



SEVENTH ANNUAL LAW SCHOOL

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE

THE ROLE OF NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOLS IN
HELPING MEET THE ESSENTIAL CIVIL LEGAL
NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME NEW YORKERS

CONVENED BY THE NEW YORK STATE
PERMANENT COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE
AT ELISABETH HAUB SCHOOL OF LAW AT PACE UNIVERSITY
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK

MAY 15, 2018



9:00-9:30 am **Registration and Check-In** **Gerber Glass Moot Courtroom Foyer**
Light Refreshments

9:30-10:00 am **Welcome and Introductions** **Gerber Glass Moot Courtroom**

Helaine M. Barnett

Chair, New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice

Marvin Krislov

President, Pace University

Horace Anderson, Jr.

Associate Dean, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Opening Remarks

Hon. Janet DiFiore

Chief Judge of the State of New York

10:00-11:30 am **Morning Plenary Session** **Gerber Glass Moot Courtroom**

Strengthening the Access to Justice Pipeline

Introduction

Matthew Diller

Dean and Paul Fuller Professor of Law, Fordham University School of Law; Chair, Law School Involvement Working Group, New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice

Moderator

Mary Lu Bilek

Dean and Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law

Panel

Jordan Dressler

Coordinator, Office of Civil Justice, New York City Human Resources Administration

Adriene Holder

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As government funding increases to ensure all New Yorkers in need have access to civil legal assistance, the demand for legal services grows. Law schools are uniquely positioned to inspire and prepare the next generation of legal professionals to protect civil liberties and preserve democratic values and ideals by advocating on behalf of our most vulnerable individuals. A pipeline that cultivates students to become lawyers and commit to public service is critical. Creating and sustaining this pipeline requires resources, cultural change and collaboration among law schools and across the justice system. The panel will explore existing models and strategies to overcome entrenched systemic factors and offer creative solutions.

11:35-11:45 am **Mid-Morning Briefing** **Gerber Glass Moot Courtroom**

New York State Permanent Commission's Strategic Action Plan to Provide Effective Assistance to All New Yorkers in Need

Helaine M. Barnett

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12:00 -1:15 pm	WORK GROUP SESSIONS: Part 1	Concurrent Sessions
Work Group One	Strengthening the Access to Justice Pipeline: Promoting Opportunities for Law School and Legal Services Work	Ottinger Hall G-202
Facilitators	<p>Harry Ballan Dean, Touro Law Center</p> <p>Lillian Moy Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc.</p>	
Panel	<p>Aissatou Barry Staff Attorney, Housing Unit, The Legal Aid Society; Legal Outreach Alumnus</p> <p>Mohammed Farooqui Associate, Arent Fox LLP; Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights at St. John's University School of Law Alumnus</p> <p>Elise Jaffe Director, Pre-Law Program, Hunter College</p> <p>Degna Levister Assistant Dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management, CUNY School of Law</p> <p>Kent D. Lollis Executive Director for Diversity Initiatives, Law School Admission Council</p>	
<p>The Work Group will consider the Access to Justice Pipeline as a continuum, beginning from outreach to youth in high school and undergraduate programs, to the pre-law programs and support structures that assist students navigate the admissions process and throughout law school. The Work Group will discuss the myriad institutional, cultural, regulatory and socio-economic factors that influence access and opportunity to pursue a legal education and public service careers. We will explore how law schools can endeavor to strengthen the pipeline and broaden access to law school and legal services advocacy and leadership positions. The importance of law school and community leadership in ensuring that all parts of the community are working in unison to fortify the pipeline will be addressed.</p>		
Work Group Two	Pro Bono Scholars Expanding Access to Justice	Ottinger Hall G-101
Facilitators	<p>Kim Diana Connolly Professor of Law and Vice Dean for Advocacy and Experiential Education, University at Buffalo School of Law</p> <p>Gretchen Flint Professor of Law, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University</p>	
<p>The Pro Bono Scholars Program (PBSP), established in 2014, offers third-year law students an immersive, practical experience in providing legal services to people in need. Immediately after taking the February Bar Examination, Pro Bono Scholars (PBS) spend the final law school semester working under the supervision of legal services lawyers, often providing legal services to low-income individuals facing challenges to the essentials of life: housing (including eviction, foreclosures and homelessness); family matters (including domestic violence, children and domestic stability); access to healthcare and education; subsistence income (including wages, disability and other benefits); and consumer debt. The Scholars participate in a weekly academic seminar with a law school professor that highlights access-to-justice principles and issues.</p> <p>Since the inaugural class in 2015, Pro Bono Scholars have worked to help low-income New Yorkers confronting legal challenges caused by poverty. How has the PBSP impacted the pipeline into legal services and public interest work? How has the PBS experience influenced the career paths of scholars? Do placements lead to permanent jobs?</p>		

Work Group Three **Optimizing Law School Instruction and the Hiring Process to Meet the Challenge of the Universal Access to Legal Services Law in New York City Housing Court**

Ottinger Hall G-01

Over the next four years, New York City's implementation efforts and funding to ensure the right to legal representation for all low-income tenants in eviction cases and establish a system of legal advice for those who are over-income will fundamentally change housing law and practice. To meet the demand under the new law, legal services provider organizations will be hiring hundreds of new housing lawyers. This Work Group will explore ways to promote public interest housing work in law schools, and discuss the promise of increased opportunities for legal services work in the housing field. It will also look at the impact of New York City's universal access to legal services law on providers' hiring practices for housing lawyers and on career counseling at the law schools.

Facilitators

Raymond Brescia

Professor of Law, Albany Law School

Andrew Scherer

Policy Director, Impact Center for Public Interest Law, New York Law School

PART 1
12:00-1:15 pm

How Law Schools Can Strengthen the Pipeline: Best Practices in Preparing Law Students for Public Interest and Housing Lawyering

The session will highlight innovative law school programs, projects, clinics and externships that equip students with the knowledge, skills, cultural competencies and professional values to become housing law practitioners.

Panel

Kim Hawkins

Professor, New York Law School Housing Rights Clinic

Leah Horowitz

Director of Student Organizations and Publicity and Director of Housing Justice Initiative, Fordham University School of Law

Leah Goodridge

Supervising Attorney, Housing Project, Mobilization for Justice; Clinical Law Professor, Brooklyn Law School Housing Rights Clinic (2017)

Pablo Zevallos

Student Leader, Columbia Law School Tenants' Rights Project; 2019 J.D. Candidate, Columbia Law School

PART 2
2:25-3:45 pm

From Law Student to Housing Practitioner: The Hiring Process in the Era of Universal Access

Dedicated government funding for housing lawyers creates opportunities and challenges for law schools and legal services providers. This session will examine the respective roles of the law schools and the providers in the hiring process, and explore how law schools and providers can work together most effectively to assure that the most highly qualified attorneys enter this growing workforce and provide the best possible legal assistance to clients.

Panel

Jordan Dressler

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Poverty Justice Solutions Fellow, Make the Road New York

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Attorney-in-Charge, Queens Neighborhood Office, The Legal Aid Society

Sam Sue

Director of Career Planning, CUNY School of Law

Work Group Four	Protecting the Rights of Immigrants in Our Communities: Law Schools Working to Ensure Representation	Ottinger Hall G-201
Facilitators	<p>Lenni B. Benson Professor of Law and Director, Safe Passage Project Clinic, New York Law School</p> <p>Sarah Rogerson Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Immigration Law Clinic, Albany Law School</p>	
Panel	<p>Marilyn E. Alvarado Paralegal, Safe Passage Project; 2017-2018 Beyond the Bars Fellow, Center for Justice at Columbia University; 2016 Unaccompanied Latin American Minor Project (U-LAMP) U-LAMPER, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice</p> <p>Jon-Yin Chong Student Director, Low-Income Taxpayer Law and Accounting Practicum, Cornell College of Business and Cornell Law School; 2018 Masters of Management Candidate, Cornell University</p> <p>Camille J. Mackler Director of Immigration Legal Policy, New York Immigration Coalition</p> <p>Isabel Martinez Assistant Professor; Founding Director, Unaccompanied Latin American Minor Project (U-LAMP); Faculty Director, Adelante! Latina/o Leadership Program; and Faculty Advisor, JJay Dreamers, Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies, John Jay College of Criminal Justice</p> <p>The Work Group will profile law school programs, clinics and initiatives that involve community and interdisciplinary collaborations to assist immigrants. The Work Group will explore ways to engage pre-law students in immigration work, as well as how to create an awareness among college and high school students and their advisors that the study and practice of immigration law presents myriad opportunities across multiple disciplines.</p>	
1:25-2:15 pm	Lunch	Tudor Room, Preston Hall
1:45-2:00 pm	<p>Outcomes Tracking for Civil Legal Aid David Udell Executive Director, National Center for Access to Justice at Fordham University School of Law</p> <p>Amy Widman Deputy Director, National Center for Access to Justice at Fordham University School of Law</p>	
2:25-3:45 pm	Work Group Sessions: Part 2	Concurrent Sessions Continue In Same Rooms
3:55-4:25 pm	<p>Closing Plenary Session Dean Matthew Diller and Dean Mary Lu Bilek</p> <p>Reports from Facilitators of Work Group Sessions</p> <p>Concluding Remarks Helaine M. Barnett</p>	

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