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Dean Gregory Mark and the future of public interest law at DePaul

By David Zwaska '12

Public interest law at DePaul enters a new phase as Gregory Mark begins his tenure as dean of the College of Law. Dean Mark comes to DePaul after a 15-year tenure at Rutgers University School of Law where he served as vice dean, professor of law and center director.

While at Rutgers, Dean Mark served on the board of its Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) for more than a decade. LRAP encourages students to pursue public interest careers by decreasing the financial burden of these careers after graduation. Likening LRAP to funding that students receive while in school, Dean Mark describes the program as “the scholarship at the other end.” The Rutgers LRAP currently has an endowment of \$1 million.

Though the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) grants several LRAP awards annually, the number of applicants far exceeds the number of grants it is able to award. Dean Mark believes in the potential of LRAP and “the commitment of law schools to help public interest students service their debt.”

Educational debt is a top concern among public interest law students and alumni. Though many students seek out DePaul specifically for its focus on public interest opportunities, a significant factor holding them back from a commitment is their concern about loan repayment. Over the summer, prospective public interest law students repeatedly told CPIL their concerns about repaying law school loans on public interest salaries. Acknowledging these concerns, Dean Mark says, “It’s appropriate for the school to help subsidize the debt that public interest students struggle to service.”

Also while at Rutgers, Dean Mark further demonstrated his dedication to public interest by supporting the school’s student-run Public Interest Law Foundation. At the annual public interest scholarship fundraiser, he regularly auctioned off a wine tasting at his home, raising thousands of dollars for student scholarships. DePaul’s student-run Public Interest Law Association also hosts an annual auction to benefit student scholarships, and Dean Mark says he intends to continue donating a wine tasting to the auction.

Dean Mark also supports mentorship programs that connect students with alumni. “These programs are meaningful ways to connect students with practitioners,” he explains. “They are useful for networking, finding jobs and bringing alumni back to [the law] school.”

As the current demand for public interest mentors outweighs the supply, many students are optimistic that mentorship programs will continue to grow. Likewise, the DePaul public interest community is hopeful that Dean Mark will help facilitate their growth.



Dean Gregory Mark brings 15 years of experience to the College of Law.

Additionally, Dean Mark’s experience from Rutgers should serve DePaul well because of the similarities between the two schools, specifically their focus on public interest law. The winter 2011 edition of the National Jurist ranked Rutgers School of Law No. 3 on its list of “Best Law Schools for Public Interest.” The schools were ranked based on their program costs, curricula and public interest job placements.

“Both schools have long-storied traditions of commitment to the public good,” says Dean Mark. “Both schools have shown an openness to those that have otherwise been excluded, such as women and minority students.”

Dean Mark’s attitude coincides with the rise of DePaul as a beacon for public interest law. As this year’s application process demonstrates, incoming students around the nation chose DePaul because of its commitment to public interest law. Given Dean Mark’s longstanding commitment to public interest law—which Rutgers formally recognized with the establishment of the Dean Mark Public Interest Summer Grant—the DePaul public interest community anticipates continued attention to its foremost concerns, and expects DePaul’s commitment to public interest to flourish under his leadership.



GO GREEN!

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For more news and information about the Center for Public Interest Law, visit law.depaul.edu/cpil.

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Errata:

- In the previous newsletter, the article “Gain the Tools to Build Your Own Nonprofit” was credited to Adrian Bleifuss, but was authored by Hillary Richardson.
- “The Journal for Social Justice Symposium: Moving Forward in Juvenile Justice” was credited to Alix Strunk, but was authored by Angela Kalsi.

Summer scholarships enable students to pursue public interest work

By Michael Santomauro ('13)

This year, the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) and the student-run Public Interest Law Association (PILA) awarded dozens of public interest summer scholarships to students working in unpaid public interest positions. Scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and were funded by individual donors, targeted endowment funds and the proceeds from the annual PILA auction.

Third-year student Nickole Miller, honored as one of two Ottley Fellows, is grateful for CPIL's commitment to supporting students who pursue unpaid public interest law work. "CPIL stipends not only impact the lives of the student recipients but also the lives of those served by CPIL summer law clerks," she remarks.

The Ottley Fellowship enabled Miller to spend her summer with the Contra Costa County office of Bay Area Legal Aid, working as a law clerk in the Housing Preservation Unit. Over the course of the summer, Miller successfully argued a Motion for Summary Judgment in the Richmond Superior Court, represented clients at Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher termination hearings, and negotiated settlement agreements between clients and local housing authorities and landlords. She also assisted pro se litigants with pleadings and general housing information at the Pittsburg Superior Court Housing Law Clinic.

"I enjoyed working at Bay Area Legal Aid because it is a people-focused organization; they really care about treating their clients with dignity and respect," Miller says.

Miller's clerkship with Bay Area Legal Aid reaffirmed her commitment to public interest law.

"It gave me confidence that I have the legal and interpersonal skills necessary to be an effective legal aid attorney. After graduation, I plan to return to my home state of California and continue working for the underserved."

Third-year student Jordan Sartell was awarded a 2011 Vincentian Summer Fellowship and a Cudahy Fellowship. Thanks to scholarship funding from CPIL's generous donors, Sartell spent his summer working as a law clerk



Center for Public Interest Law Director and Professor Len Cavise (left) with, from left: Jordan Sartell, Shari Sprosta, Margaret Kuzma, Jason Lee, Judge Richard D. Cudahy, Leah Farmer and Michael Ibrahim.

in the Consumer Fraud Bureau of the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. Sartell's long-term professional goal is to work in consumer protection law.

The opportunity to work for a consumer protection agency over the summer provided invaluable experience for Sartell. At the bureau, he conducted investigations, performed research and drafted complaints. Sartell's work helped the bureau's attorneys enforce the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act, legislation that protects residents from unfair and deceptive business practices.

"I had a great experience at the Attorney General's Office," Sartell says. "My research and writing skills improved a lot, as I received excellent and timely feedback from the bureau's attorneys."

Second-year student, Dana Klaczak was awarded a PILA summer scholarship for her internship at Latinos Progresando, where she provided access to low-cost legal immigration services to clients from around the world.

"The clients at Latinos Progresando enabled me to learn firsthand about problems the immigrant community faces," says Klaczak.

Klaczak prepared document translations, conducted client interviews and worked cases with the legal staff.

"I loved the work I did this summer and hope to keep doing the same type of work in the future," she says.

The path to justice for Chicago torture victims

By Katie Kizer ('12)

On a hot day in June 2010, Jon Burge was convicted of lying about the torture of hundreds of African American men during his time with the Chicago Police Department. After struggling for justice for nearly three decades, the hard work of torture survivors, their families, activists and attorneys finally came to fruition.

As Darrell Cannon, a survivor of Burge's torture, says, "it is long overdue"; however, the battle is far from over. Burge might have been convicted and sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison, but the damage he and his cohorts caused is ongoing. The daily lives of torture survivors and their families are laced with the pain and suffering caused by Burge's reign.

Brad Thompson, organizer and paralegal at the People's Law Office, poignantly describes the need to "honor the over 110 African American citizens of Chicago tortured by the Chicago Police Department, grapple with the impact of city-sponsored torture on black communities, and document the nearly three-decade long (and ongoing) legal and activist struggles for justice."

Although the human toll might never be repaired, the Chicago Torture Justice Memorials project is a beginning



Chicago torture survivor Andrew Wilson.

to the healing process. The project is spearheaded by a coalition of activists from many walks of life. Joey Mogul, director of the DePaul Civil Rights Clinic and a partner at the People's Law Office, is one of the lead organizers of the project. Mogul says the memorial aims to "serve as a public reckoning with police torture in Chicago and honor those who fought to stop it."

Artists, community organizers, attorneys and survivors attended the project launch event in June 2011. DePaul law students and faculty members also attended to learn how they could help with the struggle for justice. The evening included music, performances, testimony from torture survivor Darrell Cannon and a call for proposals to contribute to the project. The gathering was filled with joy, laughter, sadness and inspiration as individuals came together to conceptualize what justice and healing mean in the wake of these tragedies.

Since the launch event, there have been roundtable discussions, speakers, film screenings and workshops dedicated to creating a memorial to honor survivors, their families and the African American communities harmed by decades of torture. Leaders are making every effort to respectfully facilitate a dialogue about how to approach this project. It is clear that the importance of this project will live on, not only in the material of the monument itself, but in the journey as well.

As Mogul reminds us, paraphrasing George Santayana, "It is important for us to remember our past, otherwise we are doomed to repeat it."

For more information on the Chicago Torture Justice Memorials or the history of torture in Chicago, please visit <http://chicagotorture.org>.

MEET THE FACULTY:

By Talitha Hazelton ('12)

Julie Lawton joins the DePaul College of Law faculty this fall as the newest clinical assistant professor, previously serving as supervisor to the Housing and Community Development Clinic at Georgetown University. Prior to teaching, Professor Lawton worked as an attorney with Morrison & Foerster LLP and as a financial analyst in the commercial banking sector. She received her JD from Howard University, LL.M. from Georgetown and BS from Florida A&M University. She can be contacted at jlawton1@depaul.edu.

Q. What type of clinic will you be starting here at DePaul?

I plan to create a yearlong affordable housing transactional legal clinic that will help residents purchase their apartment buildings. The course will have six to eight students and be worth between three and five credit hours.

Q. Who will the clinic's clients be?

An association or organization of tenants. We will work in conjunction with development consultants, community organizers and area leaders to structure these deals in a way to ensure that the residents can afford payments and stay in their homes.



Professor Julie Lawton

Q. Who will benefit from these distressed properties becoming cooperatives owned by tenants?

Everyone can benefit. When a building's mortgage goes into default, the lender looks to address this problem. Foreclosure is long, drawn out and not very profitable for lenders. Instead, the tenants can purchase their building. The bank will be happy because they now have a performing asset, the residents will be happy because they're not being kicked out, and the city will be happy because it is receiving property taxes.

Q. When can students join the clinic?

This spring we will offer a one-semester clinic, but the yearlong program will commence in fall 2012.

Q. What draws you to doing this work?

Helping residents through the process of homeownership is why I do this. But another reason I do this is because of my family. My great-great-grandmother, after being freed from slavery, bought a house in a small town in the South. My family still owns that house. To know that no matter what happens in this world I have a place to lay my head gives me a sense of peace and security. I'd like to share that [feeling] with other people.

Q. What kind of work will the students do?

This experience is unique in that students will give legal counsel to a corporation. They will have the opportunity to counsel the community group, select a management company to run the building, meet with lenders, and make pitches and review loan documents.

Q. What are the steps involved in the process of helping tenants purchase their building?

There are three components:

- (1) Finding a lender willing to allow tenants to buy the building as opposed to auctioning off the building, foreclosing on the property and selling it on the market;
- (2) Finding a tenant group that has the capacity and willingness to go through the process of buying their own building;
- (3) Being able to run the numbers and working with tenant groups to make sure that this is financially viable for the residents.

Continued

Voices of empowerment: human rights revolutionaries in Chiapas

By Amanda Graham ('12)

For 12 years, Professor Leonard Cavise has led DePaul Law students on a 10-day human rights practicum in Chiapas, Mexico, to learn about radical resistance through local human rights revolutionaries. Before leaving, the students spend a semester studying the social, economic and political situation in Chiapas with the goal of traveling as informed and critical observers. Primary course topics include biopiracy, the Zapatista armed uprising, NAFTA, neoliberalism and impunity.

Thanks to the program's long history, the group is able to connect with well-situated human rights leaders in Chiapas. While there, students met with community organizations, indigenous groups, collectives and local activists—all using their organizing power to fight for basic human rights and dignity in Mexico.

During the trip, students spent the day with the indigenous pacifist group Las Abejas of Acteal. In 1997, Las Abejas was holding a vigil for peace when a paramilitary group brutally attacked them, killing 49 people, including pregnant women and children. The student group attended Acteal's memorial mass, had lunch with the community and was able to sit down with the council of Las Abejas for a group discussion.



2011 Chiapas study abroad participants with the local junta.

"We are in a time of silence in anticipation of the Mexican government's response to the recent 200,000-person Zapatista march in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas," a junta member explained.

The group also met with the Centro de Derechos de la Mujer de Chiapas, the Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolome de las Casas, Universidad de la Tierra, Fortaleza de la Mujer Maya, children's centers, indigenous lawyers and individual community activists hiding from the government after protesting corporate destruction of their environment. Students learned about Chiapas history from the nephew of the late Don Samuel Ruiz, a tireless advocate for indigenous people through his position in the Catholic Church.

"The tenacity and struggle of the people in Chiapas is both overwhelming and inspiring."

At the end of each day, the students gathered for charla (group discussion) to share their experiences and reactions. Many students drew parallels between the impunity and government abuse in Chiapas and that in the United States. While students expressed a sense of frustration and despair about the human rights violations, the Chiapanecos countered with inspiring words, ideas for organizing to resist and positive energy.

Third-year student Brian Orozco, a Zapatista admirer before law school and the Chiapas program, was deeply inspired by the trip.

"The tenacity and struggle of the people in Chiapas is both overwhelming and inspiring. It is something that you can't help but take with you wherever you go and spread the word to whoever cares to listen. It was truly an honor to experience the most inspiring struggle against the worst form of injustice."

The people of Chiapas are organizing to powerfully change their society, and we have a lot to learn from their work.



Mesoamerican stepped pyramid structure the Temple of the Inscriptions in Palenque, Chiapas.

Among other inspiring words, the council said its primary goal was peace, "because if we are to retaliate with violence, we would be just as bad as those who hurt us in the first place."

Because of longstanding relationships and months of careful preparation, the group was able to negotiate entry into the Zapatista caracol (autonomous community) at Oventic. Students briefly toured the community and met with the junta (community council). Junta members wore the notorious Zapatista masks and declined to answer questions.

Law Career Services: Expands services and moves to 340 O'Malley

By Alisa M. Rosales, Associate Director of Public Service Law & Law Career Services



From left: Assistant Director Bonnie Tunick, Assistant Dean Elizabeth Ellis, Public Interest Coordinator Elizabeth Boe, Associate Director Alisa M. Rosales and Recruitment Administrative Assistant Cynthia Grimaud.

In July, Law Career Services (LCS) moved into a newly built office suite in 340 O'Malley.

The new facilities are much larger and provide for expanded amenities. The media room may be reserved to schedule phone interviews and will soon be equipped to handle video interviews. The lounge space provides ample room for browsing the Resource Library and using the reference materials.

"We have been adding new resources, especially on networking, etiquette, alternative careers, federal government jobs, interviewing and the general job search. These new resources can provide students with new insights into their career development," says Assistant Director Bonnie Tunick.

LCS also plans to use its new conference room for conference calls, employer visits, staff meetings and its newly launched Student Ambassador Board meetings.

The staff also added more drop-in advising hours for current students during the fall and spring semesters. A career advisor is available for 10-minute advising sessions from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Associate Director Alisa Rosales handles Tuesdays, Dean Elizabeth Ellis handles Wednesdays and Assistant Director Bonnie Tunick, Thursdays.

"This will enable students with an urgent question to stop by on more days of the week, but also plan ahead if they want to see a specific advisor. We're excited to offer expanded services," explains Dean Ellis.

Please stop by to say hello. During the regular terms, the office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday.

PBSCI hosts first summer Donate-a-Day

By Chastidy Burns '12)

On Saturday, July 23, the Pro Bono & Community Service Initiative (PBSCI) and the Loop University Ministry partnered for the first summer Donate-a-Day. PBSCI Donate-a-Day provides meaningful service opportunities for students and alumni whose schedules do not permit extended volunteer commitments.

During this summer's Donate-a-Day, volunteers worked at the soup kitchen in Grace Place Episcopal Church run by First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple. The soup kitchen serves between 75 and 100 homeless individuals every Saturday morning.

In an effort to promote personal interactions and a sense of community, the church provides nametags to both guests and volunteers, and it encourages nourishment of the mind and body by providing time for meditation prior to each meal.

Third-year student Kelly Cronin found the experience highly rewarding, "There is something about providing people in need with such a fundamental necessity that makes you know you are making a difference in the world."

SAVE THE DATE

PBSCI Fall 2011 Donate-a-Days!

- **Friday, October 28**
National Pro Bono Celebration Week,
Center for Disability and Elder Law (CDEL)
Join DePaul alumni in drafting powers-of-attorney and living wills for low-income seniors.
- **Saturday, November 19**
St. Columbanus Food Pantry
Help sort and bag food for at-risk families in Chicago's Park Manor neighborhood.

Contact Chastidy Burns at chastidy.burns@gmail.com for more information about upcoming Donate-a-Days or to volunteer at Grace Place.

Pro Bono & Community Service Initiative delivers school supplies to A.N. Pritzker Elementary School

The Pro Bono & Community Service Initiative (PBSCI) recently completed its second annual school supply drive for homeless and needy students at A.N. Pritzker Elementary School, a pre-k through 8th grade Chicago Public School in Wicker Park. Pritzker is one of PBSCI's partner organizations.

PBSCI Student Site Coordinator Rebecca Birger organized the drive and asked each student organization to consider making a donation. Her efforts paid off. PBSCI Director Cheryl Price delivered five large boxes of supplies, including spiral notebooks, marble composition books, flash drives, pens and pencils, and folders in September. Law school faculty and staff also made generous donations, as did members of the Center for Public Interest Law's Advisory Board.

These school supplies are critical to kids whose families simply cannot afford to purchase them. Pritzker Elementary School Counselor Amanda Szaraz manages the supplies. She explains, "These supplies are so tremendously helpful. They allow our kids to have the tools they need and puts them in a position to learn and be prepared." According to Ms. Szaraz, "the kids come back throughout the year for more supplies as they need them. It is a great feeling to have them available."

The school supply drive is just one of the ways that DePaul's law students are involved at Pritzker Elementary School. Students also teach lessons on the Constitution to 6th and 8th graders, tutor struggling 6th graders and serve as Science and History Fair judges. Through PBSCI's Donate-a-Day program, they assist with Pritzker's school beautification projects, such as painting classrooms, hallways and gardening. Last spring, Pritzker's 6th graders visited the College of Law for a field trip and worked with law students and faculty on a mock trial exercise.



Donate-a-Day participants at A.N. Pritzker Elementary School, from left: Dr. Joenile Albert-Reese, Sufyan Sohel, Chris Bordeaux, Elizabeth Serrano, Chaplain Tom Judge, Mike Schumann and Chastidy Burns.



A.N. Pritzker Elementary School Counselor Amanda Szaraz with PBSCI Director Cheryl Price and Jerry Weissbuch, 6th grade teacher at Pritzker.

Dear Class of 2014:

Congratulations on surviving the first weeks of law school. Pat yourself on the back, because, at this very moment, you are reading something other than a casebook!

As first-year law students, most of my classmates spent their entire first semester reading assigned text and nothing else. We later emerged from months of isolation only to realize that, while we were learning to dissect the opinions of a few elite individuals, we had lost touch with the world that inspired us to attend law school in the first place.

By now, you likely have received plenty of advice on how to "survive" law school. Some of this advice is probably quite useful; however, some of it is hardly helpful, or worse, potentially harmful.

According to Merriam-Webster.com, the definition of "survive" is "to remain alive or in existence." Now ask yourself: Do you want to merely exist within the walls of the school? Or did you come to law school hoping for more? If you came to law school with the goal of accomplishing more than just remaining alive, then it is time to do more than just "survive" your legal studies.

Perhaps you came to law school to give volume to the unheard voices or to fight for those without the means to fight for themselves within the legal system. Hopefully, regardless of your calling, you'll decide to study public interest law because of your passion for social justice.

Above all, do not put your passion on hold for the next year. Yes, the first year of law school is extremely difficult. Yes, it is very likely that you will work harder than you ever have before law school. However, it is possible to make time for things other than studying during your first year. Of course, don't stop going to your classes or reading the cases, but do create time and space in your life to work on projects and with organizations that inspire you.

Volunteering outside the classroom connects you with like-minded peers, with the communities you hope to work with and to attorneys doing the work you dream of pursuing. The work you do and relationships you build will inspire you and revive your spirits.

Participating in opportunities outside the classroom also provides perspective on law school. Maybe you noticed that classroom discussions rarely touch on the social or political contexts of the cases you learn and court opinions seem removed from reality. This is an inherent characteristic of law school pedagogy, of teaching



in a legal vacuum. By reconnecting yourself with the world outside the classroom, by both making time to read material other than your casebooks and volunteering in your community, you begin to incorporate the critical thought component of your legal education, a component almost non-existent in the first-year curriculum.

Finding ways to engage in dialogues outside of the typical classroom discussions is one way to gain perspective. The Center for Public Interest Law is a great resource for finding peers and faculty who can help you on your journey as a socially conscious student through law school.

So, do more than "survive" your first year. Remind yourself why you're here, who you were before law school and why you made the choice to study law in the first place. Then you'll find that "surviving" your first year of law school is easier than you might have thought.

In solidarity,

Courtney Kelledees '13