

Bluhm Legal Clinic

News & Notes

A Good Year for Exonerations at the Bluhm Legal Clinic

Bluhm Legal Clinic students and faculty, in partnership with local and national organizations and law firms, secured the exonerations of 11 wrongfully convicted prisoners in recent weeks. This significant achievement underscores the impact of important criminal justice reform work being done by the faculty and students of the Bluhm Legal Clinic's Center on Wrongful Convictions and Center on Wrongful Convictions of Youth.

Victory for the Center on Wrongful Convictions: Juan Rivera Released From Prison

Juan Rivera, a client of the Bluhm Legal Clinic's Center on Wrongful Convictions, was released from prison on January 6, 2012, after 19 years behind bars for a rape and murder he did not commit.

Rivera's release came shortly after Lake County State's Attorney Michael Waller announced that the state would not appeal a December 2011 Illinois Appellate Court decision reversing the conviction outright, barring a retrial.

Lake County juries had convicted Rivera three times of the 1992 murder and rape of 11-year-old Holly Staker. All three convictions rested on confessions Rivera made after grueling police interrogation. The third conviction occurred even though DNA testing obtained by the CWC positively excluded him as the source of semen recovered from the child's body.

Over the years, more than 30 Northwestern Law students worked on the case, under the supervision of CWC staff attorneys Jane Raley, Jeffrey Urdangen, and **Judy Royal JD '81**, and a team of Jenner & Block



Juan Rivera speaks with members of the press upon his release from prison as CWC Executive Director Rob Warden looks on.

lawyers including **Terri Mascherin JD '84** and other Northwestern Law graduates.

After Rivera's third conviction in 2009, **Larry Marshall JD '85**, co-founder of the CWC with current Executive Director Rob Warden and now associate dean for clinical education at Stanford University Law School, joined with the CWC and Jenner teams to brief and argue the case before the Appellate Court.

Rivera is among 103 men and women who have been exonerated and released from Illinois prisons since 1986 – and one of 55 whose convictions resulted from false confessions. False confessions are the most prevalent factor in Illinois wrongful convictions – having occurred in 53.4 percent of the cases, while the second most prevalent factor, erroneous eyewitness testimony, occurred in 41.7 percent.

In This Issue

Message from the Director	2
Message from the Dean	2
Featured Center: Center for Criminal Defense	4
Center Updates	6
Faculty Profiles	8
Faculty Publications	9
Special Recognition	10
Recent Events	11

Message from the Director

Building Student Skills and Advocating for Reform: Abolition of the Death Penalty in Illinois

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



A lot has happened since the publication of our last newsletter. The programs of the Bluhm Legal Clinic continue to provide hands-on experiences for 160 students in each semester. In addition, students participate in externships, in trial advocacy, in negotiation, and in our mediation program.

A review of the student journals submitted last semester reveals a marvelous degree of dedication and enthusiasm on the part of students, faculty, and staff.

This level of enthusiasm is due to the efforts of our faculty and to the important and exciting work that goes on in the Bluhm Legal Clinic every day.

This work includes representation of children in our juvenile court, in parole hearings, and in proceedings to remove children from sex offender registries, representation of criminal defendants in our local state and federal courts, representation of children in asylum proceedings, advising entrepreneurs starting businesses, recovering money for vulnerable investors who have been taken advantage of by stock brokers, freeing the wrongfully convicted (11 exonerations this year), seeking compensation for clients who have been wrongfully prosecuted and imprisoned, working on access to justice issues locally and internationally, reducing the population of our local juvenile detention center and improving conditions of confinement there, and providing placements around the world for students working on human rights issues. This work engages and educates students, benefits clients and communities, and has lasting influence and impact on our justice system.

A recent example of the long-term impact of work done by Bluhm Legal Clinic faculty, students, and staff is that of the Bluhm Legal Clinic's Center on Wrongful Convictions. When Governor Pat Quinn signed the bill abolishing the death penalty in Illinois in March of last year, he cited as the most compelling reason for his decision the number of wrongful convictions that Illinois has experienced in recent years. Our Center on Wrongful Convictions, founded by **Lawrence Marshall JD '85** and now directed by Rob Warden and **Steve Drizin JD '86**, provided much of the data upon which Governor Quinn relied in making his momentous decision. In addition a group of Chicago lawyers including Clinic faculty and **Flint Taylor JD '72** exposed the notorious Detective Jon Burge, who was responsible for the coerced and false confessions of several condemned prisoners, now exonerated. Detective Burge was recently convicted and sent to prison for perjury in connection with a federal investigation of police torture in Chicago.

Citizens groups such as the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty pressed the case for abolition to our state legislature relying in part upon the data marshaled and presented by lawyers who represented condemned prisoners. Professor Leigh Bienen of our Law School analyzed the cost of the death penalty in Illinois.

Message from the Dean



Since assuming my new role as dean of Northwestern University School of Law earlier this year, I have familiarized myself with the many wonderful programs of the

Law School, including those of the Bluhm Legal Clinic. I've gotten to know our outstanding clinical faculty and have seen, firsthand, the impressive work of our Bluhm Legal Clinic students and faculty. As the Law School moves forward under my deanship, we will continue the excellence of clinical education at Northwestern. We will do this by ensuring that our clinical faculty is recognized as an essential component of our overall program on legal education, and that the opportunities for student participation in our clinical program are responsive to the new and emerging demands for training and preparation for the profession.

Dean Daniel B. Rodriguez

The process that led to the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois provides a lesson to us all (including our students) about the importance of staying with an issue for the long term and for developing a compelling factual record upon which to base arguments for reform. For an eloquent account of the group effort that produced the legislation and culminated in Governor Quinn's decision to abolish the death penalty in Illinois, see Eric Zorn's Chicago Tribune article entitled "A Toast to all Who Wrote the Death Penalty Abolition Story." The article can be found at: http://blogs.chicagotribune.com/news_columnists_ezorn/2011/03/a-toast-to-all-who-wrote-the-death-penalty-abolition-story.html.

A Good Year for Exonerations

Continued from page 1

The Center for Wrongful Conviction of Youth (CWCY) Prevails in Cases of 9 Wrongfully Convicted Youth

The Center on Wrongful Conviction of Youth (CWCY) (<http://cwcy.org/>) played an integral part in two cases – known as the Dixmoor Five and Englewood Four – resulting in the recent exoneration of nine youths who had been convicted of rape-murders they did not commit and were wrongfully imprisoned for a combined total of 145 years. Seven of the nine defendants falsely confessed, implicating not only themselves but the other two as well.

In the Dixmoor case, the convictions of CWCY client Robert Taylor and his four co-defendants were vacated on November 3, 2011, based on DNA evidence that excluded them as perpetrators of the crime and linked it to a known sex offender. For details see, http://www.chicagotribune.com/search_results/?q=Robert%20Taylor%20and%20dixmoor.

In the Englewood case, CWCY client Terrill Swift and three codefendants were exonerated on January 17, 2012, after prosecutors dropped all charges against them. For details see, http://www.chicagotribune.com/search_results/?q=Terrill%20Swift%20and%20englewood.

“We hope these cases will lead to much-needed reform to curb overly aggressive police interrogations,” said Joshua Tepfer, CWCY project coordinator and staff attorney. In 2003, in recognition of the false-confession problem, the Illinois General Assembly passed a law requiring police to electronically record interrogations of murder suspects, but Tepfer advocates further reform, including limiting the duration of interrogation sessions and restricting the lies that police are permitted to tell to suspects.

CWCY attorneys **Laura Nirider JD '08** and **Steven Drizin JD '86** joined Tepfer in representing Taylor and Swift.

Center on Wrongful Convictions Wins Exoneration of Jacques Rivera

The Center on Wrongful Convictions won the exoneration of Jacques Rivera, who was convicted of a gang-related murder 21 years ago in Chicago and sentenced to 80 years in prison.

Rivera's exoneration is the 70th Cook County exoneration since the Center began tracking such cases in 1989. Rivera was released on October 4, 2011.

The conviction rested solely on the testimony of a 12-year-old eyewitness, Orlando Lopez, who recanted his testimony. Prosecutors challenged the recantation, arguing that it was unbelievable, but Judge Neera Walsh, a former assistant Cook County State's Attorney, said in a written ruling: “The court finds that Lopez was credible in his recantation, and believes that Lopez testified erroneously when he identified petitioner as the man who shot Felix Valentin on August 27, 1988.”



Terrill Swift at the CWC's celebration of recent exonerations.



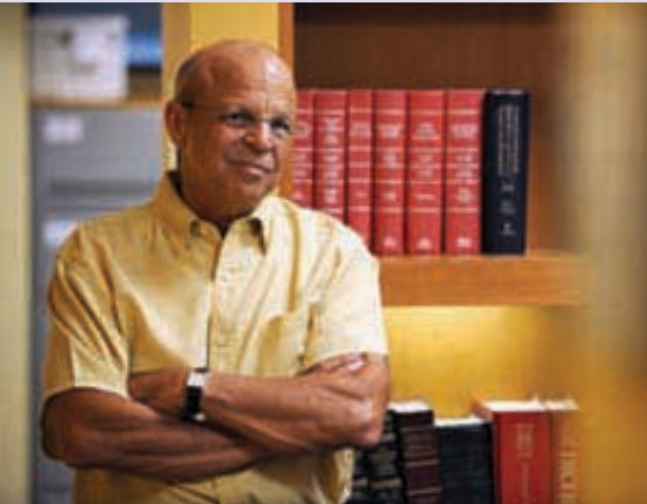
Jacques Rivera embraces his mother upon his release from prison.

She added, “The only reason this court sees for Lopez' recantation now is a desire to correct a mistake. The court is further swayed by the absence of a showing of any possible benefit to Lopez for his recantation.”

Center attorneys Jane Raley and Judy Royal represented Jacques Rivera. Read more at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-man-who-spent-21-years-in-prison-for-murder-to-be-released-20111004,0,489419.story>.

Center for Criminal Defense

Offering Students Invaluable Experience



*Jeffrey Urdangen, Director of the Center for Criminal Defense.
Photo Credit: Randy Lee Belice*

Edwin Buffnire JD '11 recently graduated from Northwestern Law but in the time leading up to graduation, he'd already given an opening statement in Federal Court, cross examined witnesses, participated in a jury selection, and argued motions at trials.

This is invaluable experience that he earned as a student in the Bluhm Legal Clinic's Center for Criminal Defense (CCD),

which provides trial level representation of adult criminal defendants and encompasses, to a lesser degree, the handling of criminal cases at the direct appeal and post-conviction stage.

"My two semesters working with the Center prepared me unbelievably well, as an incoming associate and has given me background experience that will help me immensely as I start my career as an attorney," said Buffnire, who started as a junior associate in the Dallas office of Jackson Walker LLP in August.

Founded in 2003 by director Jeffrey Urdangen, the Center for Criminal Defense defends a wide range of clients who have cases pending in Cook County, the collar counties, various other venues in Illinois, and in the Federal courts.

"It is our mission to give the best representation to people charged with crimes that have a bona fide claim of innocence and strong legitimate defense," said Urdangen, whose career prior to the Center includes 23 years concentrated almost entirely on criminal defense work in the private sector. "Our clients run the gamut from violent offenders to those charged with white collar crimes. There are many constitutional issues involved and many cases dealing with the first and fourth amendment."

While not by definition an innocence project, the Center for Criminal Defense accepts clients with

innocence claims, but because this Center seeks to provide students with comprehensive experience in this area of practice, sometimes cases are accepted where there may be substantial evidence of guilt, but the potential punishment does not appear to fit the allegation. Sentencing advocacy, including negotiating plea agreements, is an essential skill that students learn, working as a criminal defense attorney.

The Center's most recent trial, a fraud case before a jury in Federal Court, crystallizes the importance of student participation at the highest level of advocacy in the criminal justice system. Under Urdangen's watch, Buffnire presented the opening statement, and he and his classmate, **Ben Swetland JD '11**, examined several witnesses during this nearly two week proceeding.

"It was such a meaningful experience. I spent the first two years of law school taking notes sitting in a classroom and all of a sudden I'm in a court room and the jury is taking notes based on what we're saying," said Swetland. "I remember the first witness I had I was nervous because it hit me that I'm in front of a real jury, a real federal judge. By the end of the trial we were more comfortable. We conducted effective cross-examinations of important witnesses."

The Center for Criminal Defense also frequently collaborates with the Center on Wrongful Convictions (CWC), particularly when the CWC is successful in vacating wrongful convictions and needs assistance with new trials.

An example of such a team effort was the 2006 trial of Julie Rae Harper, a CWC client who was acquitted of a murder she did not commit. At her second trial, held in southern Illinois, Urdangen and the Center for Criminal Defense joined the CWC representing Juan Rivera at his third trial in Lake County. Both the Harper and Rivera trials were significant undertakings and involved partnerships with prominent Chicago law firms.

The Center for Criminal Defense also works closely with the Bluhm Legal Clinic's Appellate Advocacy Center, MacArthur Justice Center, Civil Litigation Center, and with the Children and Family Justice Center.

Student Reflection

By Edwin Buffmire JD '11

Before going to trial against the federal government, attorneys often tell their clients that it will be an uphill battle—the government does not lose many cases in federal court. The trial in which **Ben Swetland JD '11** and I, assisted Jeff Urdangen the director of the Center for Criminal Defense, was no different. Our client wanted a jury of his peers to determine where to place the blame in his complex wire fraud case, and we believed in his case.

We spent countless hours sifting through the more than 60,000 documents that made up the government's case. The time spent mastering the details of witness statements and financial records would prove worth every minute. Many of the government's witnesses over the roughly two-week trial were unindicted employees of the used-car business through which the government alleged that our client engaged in a scheme to defraud. Additionally, the government's star witness was originally indicted along with our client and was, for much of the pre-trial preparation, a co-defendant in the trial. But, when the government agreed to defer the prosecution against her in exchange for her testimony, she became a government witness.

In the months leading up to trial, the employees, who worked side-by-side with our client at the used-car business, and with the star witness recalled many incriminating facts about our client. These same witnesses had given statements to the government shortly after the business closed, but they had not mentioned a vast majority of the facts they finally testified to at trial. At trial, Jeff, Ben and I repeatedly pointed out these inconsistencies, but we were unable to convince the judge to acquit our client.

My experience of preparing for a criminal trial, delivering an opening statement and cross-examining witnesses was incredibly formative in my young career as a lawyer. I saw the many factors beyond the hard facts of a case that influence the outcome of a trial, a couple of which I've mentioned. But my education was a collateral consequence of our work. We gave our client the best shot at winning; the importance of that simple truth became especially apparent through my experience with the Clinic. Our justice system's legitimacy relies on challenges to the dominant team. So even though the government won, and we were certainly disappointed for our client, there is a positive takeaway in that we did everything we could to take the winning shot. The ball just doesn't always go through the hoop.



Professor Sandra Babcock with students and colleagues in Malawi.

Students and Faculty Travel to Malawi to Represent Prisoners

Northwestern Law clinic students **Alexis Ortiz LLMHR '12**, **Shin Hahn JD '11**, **Stella Lee JD '12**, **Maribeth Gainard JD '11**, **Kari Talbott JD '12**, and **Katherine Moskop JD '12** accompanied Professor Sandra Babcock to Malawi. The project focused on continuing to advocate on behalf of approximately 200 prisoners who received mandatory death sentences under an antiquated sentencing law later found to be unconstitutional by Malawi's High Court.

Although the High Court decided in 2007 that the mandatory death penalty was unlawful, none of the men and women sentenced under the unconstitutional regime have been resentenced.

Over the past two years, Professor Babcock and her students have begun the laborious process of tracking down their cases, interviewing all of the prisoners and engaging in dialogue with judges, prosecutors and legal aid lawyers about the need to conduct resentencing hearings.

The students also interviewed and prepared bail applications for a number of men who had been held in pretrial detention for years which resulted in the release of 36 prisoners over the last five years.

Most recently in November 2011, Professor Babcock returned to Malawi for a tenth time with clinic students **Katie Pulaski JD '12** and **Kaitlyn Pritchard-Williams JD '12**. During the interviews they conducted on previous visits, they identified a number of men who were sentenced to death for crimes they committed as juveniles. Their death sentences have since been commuted to life, but they have served over a dozen years in an adult maximum security prison when they should have been tried and sentenced in the juvenile system. The team sought their release by meeting with prosecutors and defense lawyers. They also traveled to two prisons to investigate how they could assist prisoners who have no entitlement to legal counsel. Finally, they met with villagers to discuss an innovative program in alternative dispute resolution.

MacArthur Justice Center

The Roderick MacArthur Justice Center recently won a multi-million dollar jury verdict for a client who served 16 years in prison for a murder that he did not commit.

On January 24, 2012, a federal jury in Chicago awarded Thaddeus (T.J.) Jimenez \$25 million in damages for the harm he suffered for his wrongful incarceration from 1993 until his exoneration in 2009.

MacArthur Justice Center director Locke Bowman, along with Northwestern Law alumnus **Stuart Chanen JD '85** and Lisa Carter of the Valorem Law Group, and Jon Loevy of Loevy & Loevy, handled this civil case arising from T.J.'s wrongful conviction.

In 1993, T.J. was arrested at age 13 and sentenced to 45 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. In 2006, students and lawyers from our Center on Wrongful Convictions, including **Steve Drizin JD '86**, Ali Flaum, and Joshua Tepfer, reinvestigated Jimenez's conviction. Together with Chanen, alumna **Rachel Vorbeck JD '96**, and attorneys from the law firm of Katten Muchin, Rosenman, they located the key witness who had recanted his testimony identifying T.J. as the gunman. An audio tape confession by the real murderer made shortly after T.J.'s original conviction was also discovered. The state's attorney's office reopened the case and in 2009, T.J. was exonerated and released.

On June 3, 2009, the presiding judge of the Criminal Division of the Cook County Circuit Court granted Jimenez a certificate of innocence.

Environmental Advocacy Center

The Environmental Advocacy Clinic (EAC) is representing the Village of DePue, Illinois to help ensure a thorough and speedier clean-up of the extreme contamination left behind by nearly a century of operations of a zinc smelter and other industrial activities in DePue. Those activities ended more than 25 years ago, but the hazardous heavy metals and other dangerous pollutants are still there.

At the center of the Village is 500+ acre Lake DePue, a natural resource that is now a highly contaminated part of the site that encompasses most of the village. There are approximately 1800 residents of DePue, most extremely low income and a majority of whom are of a minority. The failure to clean up DePue to date is an important environmental justice issue for these residents and the state. The National Power Boat Racing Association championship races take place on Lake DePue annually in July and serves as a major source of income for the village. This is now risk because of the extensive contamination of the lake.

DePue was named a Superfund site and put on the National Priority List for clean-up in 1999. The EAC is working with the Village in meetings with state and federal enforcement agencies, discussions with the Responsible Parties, and engaging experts to

analyze, evaluate and comment on numerous health and environmental risk assessments that will be the bases for clean-up decisions.

The center is also working with Groundswell Educational Films, which will work to create educational materials that will enable students across the state of Illinois to learn from and engage in efforts to clean up DePue.

Entrepreneurship Law Center Links with Fashion Community



Students visit with a client onsite at the Chicago Fashion Incubator.

This semester the Entrepreneurship Law Center (ELC) is providing legal services for budding fashion designers involved with the Chicago Fashion Incubator (CFI).

Under the supervision of ELC Director Esther Barron, students have helped the designers with entity selection and formation, conducted trademark searches on the designers' brand names, assisted with trademark applications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, drafted Internship Agreements, and drafted Consignment Agreements. They also conducted workshops on legal issues at the CFI.

The CFI provides resources to designers and encourages growth of this industry in the Chicago area.

Immigration Law Clinic Prevails in Longstanding Asylum Case

In a case that has taken six years, the Immigration Law Clinic of the Children and Family Justice Center finally won asylum for a mother of three from Tanzania who was the victim of severe domestic violence. After she fled Tanzania, she divorced her husband and was granted sole custody of her three children, but feared returning to her country where her abusive ex-husband was waiting for her with plans to take her children and circumcise their two daughters.

Clinic faculty and students initially filed for asylum for our client in June 2005. Two months later, the Chicago Asylum Office

referred the client's application to the Chicago Immigration Court seeking dismissal on grounds that the client's case was time barred, a finding that was believed to be based on a misinterpretation of the law and facts. Clinic attorneys decided to ask the asylum office to reconsider its decision.

Four years later, in June 2009, the asylum office issued another decision sending the case back to immigration court. Backlogs in the Immigration Court for a hearing, however, meant that the client's case was not scheduled for a hearing until October 2011. In 2010, the Seventh Circuit decided a case that held that parents could seek asylum based on fear of circumcision to their United States citizen children if the children would be constructively deported with the parents. The immigration judge found that the case was similar to the 2010 case and granted the client asylum after a very short hearing.

Two students, **Michael Monteleone JD '12** and **Alex Ruge JD '12**, played key roles in preparing the prehearing brief that was filed prior to the October 2011 hearing. Over the past six years, at least ten other students have worked on this case. Students interviewed witnesses in Tanzania; researched Tanzanian civil and customary laws; and found two experts, a psychologist who specializes on the effects of domestic violence and a leading human rights lawyer in Tanzania, who provided pro bono expert testimony.

Children and Family Justice Center

The Children and Family Justice Center continues to represent children in juvenile court and in parole hearings. In addition, the CFJC is involved, with its students, in a variety of policy initiatives.

Recent cases have included:

- Representation of a young, mentally disabled girl charged with the attempted murder of her abusive stepfather. Students and faculty investigated the case, arranged for placement of the client in a foster home, and retained and worked with experts who evaluated our client for fitness to stand trial.

After a contested fitness hearing in juvenile court, our client was found unfit to stand trial. She continues to live in a foster home with appropriate educational and social services.

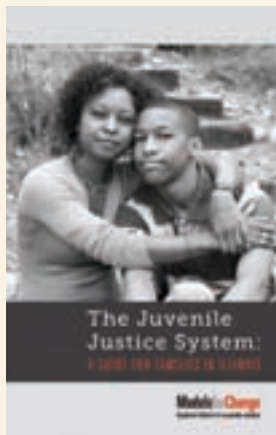
- A severely mentally and physically disabled 14 year-old was charged, along with older juveniles, with a series of robberies. Investigation of the young man's background revealed these previously unknown mental and physical disabilities. CFJC faculty and students worked with medical and psychological experts to assess the client and to develop a post-trial plan for him. The plan was presented to the State's Attorney's Office and to the judge. The client will receive a sentence that will address his significant mental and physical impairments.
- The CFJC has represented several clients who successfully petitioned the court for removal from the state sex offender registry. This is a project undertaken in cooperation with the Juvenile Justice Division of the Law Offices of the Cook County Public Defender.

Policy Initiatives:

- The CFJC continues to work to improve the fairness of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice's parole process. This initiative includes representation of children in parole hearings with the focus on preparation of effective release plans. CFJC faculty and students have also participated in the preparation of a study of the parole process that suggests improvements in procedures that will guarantee fairer and more thorough consideration of applications for parole.
- The issue of the constitutionality of juvenile life without parole (JLWOP) is now before the United States Supreme Court. CFJC faculty and students have been involved in gathering information about Illinois' JLWOP population with the objective of advocating for reform of this sentencing practice.

Recent publications from the CFJC

- The CFJC recently published "*The Juvenile Justice System: A Guide for Families in Illinois*" and a graphic novel for youth entitled "*Know Your Rights.*" To date, the CFJC has distributed nearly 100,000 copies of the publication to youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system.
- The CFJC partnered with the Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy to publish its Spring 2011 issue entitled "*Seize the Moment: Justice for the Child.*"



Professor Rob Owen and Team of Students Defend Death Row Inmates



Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor Rob Owen

The Bluhm Legal Clinic is delighted this year to host Rob Owen as a visiting clinical professor. Owen, who is visiting the Bluhm Legal Clinic from the University of Texas, is one of the nation's leading death penalty lawyers. He recently won a rare stay of execution for Henry Skinner, a Texas inmate who is seeking DNA testing.

Owen works on state and federal death penalty cases, often in collaboration with students, who help with preparing briefs, pleadings and drafting petitions on behalf of condemned prisoners.

"The students' assistance has been a tremendous help, but more importantly they are gaining invaluable hands on experience," said Owen. "Their efforts in investigating facts and researching the law have proven to be extremely helpful."

Owen's long-time client Henry "Hank" Skinner was convicted of the murder of his girlfriend and her two sons in 1995 and was scheduled to be executed on November 9, 2011. A request for a stay of execution was filed in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and was ultimately granted just two days before the execution.

Shortly before the appeals court issued its ruling, Owen and his team, which consisted of Bluhm Legal Clinic students and attorneys from the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, delivered a letter to Governor Rick Perry seeking a stay of the scheduled execution in order to pursue DNA testing that would aim to "resolve once and for all longstanding and troubling questions about the reliability of the verdict in his case."

Prior to the November 9, 2011 execution date, students conducted legal research and drafted arguments in preparation for the last-minute appeal to the Texas Court of Appeals on Skinner's behalf.

Students have also accompanied Owen to Texas to meet with the death row inmates, review documents on their cases, and interview prisoners' family members.

"The students got to see firsthand the reality of the legal system and the effects it can have on the lives of the poor and disadvantaged," said Owen. "It's really challenging as a lawyer to navigate the constantly evolving battlefield to figure out how to protect clients' rights, but so far a combination of hard work and luck has brought us success."

Owen and his students will continue to work on Skinner's behalf as the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals takes up the question of whether recent changes in Texas's law on DNA testing should entitle Skinner to the forensic testing he has sought since 2000.

Collaboration Project Aims to Address Health Disparities



Associate Clinical Professor Juliet Sorenson

A former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Juliet Sorenson has joined the Bluhm Legal Clinic's faculty in 2010 as a member of the Clinic's Center for International Human Rights. In her seven years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, her work addressed fraud and corruption, but she moved to Northwestern to sharpen her focus on international law.

"The Bluhm Legal Clinic is a great place for a specialization in International Criminal Law. My background and experience creates a nice synergy for curriculum and programming," said Sorenson, who is currently an Associate Clinical professor.

While working for the Peace Corps in rural Morocco as a maternal and child health volunteer, she observed the importance of access to basic health as a human right, an interest that spawned a current collaboration project focusing on international health disparities.

The partnership between the Law School, Kellogg School of Management, Feinberg School of Medicine and the McCormick School of Engineering aims to address the issues of basic health care as a human right.

Through this new partnership, working with various non-governmental organizations, the interdisciplinary faculty team will partner with local leaders and health professionals in Bonga, Ethiopia to identify and implement a health intervention.

"The interdisciplinary aspect of this project is so important because it brings together graduate students with a variety of backgrounds and skills to help create a sustainable intervention," added Sorenson.

Members of the Northwestern team will travel to Ethiopia to work with the Ministry of Health and the main teaching hospital in Ethiopia to lay the foundation by conducting a needs assessment based on malnutrition, maternal and child health and mortality rates.

"It is my hope that the work of the many people involved in this project will endure and prove to hold lasting changes, long after we have left. This is the first of many unique opportunities that I hope will have an impact on this important issue."

Faculty Publications



Locke Bowman

- "Efficiency and Cost: The Impact of Videoconferenced Hearings on Bail Decisions," (Co-Authored by Shari Seidman Diamond, Manyee Wong, and Matthew M. Patton) *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* (2010).



Joseph Margulies

- "Deviance, Risk, and Law: Reflections on the Demand for the Preventive Detention of Suspected Terrorists" *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* (2011).
- "Terrorizing Academia," (Co-authored by Hope Metcalf), *Journal of Legal Education*.



Robert P. Burns

- Narrative and Drama in the American Trial, Northwestern Public Law Research Paper No. 11-60 (2011).
- "The Dignity, Rights, and Responsibilities of the Jury: On the Structure of Normative Argument," Northwestern Public Law Research Paper No. 11-59. (2011).
- "What Will We Lose If the Trial Vanishes?" Northwestern Public Law Research Paper No. 11-48 (2011).



Laura Nirider

- "Arresting Development: Convictions of Innocent Youth," *Rutgers Law Review* (2010).



Bernardine Dorhn

- "Seize the Little Moment: Justice for the Child 20 Years at the Children and Family Justice Center," *Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy* (2011).



Stephen Reed

- "Clinical Legal Education at Crossroads: A Self-Focused Self-Study of Self" *Clinical Law Review* (2010).



Steven Drizin

- "The Lee Arthur Hester Case and the Unfinished Business of the United States Supreme Court to Protect Juveniles During Police Interrogation," *Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy* (2011).



David Scheffer

- All the Missing Souls: A Personal History of the War Crimes Tribunals, Princeton University Press (2011).
- "The Argument for the Prosecution," *The New Republic Online Review* (September 26, 2011).
- "The Least Wanted Most Wanted Man," *Foreign Policy* (2011).



Thomas F. Geraghty

- "The Children and Family Justice Center's 20th Anniversary: Splendid Accomplishments and a Wonderful Future," *Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy* (2011).
- "Child Friendly Legal Aid in Africa" (with Diane Geraghty) UNICEF, UNODC and UNDP, (2011).



Joshua A. Tepfer

- "Arresting Development: Convictions of Innocent Youth," *Rutgers Law Review* (2010).



Steven Lubet

- "Haley Barbour, Slavery and the Citizenship Test," *SALON* (2011).
- The Oberlin Fugitive Slave Rescue: A Victory for the Higher Law, *North & South*, Vol. 13, 2011; Northwestern Public Law Research Paper No. 11-11(2011).



Cynthia Wilson

- "Externships in Public Service Experiential Learning Guidebook," Consortium for the Advancement of Public Service in Law Schools, (2011).

Clinic Names New Montgomery Fellow



Montgomery Fellow
Dominique Nong

The Bluhm Legal Clinic recently named Dominique Doan-My Thuy Nong as the first Kenneth & Harle Montgomery Fellow, effective January 1, 2012.

Spearheaded by a grant from the Kenneth & Harle Montgomery Foundation, the fellowship program will train aspiring clinical teachers and public interest lawyers.

Since graduating from the University of Chicago Law School, Dominique has worked at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. She has significant experience in developing and implementing strategies to reduce jail and prison populations.

As a Montgomery Fellow, Nong will work in conjunction with Bluhm Legal Clinic faculty and will supervise law students on projects focused on the reduction of jail and prison populations.

Nong obtained her undergraduate degree from Harvard College and while at the University of Chicago, she was the recipient of the Edwin F. Mandel Clinical Education Program Award and the Donald E. Egan Scholar Award.

Tom Morsch Honored at Transactional Clinician's Conference

Tom Morsch JD '55, founder of the Entrepreneurship Law Center and Professor Emeritus, was recently honored at the 10th Annual Transactional Clinician's Conference. The award was in recognition of Morsch's contributions to the development of transactional clinics at law schools throughout the country. The conference at Northwestern Law School was co-hosted by Northwestern University, University of Chicago, Loyola University Chicago, and DePaul University.

CIHR Student's Report Recognized in National Publication

A team of students with the Human Rights Advocacy Clinic recently wrote a report entitled, "Regulating Death in the Lone Star State: Texas Law Protects Lizards from Needless Suffering, But Not Human Beings," which was referenced in *The Atlantic Monthly*.

The report was written in advance of a Texas execution. It was authored by clinic students **Alexis Ortiz LLMHR '12**, **Kari Talbott JD'12** and **Samantha Picans JD '12**. The report urged Texas to stay all pending executions until the legislature enacts laws that protect human beings to the same extent as cats, dogs, and other animals – including lizards – who are facing death by euthanasia.

The report, released jointly with the ACLU, concludes that there is far more oversight of animal euthanasia procedures than of the lethal injection process used to execute human beings. It also analyzes the web of state and federal regulations that protect animals from cruel and inhuman treatment during the euthanasia process, and concludes that animals receive far greater protection under Texas law than human beings facing execution by lethal injection.

View the article at <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/04/in-texas-a-brave-new-lethal-injection/236800/>

Cambodia Tribunal Monitor Recognized by the Publicity Club of Chicago

The Cambodia Tribunal Monitor (CTM), which is managed by the Bluhm Legal Clinic's Center for International Human Rights, has been awarded the Silver Trumpet Award of the Publicity Club of Chicago.

This is the second year running that CTM has received an award from the Publicity Club, which consists of a network of Chicago-area professionals making up the nation's largest independent public relations membership organization.

The Cambodia Tribunal Monitor is a consortium of academic, philanthropic and non-profit organizations that provide public access to the tribunal.

For the past four years CTM has been funded by the JB and MK Pritzker Family Foundation. The Jasculca Terman Public Relations firm is responsible for web management services.

New Clinic Brochure and DVD Released

The Clinic recently produced a new brochure and DVD that highlights the work of its 13 centers. These centers



house more than 20 clinics offered to Northwestern Law students.

The brochure, along with segments from the DVD, can be viewed on the Clinic's website:

<http://www.law.northwestern.edu/legalclinic/>

Northwestern's Bartlit Center Trial Team Wins National Championship



From left: Andrew Crowder JD '12, Clare Diegel JD '12, Karim Basaria JD '12, Adam Riback and Richard Levin.

The Northwestern Law School Bartlit Center for Trial Strategy team won the 2011 Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) National Trial Competition, the oldest and most prestigious law school trial tournament in the United States.

The winning team included Northwestern Law students **Clare Diegel JD '12** and **Karim Basaria JD '12**, who won all six rounds at the national finals held in Houston. In an extremely close trial, Northwestern won the championship over Chicago-Kent College of Law by a final vote of 10-9. **Andrew Crowder JD '12** was the team's first alternate and provided backup throughout the tournament.

The Bartlit Center team defeated teams from Yale Law School, St. John's University School of Law, and the University of Texas School of Law in the three preliminary rounds, and qualified for the playoff rounds as the No. 1 seed.

Adam Riback and Karen O'Malley, both of the Levin Riback Law Group, and Richard Lakin of Iron Financial, also helped coach the Northwestern team.

The 2011 tournament began with nearly 300 teams competing in 14 regions, with the top 28 teams advancing to Texas. Eight teams survived the three preliminary rounds. Both Northwestern and Chicago-Kent were undefeated going into the final round.

"This year's success demonstrates that Chicago is truly the epicenter of trial advocacy education," said Steven Lubet, the Williams Memorial Professor of Law and director of the Bartlit Center for Trial Strategy. "It is almost always the toughest regional, as was obvious from this year's final round between Northwestern and Kent."

This was the fourth TYLA National Trial Championship for Northwestern, having previously won in 1992, 1997, and 2002.

The team also competed in New York City at the NITA Tournament of Champions in November.

Northwestern's team – Crowder, Diegel, **Sara Whitaker JD '12**, and Basaria – went undefeated in the preliminary rounds, beating teams from Stanford, Wisconsin, Stetson, and Duquesne. Northwestern then defeated Loyola Chicago in the semi-final, before losing narrowly (by a 3-2 vote) to Cumberland Law School in the championship round.

In addition to Northwestern's silver medal, Andrew Crowder was named the tournament's Outstanding Advocate.

Recent Events

7th Annual Entrepreneurship Law Center Conference

The Entrepreneurship Law Center at Northwestern University School of Law (formerly called the Small Business Opportunity Center) hosted its 7th Annual Entrepreneurship Law Center Conference on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at Northwestern University School of Law. The Entrepreneurship Law Center aspires to give participants an introduction to the legal problems entrepreneurs encounter, either as the owner of a business or as attorneys for an enterprise. The focus is to offer practical, relevant information that one needs when designing an entrepreneurial venture.

Along with all-star panelists, the keynote speaker was Tom Churchwell. With years of experience on the Chicago Venture Capital scene, he knows the ins-and-outs of making a business successful.

Atrocity Crimes Litigation Year-in-Review

The Center for International Human Rights (CIHR) at Northwestern Law hosted the Annual Atrocity Crimes Litigation Year-in-Review (2011) Conference on March 14, 2012, at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague. Each year the CIHR convenes this conference to examine the practice and jurisprudence of the major war crimes tribunals during the immediately preceding calendar year. Moderated by Professor David Scheffer, the conference brought together prosecutors, defense counsel, investigators, and administrators of the tribunals, as well as a distinguished academic commentator, to hold a day-long discussion about the preceding year's developments in the dynamic field of international criminal law and where it is litigated.

News & Notes

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