

Legal Skills Series Preps Students for Real World Advocacy

By Megan Davis ('14)

It's Monday during lunchtime, and housing law and predatory lending adjunct Professor Kelli Dudley is instructing a room of law students on the finer points of motion practice in mortgage foreclosure defense. This is neither a class nor a clinic; students are here voluntarily, choosing to spend their Monday lunch hour taking notes and listening to Professor Dudley offer advice on the best (and worst) practices in defending clients facing mortgage foreclosure. The students in attendance are here as part of the Center for Public Interest Law's (CPIL) newly launched legal skills series.

The public interest law skills series launched on October 8 and seeks to provide students with practical and transferrable legal skills. The first series focused on foreclosure defense and spanned six consecutive Monday lunch hours. Students who attended all six sessions received a certificate of completion that they can add to their resume.

The topics discussed at each session vary from answering complaints, to dealing with opposing counsel, to conforming to the specific pleadings standards within housing law. During the series, Dudley walks students through the procedural steps they must follow for foreclosure complaints and even explains client issues she has encountered in her own practice. "We are lucky to have [her] lead the first session," said CPIL Executive Director Shaye Loughlin. "She is dedicated to training attorneys to help respond to the mortgage foreclosure crisis."

Mortgage foreclosure defense was selected as the first series topic in light of the current housing foreclosure crisis. Recent articles in the Wall Street Journal and Chicago Sun-Times report that many attorneys, including in Cook County, have been aiding corporations in circumventing mortgage laws and defrauding homeowners.¹ The unsettling number of mortgage fraud claims involving licensed attorneys reveals the severe need for competent defense lawyers to protect homeowners and the potential for new employment opportunities in this area of law.

The idea for the public interest skills series came from Mike Persoon ('07), who recognized a disconnect between law school and the real world. Like many graduates, Persoon was forced to teach himself the basics of litigation work when he was hired out of law school. "I was thrown in and had to learn to swim," he recalled of his first assignment, which was a fraud defense case in the middle of the discovery process. Persoon approached



Professor Dudley teaches law students about mortgage foreclosure basics.

CPIL Faculty Director and Professor Leonard Cavise and pitched the idea of a skills series as an integrated approach to help ease the transition from school to attorney practice.

"In these difficult economic times, students are increasingly being forced into solo or small practice where they will have to train themselves in practice skills," said Cavise. "Law schools have traditionally not responded well to what I think is the obligation to train students to practice law." The skills series intends to help remedy this issue by giving students an opportunity to escape the case analysis of a typical doctrinal course and build their skill sets, so they not only learn to "think like lawyers," but to be effective advocates.

Loughlin is pleased with the student response to the first legal skills series: nearly 60 students ranging from 1Ls to 3Ls participated in the foreclosure defense series, far exceeding the anticipated turnout. "Students are clearly excited to seize this opportunity to build more transferable skills."

One of those students is Erin Grotheer ('13), who found the session invaluable as both a civil procedure refresher for the upcoming bar exam and in light of her career track in public interest housing law. "I know that this training will make me more attractive to potential employers," said Grotheer. "This series teaches you precisely what you're supposed to learn in law school: how to be a lawyer."

With positive feedback from students, the first series appeared successful both in expanding students' knowledge of foreclosure practice and generating interest in the role that defense attorneys play in responding to the housing crisis. CPIL is planning future series and hopes to offer at least two per semester.

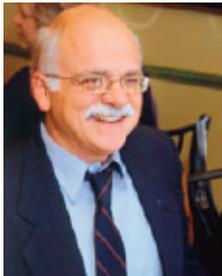
¹ John R. Emshwiller, *Lawyers Land in Hot Water*, Wall Street Journal, September 19, 2012, at A3; Francine Knowles, *Mortgage Rescuers Called Scams*, Chicago Sun-Times, September 28, 2011, at 24.



Spotlight: Professor Len Cavise

Professor Len Cavise Honored with the Arthur Kinoy People's Law Award

By Joey Cavise ('12)



Professor Cavise

On Friday November 2, progressive powerhouses filled the banquet hall of the Irish-American Heritage Center for the annual dinner benefitting the Chicago Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG). Lawyers, legal workers, law students, judges, family and friends gathered to honor and celebrate NLG Chicago's Mass Defense Committee, and DePaul Professor and Director of the Center for Public Interest Law Len Cavise.

The Mass Defense Committee is a brilliant legal team of lawyers, advocates and activists. The committee worked tirelessly to defend arrested protesters and to organize a unified response to Chicago's crackdown on dissent before, during and after the NATO Summit last May. NLG honored the Mass Defense Committee with its inaugural Next Generation Award.

NLG also honored Professor Len Cavise with the Arthur Kinoy People's Law Award. Cavise has taught at DePaul for 30 years and is founder of the Center for Public Interest Law, the Pro Bono & Community Service Initiative the Journal for Social Justice, and co-founder of the International Human Rights Institute. He remains a pillar of the public interest community at DePaul.

This year, DePaul had a remarkable presence at the dinner. The room was lined with tables of alumni, professors and current students. A number of Mass Defense Committee members are DePaul graduates, and both current and former DePaul students are actively engaged in the Next Generation Committee. Also in attendance was the ever-supportive Dean Gregory Mark.

During the award ceremony, Amanda Graham ('12) presented the Next Generation Award to the Mass Defense Committee, and Sarah Gelsomino ('08) presented the Arthur Kinoy People's Law Award to Professor Cavise. Popular DePaul Trial Advocacy Professor Mary Rita Leucke gave the first speech honoring Professor Cavise. Claudia Valenzuela ('02), associate director of litigation at the National Immigrant Justice Center, also spoke honoring Professor Cavise.

Professor Cavise approached the podium to great applause. He began by acknowledging the many progressive champions at the dinner, including the attorneys from the People's Law Office; his first law partner and former NLG President, David Gespass; his long-time friends and colleagues who traveled across the country to be at the dinner and his personal mentor, Ken Tilsen.

Professor Cavise then did what he does best: he advocated. He spoke to the crowd about the challenges that students and young lawyers face as they begin their legal careers while struggling to balance debt with activist passions. He spoke about community and urged lawyers to remember their responsibilities to teach, assist and mentor the new generation. His message, that the progressive community must nurture and support each other, and especially young lawyers, was one more example of the powerful and dedicated advocate that Professor Cavise is for students and young lawyers.

He made me exceptionally proud to be a part of the community he helped build, both at DePaul and within the Guild. It was a wonderful night, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be there to honor the Mass Defense Committee, a team of dedicated and driven peoples' lawyers, and Len Cavise, a great activist, advocate, mentor, friend and father.

“For I was a Stranger, and You Welcomed Me.” - Cardinal Roger Maloney

By **Cortney Redman** ('14)

On October 9, 2012, the College of Law hosted an address and discussion by Cardinal Roger Mahony, archbishop emeritus of Los Angeles, titled “For I was a Stranger, and You Welcomed Me.” The cardinal’s address was followed by the panel “Influencing Immigrant Experience in the U.S.,” which was comprised of six women, most alumnae, active in immigration law: Rebecca Carson (JD '08), chief of staff of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Amany Ezeldin (JD '05), immigration law analyst at the Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Obudsman; Sr. JoAnn Persch, RSM, justice minister for the Chicago Sisters of Mercy; Olga Rojas (JD '95), counsel at Archdiocese of Chicago; Claudia Valenzuela (JD '02), associate director of litigation at the National Immigrant Justice Center; Olivia Villegas (JD '10), staff attorney for Lifespan and co-founder of DePaul’s Society for Asylum and Immigration Law.



Cardinal Mahony

Cardinal Mahony began his address by giving a brief overview of the history of immigration in the United States. He first talked about the three pro-immigration waves that had occurred before transitioning into the anti-immigration mentality of the current fourth wave. Although, the United States has a high need for unskilled laborers and a high supply of immigrants who can fill those roles, it does not have a system that legally allows balancing the need and supply of those laborers.

As Cardinal Mahony discussed the United States’ unbalanced immigration system, he noted, “We send two clear messages simultaneously: stay out and please come.”

During “Influencing Immigrant Experience in the U.S.,” the panelists began by explaining how and why they chose to become an advocate of immigration issues. The reasons varied from being the daughters of immigrants to feeling passionate about a broken system to becoming involved based on mere coincidence. Their proud stories were inspiring for students, as Catherine Leonard ('13) said, “As a student looking to practice immigration law, it was great to see the different career paths that DePaul graduates in the field have taken.”

Sr. JoAnn Persch shared the inspirational story of how she finally gained entry to immigration detention facilities in order to talk to and pray with the detainees. In the beginning of her efforts, she was denied by all immigration officials who she approached, including the staff at the detention facility. After several long years of lobbying and fighting for the rights of men and women, she and her associates, along with more than 100 volunteers, are able to enter the detention facilities to talk and pray with the detainees every week.



Influencing Immigrant Experience in the U.S. panelists.

After sharing the stories of their long, and sometimes arduous, journeys to arrive where they are today, the panelists discussed their opinions on the current immigration situation in the United States. There was an overwhelming consensus as they all agreed that comprehensive immigration reform would be the past path for the United States. However, they commented that after the rejection of the DREAM Act and lock-down of borders post 9/11, comprehensive immigration reform might not be in the immediate future for the United States. Many of the panelists agreed that by simply staying informed and even sending letters to local government officials can make a great difference.

As Olga Rojas asserted, “We have to remind people that immigrants are not terrorists—that they are here to contribute to society.”

Bid-by-Bid, Raising \$100,000 for Public Interest Internship Stipends

By Robin Wagner ('14)

Save the date! Thursday, January 24, the DePaul law community will gather at the Chicago Cultural Center to raise funds for public interest law summer internship stipends.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the College of Law, the Public Interest Law Association has a formidable challenge—raising \$100,000 for summer internship stipends. The challenge came from Dean Gregory Mark, and the student auction team took one collective gulp at the height of the bar, and then launched into action.

When Professors Howard Rubin and Wayne Lewis start the bidding on January 24, they will be presiding over the 17th annual DePaul Law Auction. The auction proceeds will provide funding for students who devote at least 400 hours in the summer to public interest law agencies and organizations. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and play an essential role in allowing students to gain practical experience in volunteer capacities without having to rack up further debt or dilute their experience by finding paid work.

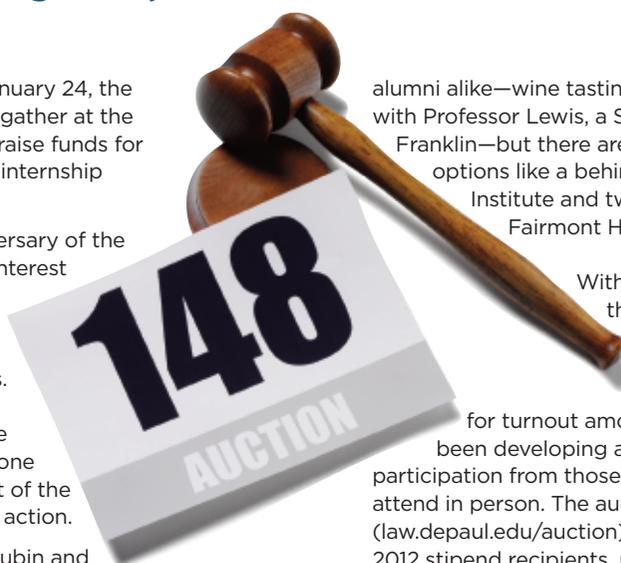
This year the auction planning team hopes to have strong participation from College of Law alumni and community friends. The students have been coordinating with alumni affairs and Dean for Strategic and Community Alliances Francine Soliunas to ensure the event attracts a broad and diverse cross-section of the DePaul law community. Special attention has been paid to acquiring auction items that will appeal to this larger audience.

Of course, there will be the standard faculty donation items that attract exciting bidding wars among students and

alumni alike—wine tasting at Dean Mark's home, movie night with Professor Lewis, a Sox game with Professor David Franklin—but there are also great gift and experience options like a behind-the-scenes tour of the Art Institute and two nights at Chicago's famous Fairmont Hotel.

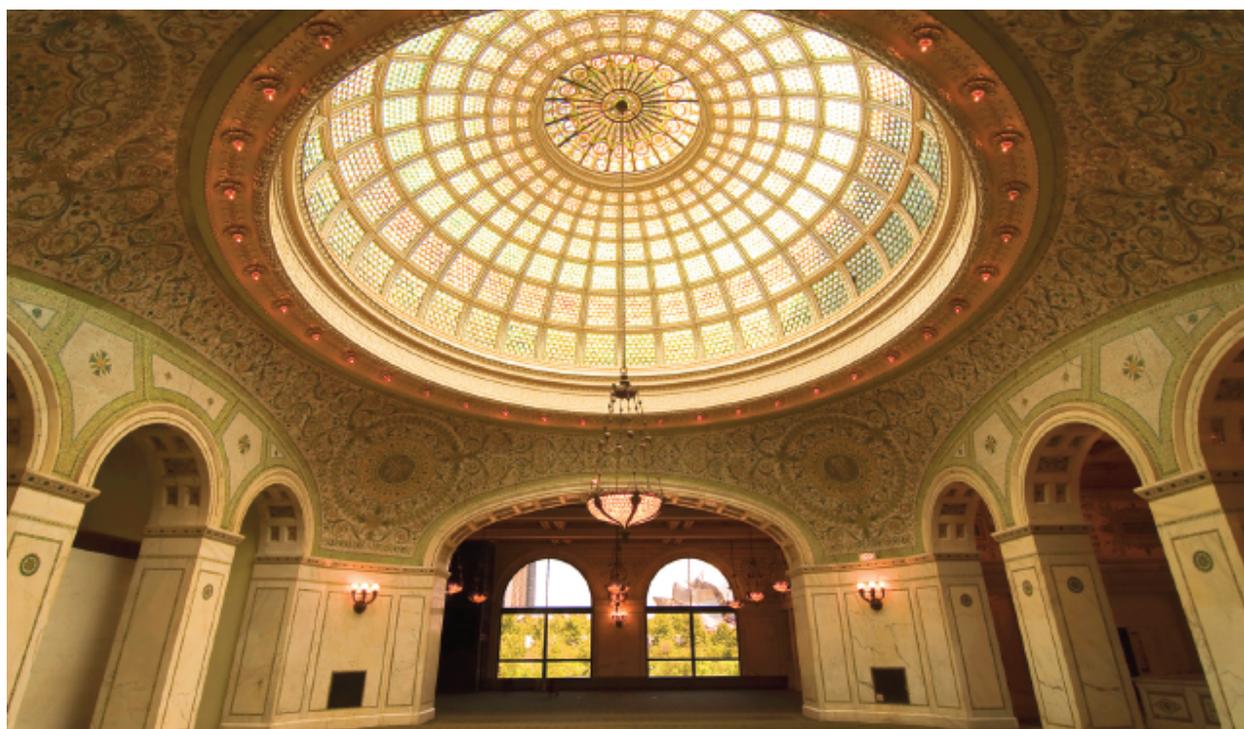
With the fundraising goal set so high this year, the student planning team has been working hard to innovate and pull out all the stops on the event. In addition to competitions for turnout among the 1L sections, the team has been developing an online auction to attract participation from those DePaul law supporters who can't attend in person. The auction website (law.depaul.edu/auction) features video introductions from 2012 stipend recipients, updates on new auction items added, and other details about the event.

Past auctions have raised as much as \$40,000—mostly with only student, faculty and staff participation. This year's ambitious undertaking would not be possible without the extraordinary dedication of the 2013 DePaul Law Auction team. The team especially appreciates the support of Dean Mark and faculty advisors, Professors Allison Tirres and Bruce Ottley.



2013 DePaul Law Auction Team

Robin Wagner, Chair
Caleb Brown, Treasurer
Andrea Wallace, Marketing & P.R.
Megan Davis and Kate Galbraith, Donations Team
Cortney Redman, Catering
John Morris, Volunteer Coordinator
Jason Markovich, Technology
Rachel Shapiro, Program



DePaul Law Auction will take place January 24 at the beautiful Chicago Cultural Center.

Journal for Social Justice Hosts Election Corruption Discussion

By Erin Grotheer ('13)

The *DePaul Journal for Social Justice* offered a progressive perspective to this year's scintillating election by hosting "Election 2012: Free and Fair? Corruption that Threatens the Foundation of our Democracy," on October 31, 2012.

The panel featured four speakers from various voter watchdog groups and democracy advocacy organizations.

The journal decided that in light of the tremendous media exposure of candidates with a tendency to highlight the frivolous, a panel focusing on corporate influence and corruption was necessary. Instead of rehashing broken record talking points, the panelists articulated the ways in which citizens are disenfranchised through corporate influence and status quo politicians' efforts to dilute votes or restrict voting altogether.

Robert Casey ('13) stated, "The speakers were able to present compelling insight into the most local of elections all the way out to the compelling national issues of the day. I was informed and entertained by the scope and insight of the panel as a whole."

The panel began with DePaul alumna Emily Miller (JD '06), policy and government affairs coordinator with Better Government Association, who discussed how local Chicago politicians use government resources and the promise of jobs to maintain control over campaigns and elections. Maryam Judar, community lawyer with Citizen Advocacy Center, then concentrated on how citizens are disenfranchised before they even try to vote due to the restricted ballots on Election Day.

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Esteemed Investigative Journalist Joins the DePaul Legal Clinic

By Elliot Slosar ('13)



John Conroy

DePaul is now home to an individual who unquestionably shed light on and helped to reshape the criminal justice system in Cook County. For the past three decades, John Conroy has been at the forefront of exposing the police torture scandal in Chicago. Without Conroy, the plight suffered by African-American men may have likely gone unnoticed by the public.

Over time, the award-winning investigative reporter left his post at the Chicago Reader to accomplish a plethora of other historic achievements. Conroy, an esteemed journalist, playwright, author and investigator can now add two more titles to his endless resume: Senior Lecturer and Director of Investigations for the DePaul Legal Clinic.

At DePaul, Conroy assists the legal clinics with investigative work for their clients. Additionally, Conroy will teach a fact investigation course in the spring 2013 semester. According to Conroy, his work at DePaul is aligned closely to his past investigative and reporting experiences regarding the Chicago Police torture scandal. Conroy explained, "When I walked into the job and got a chance to examine the cases we're working on this semester I was delighted to realize that I could hit the ground running in two of them." Immediately, Conroy noticed that two clinic clients were tortured into giving false confessions. Conroy realized that he was

"familiar with a good number of the players and their histories." The two clients could not have a more prominent Chicago Police torture investigator at their helm.

In addition to his clinical duties, Conroy will teach a fact investigation class during the spring semester. In that class, Conroy will help law students "learn strategies and methods for effective pretrial fact investigation, to gather tools applicable to a range of legal fields." This is a unique and unprecedented opportunity for students to gain knowledge into the field of pre-trial investigation.

Associate Dean Andrea Lyon is excited about Conroy's addition to the DePaul community. Dean Lyon proclaimed, "John brings decades of intelligence, indefatigable integrity and tenacity to DePaul. He is a hero to many in the human rights community, not just the legal community. I am thrilled he is here, and I believe he adds a dimension to the work we do here at DePaul that would be hard to match anywhere."

Thus far, Conroy's expectations at DePaul have been far exceeded. He relishes the opportunities he has had to teach DePaul students the art of investigation. According to Conroy, pre-trial investigation is often where cases are won or lost. Conroy confessed that his DePaul experience, "Feels great . . . When you teach students who really want to learn, who are dedicated to the cases and concerned about doing the job right, it doesn't feel like a job. It feels like we're all in it together, fighting the good fight. You can't do better than that."

The Power of Redemption

By **Alexandra Hochhauser ('13)**

At Evan Griffith's resentencing hearing on February 29, 2012, Judge Jennifer Bauknecht stated, "I have no doubt based upon the evidence that's presented to me that, in fact, you have been rehabilitated; and I do believe that you are not the same person that walked down to death row back in 1992." That day, Judge Bauknecht gave Evan the first step to finally gaining his freedom this past summer.

On September 12, Death Penalty Law Clinic students had the opportunity to hear Evan speak about his remarkable, and at times horrific, life journey. Evan's story of struggle and redemption began as a small child when he moved from his grandparents' home in Belize to his parents' home in the United States. Evan described that he went from the angelic existence of his grandparents' home to the cold, harsh environment of his parents' home, specifically, the nightmare and abuse that Evan suffered at hands of his father and brother.

Into young adulthood, Evan held on to anger from his horrendous childhood, and was arrested for his first murder at age 16. More than 14 years later he was convicted of felony murder and armed robbery. While incarcerated at Pontiac Prison, Evan became even angrier and more frustrated, and to fill the void of family and support in his life, he became heavily involved in gang life. After being convicted for murdering a fellow gang member while incarcerated at Pontiac Prison, Evan was sentenced to death.

Evan asserts his death sentence was the best thing to ever happen to him, as he was finally able to address some of his deep psychological and emotional issues stemming from his childhood. With the mentorship from fellow death row inmates, Evan was able to begin to heal and eventually was able to let go of the anger he had been carrying and grew into the mature adult that he is today.



From left, Jeff Colman, Evan Griffith, and Professor Lyon.

Associate Dean of Clinical Programs Andrea Lyon, represented Evan after he was resentenced in February 2012. Associate Dean Lyon said, "Evan Griffith is an example of the power of redemption. No one is only the worst thing they ever did in their lives. It is important to ask how did we get here and what we can do in the future."

While Evan's story is remarkable, it is not unique. For those on the path to criminal defense work or currently working in criminal defense, it is important to consider what an attorney's role can be to a client like Evan. A criminal defense attorney, especially the public defender, can significantly impact their client for the better and also be part of that client's road to redemption. "As a public defender, you have a rare opportunity to affect people's lives. However, you have to dig deep and inquire to why your client is in the system," said Sami Silverstein ('13).

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Journal for Social Justice

This is especially true in local elections, where anyone can challenge a candidate's signatures to get on the ballot.

Next, DePaul alumnus Rey Lopez-Calderon (JD '09), executive director of Common Cause Illinois, reviewed the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*. In this case, the court ruled that corporations have first amendment rights that translate into monetary support for candidates through expenditures. Because direct contributions are still restricted and subject to limits, corporations have been forced to assert their influence in more subversive ways. For instance, the Koch brothers, the second largest privately held corporation in the country, are financial supporters of True the Vote, a conservative election polling organization determined to expose voter fraud. True the Vote is determined to intimidate voters, mostly minorities, at election polling stations.

Finally, Ami Gandhi, executive director of South Asian American Policy and Research Institute (SAAPRI), discussed the disenfranchisement of minority voters through language barriers. Federal law requires

geographic areas with a high non-English language population to offer voting materials in that language. Chicago offers materials in Spanish and Chinese, and just a few years ago Hindi was added to the list. However, while performing election protection in 2010, SAAPRI noticed that Hindi language materials were often locked up in cabinets or not offered to the population that needed them. SAAPRI is currently working on a study to gauge perception of corruption in the South Asian American communities and explore how the community can work together to combat political corruption.

Law students and practitioners alike attended the panel, with attorneys receiving two hours of CLE credit. The panelists encouraged the attendees to get involved in this year's election through election protection volunteering. All of the participating organizations were non-partisan and encouraged the attendees to think critically about voting rights, rather than whether or not a particular candidate is getting to use the voting process to his or her advantage.

(Dis)Orientation

By Ryan Levitt ('15)

Assimilation into law school and its culture can be very discordant. If one thing has become clear at this early stage of my legal education, it is that law school is not merely about the piece of paper that comes at the end. On the contrary, law school is an apparatus meant to produce a certain way of analysis; a way of analysis that comes from learning the law without any critical analysis or historical context of the judicial opinions or attention to the existing power structures that form the law. Law school is an institutional process that creates subjectivities. For me, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) Annual City Wide (Dis)Orientation was an interruption of that process.

During his lecture on slavery's role in the formation of the Constitution, Juan Perrea, Distinguished Lee Chair in Constitutional Law at John Marshall Law School, challenged what we were taught to recite in our very first week of constitutional process classes—the infamous Marshall Court's decision, *Marbury v. Madison*. He did so by bringing to light what many of our teachers fail to mention, that the very same court which so nobly seized what power there was for the taking for the federal government also decided 30 pro-slavery cases. As Perrea said, "If you learn a version of constitutional law that omits the pro-slavery Constitution, then you're learning a version that doesn't agree with the vast majority of historians." He also went on to detail the ways in which the Constitution would not even have been ratified if it were not for its support of slavery.



Professor Juan Perrea discusses slavery and the Constitution.

Other students found the discussion equally provocative. As Joseph Williams ('15) said, "Juan Parrea revealed some of the racist origins of the federal government, and [his lecture] made me want to scrutinize my constitutional law class curriculum all year long."

The day's activities, hosted by the newly formed Northwestern Law School NLG chapter, were wide and varied. A student panel of progressive and radical 2Ls and 3Ls from Chicago's various law schools shared tips for like-minded 1Ls. The discussion went much deeper and was far more open than any similar panels at our traditional orientations.

Students also received insight and encouragement from Owen Daniel-McCarter, co-professor of the DePaul Civil Rights Clinic, attorney and co-founder of the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois, and DePaul undergraduate professor. During Daniel-McCarter's discussion, I took away how important it is to rejuvenate myself and stay connected to who I am throughout this process. Sarah Gelsomino, attorney at the People's Law Office, shared optimism and purpose as she discussed the recent legal victory for Occupy Chicago over the city of Chicago. As Ana Mangia ('15) said, "Sarah got me excited to be a part of the NLG, to legal observe, and to generally help others." Law school can be an incredibly disempowering experience and Gelsomino's discussion was an assault on that reality.

(Dis)Orientation was an interruption of law school's subject-producing function, but it was also so much more. It was a place for a community to start setting roots. It was a place to laugh, share, relax, let go of our fears, share complicities and start getting organized.



Anna Lucero, Bernadine Dohrn and Sarah Gelsomino discuss being a People's Lawyer.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATES March 13 and 15, 2013

The Center for Public Interest Law 7th Annual Symposium will take place on Wednesday, March 13 and Friday, March 15, 2013. This year's symposium, "**Fighting the Stigma: Overcoming the Barriers of a Criminal Record**," will feature both an academic conference portion and a day of action hosted in partnership with Cabrini Green Legal Aid.



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