rights in East Africa was an enticing break from the seemingly endless amount of black letter law we had consumed during our first year classes. Four weeks later, fully vaccinated and armed with an array of guidebooks, we boarded the plane for the 23-hour journey to Dar es Salaam.

Looking back, it's amazing how much we learned — about Tanzanian law, history, and culture — in just nine weeks. Our work at the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) gave us a glimpse of the human rights issues facing Tanzanian citizens, and the efforts being made at the local, national, and international levels to advance a human rights agenda. We also met a group of incredible, bright, and motivated individuals who have decided to dedicate their careers to helping their fellow citizens. While our "accomplishments" over the summer felt paltry, especially as compared to the great level of need, the experience was one that will undoubtedly continue to guide and inform our personal and professional journeys.

The LHRC is an NGO that offers legal assistance, training, and education for indigent Tanzanians. Its three legal aid clinics (two in Dar es Salaam and one in Arusha) inform citizens of their legal rights so that they can represent themselves in Tanzanian primary courts. The Centre also provides legal representation to clients whose cases progress beyond the primary courts. Additionally, the Centre conducts strategic litigation in the public interest, works with elected officials to promote legal reform and advance a human rights agenda, and monitors human rights violations throughout Tanzania which are recorded and publicized in an annual human rights report.

One of the things we found most impressive, and simultaneously most challenging, was the broad scope accorded human rights in Tanzania. Whereas the United States seems to have a somewhat narrow vision of human rights — distinct from civil and political rights — nearly all constitutionally guaranteed rights in Tanzania qualify as human rights. As a result, the Centre works on issues ranging from property rights to HIV/AIDS to child labor exploitation to governmental corruption. The vastness of the LHRC's mandate allows it to tackle a number of serious issues facing Tanzanians. The only drawback, in our opinion, is that in its quest to be a human rights clearinghouse, it has the potential to sacrifice depth for breadth. Perhaps in recognition of these daunting challenges, the NGO community in Tanzania is organizing networks to maximize efficiency and effectiveness.

Most days were spent compiling, researching, and summarizing newspaper stories about human rights violations. Those summaries, supplementing the Centre's own monitoring, will be included in the LHRC Annual Human Rights Report. This seemingly simple task was complicated by the reliability of the media. Despite the principle of free speech that is enshrined in the Tanzanian Constitution, the government retains considerable power over the dissemination of information. The difficulties we encountered in these fact-finding missions spurred us to explore ways in which the Centre could use the internet as a tool to create a more open and honest dialogue on human rights violations within Tanzania. In addition, we analyzed data compiled at the Centre's legal aid clinics to assess areas that may be ripe for strategic litigation, researched the problems of mob justice and extrajudicial killing in Tanzania, and drafted a funding proposal for a Centre-sponsored coalition campaign to end female genital mutilation in Tanzania.

Perhaps the most striking realization was the extent to which poverty impacts all aspects of life. Despite being the business capital of Tanzania, only 15% of Dar es Salaam residents have access to running water. Basic infrastructure needs are lacking, from paved roads to clean water to waste water drainage to electricity. By the end of our time in Dar, we had both become quite accustomed to bathing in a not altogether pleasant bucket shower, dining by candlelight, and drafting research summaries by hand. This poverty, in turn, impacts the actions of people who are able to obtain power — political, economic, or social — and hampers the ability of ordinary citizens to get an education and advocate for themselves in the political arena. For this reason, perhaps the most important way in which the Centre helps indigent Tanzanians is in its continual effort to educate citizens of their legal and political rights. Tanzania only recently adopted a multiparty system, and, while there are opposition parties, the original socialist state party, CCM, retains significant political control. Through education and empowerment, Tanzanian citizens will be able to make their voices heard and will begin to demand accountability from the officials they elect. We are encouraged by the work being done by the Centre, and look forward to seeing its impact in the years to come.

Pro Bono in India: A Clinic Alum Plans Post-Retirement Professional Service



To begin her own pro bono commitment in retirement, **Barbara Putta (JD '75)** promoted pro bono work. But rather than doing volunteer service in the United States, she spent three months in India, where pro bono legal work isn't the tradition it is here. India had another draw as well — Putta's fond memories of honeymooning there in the 1970s.

Putta, retired partner at Butler, Rubin, Saltarelli & Boyd in Chicago, volunteered with the International Senior Lawyers Project, which, as one of its many international justice projects, works with Ashoka: Innovators for the Public to develop pro bono commitments from private law firms in India and other countries. From mid-February to mid-May Putta lived in Bangalore and promoted pro bono service with law firms, law schools, and judges there and in New Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay).

"Oddly, in the land of Gandhi, official firm policies and institutional support of pro bono work do not exist," Putta said, "although I found many individual lawyers were involved in pro bono and human rights activities."

Launching the project in India with Ashoka program coordinator Tanya Jairaj, Putta performed legal needs assessments ranging from employment contracts to the defense of defamation lawsuits against environmental activists. She compiled U.S. models of pro bono structures that could be adapted to Indian contexts. By the time Putta left the project to Jairaj alone, six law firms had agreed to pro bono representation of Ashoka Fellows, who address significant social problems.

"Networking like crazy" was the key to success, Putta said. "For six weeks before my departure, and thereafter for the next three months, I contacted anyone and everyone I knew who could possibly have contacts in the legal community in India." Among her sources were the Bluhm Legal Clinic's Tom Geraghty, Tom Eovaldi, and Sam Tenenbaum. They referred her to Indian Supreme Court Justice **Dalveer Bhandari (LLM '71)**, who offered his assistance in connecting with his retired colleagues.

Putta said she would highly recommend the International Senior Lawyers Project, which places attorneys at or near retirement age in volunteer projects in the developing world. Along with a commitment to social justice, a sense of adventure and flexibility are needed, Putta said: "It's not easy living abroad in a culture so different from what we are used to." She encountered snake charmers outside her apartment building, a lizard in the bedroom and a monkey on the balcony, power outages, hellish traffic, and a stone-throwing, bus-torching riot.

Comparing today's India with the country where she and her husband, Ken, had backpacked for five months as newlyweds 34 years ago, Putta said, "While the educated middle class has found prosperity, the vast majority of Indians live in virtually the same conditions that have existed not just for decades but for centuries. There remains much to be done."

The volunteer project was Putta's first on an international level, although she has been involved in close-to-home public service throughout her career, inspired by her work with the Legal Clinic during law school. She and Ken "have been planning to transition to a joint Peace Corps-type third stage of work for our post-60 years," she said. Ken still has a year to work before retirement, during which time Barbara is studying Spanish and Arabic and preparing for "a long-term joint volunteer project that includes him." Her first international volunteer project is not likely to be her last, she said: "I cannot think of a more interesting and engaging way to spend the remainder of my professional life. Like the Bluhm Legal Clinic, I've discovered that the skills we develop as attorneys in this country can be used in collaboration with our counterparts abroad to help promote access to justice and the rule of law beyond our own borders."

Northwestern University School of Law
BLUHM LEGAL CLINIC

Bluhm Blog

Discussions on clinical education, justice, and legal reform

September 01, 2006

California Legislature Requires Electronic Recording of Interrogations

MORE TRANSPARENCY

California, probably home to more law enforcement officers than any other state in the country, became the fifth state legislature to require that custodial interrogations of suspects be electronically recorded, following Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, and Wisconsin (and the District of Columbia). The bill has passed both Houses of the General Assembly and only awaits the Governor's signature to make it into law. No celebrating yet as there may be a pitched fight to get the Governor to sign. The text of the bill, which does not impose any consequences for the failure to record, is below. Nevertheless, California is a bellwether state in criminal justice circles and this new law will go to great lengths to make the interrogation process more transparent.

Categories: False Confessions

Recent Posts: California Legislature Requires Electronic Recording of Interrogations

Juan Rivera Gets New Trial

Damned if she didn't bring him back, damned if she did

Thank You, John Mark Karr

Archives: September 2006, August 2006

Bloggers: Steve Drizin, Centers' Home Pages, Center on Wrongful Convictions, MacArthur Justice Center, Center for International Human Rights, Small Business Opportunity Center, Children and Family Justice Center, Investor Protection Center

Subscribe to this blog's feed

Check out the new Bluhm Blog at blog.law.northwestern.edu/bluhm. Steve Drizin, Legal Director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions and Assistant Director of the Bluhm Legal Clinic, is posting the latest news and comments on issues related to police interrogations and false confessions.



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Center for International Human Rights

CIHR conducts academic and practical work in support of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

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Center on Wrongful Convictions

CWC is dedicated to identifying and rectifying wrongful convictions and other serious miscarriages of justice. The center has three components: representation, research, and public education.

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Children and Family Justice Center

CEJC is a holistic children's law center, a clinical teaching program, and a research and policy center.

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Fred Bartlit Center for Trial Strategy

The Bartlit Center teaches innovative and technologically advanced trial strategy.

Steven Lubet, *Director*
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Investor Protection Center

IPC provides assistance to investors with limited income or small dollar claims who are unable to obtain legal representation.

J. Samuel Tenenbaum, *Director*
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MacArthur Justice Center

MJC focuses on criminal justice reform, litigating cases involving issues such as prisoner rights, the death penalty, police misconduct, gun control, and indigents' rights to legal representation.

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Small Business Opportunity Center

SBOC is a student-based clinical program providing affordable legal assistance to entrepreneurs, start-ups, and not-for-profit organizations.

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To make a gift to the clinic or one of its centers, please visit www.law.northwestern.edu/giving.

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