

USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW

CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

News and Current Issues: Fall/Winter 2012

PCJP Expands Focus to Represent Youth Offenders

Fair Sentencing for Youth Act offers hope to juveniles serving life terms.



PCJP's Elizabeth Lozano (center) was 16-years old when she committed her offense that resulted in a life sentence.

BY GILIEN SILSBY

USC Gould's Post-Conviction Justice Project (PCJP) is expanding its client base to include representation of juvenile offenders sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole.

The move comes as California addresses life-term sentences for 16- and 17-year-old youths. Gov. Jerry Brown recently signed the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act into law, creating a review process for juveniles sentenced to life without parole. They may now petition the court to be resentenced to a life term with the possibility of parole.

"We have taken on this issue because children are different than adults, and deserve to be

treated differently in our criminal justice system," said USC Gould Prof. Heidi Rummel, who co-directs the PCJP. "Courts and scientists, and now the California legislature and Gov. Brown, agree that adolescents are less culpable. Their brains are still developing. They are impulsive, vulnerable to peer pressure and often victims of their life circumstances. But most importantly, they have a much greater capacity to grow and change."

PCJP has agreed to represent 13 juvenile offenders serving life without parole sentences. Sixteen USC Gould students are working on the cases under the supervision of Rummel and USC Gould Prof. Michael Brennan, who co-directs the PCJP.

Law students will be conducting mitigation investigations, developing expert testimony, preparing resentencing hearings and litigating novel legal arguments. They will see firsthand how advocacy and lawyering can impact law and policy.

Michael Hart '14 said working with PCJP's clients has not only been educational, but inspiring.

"Our clients are so hopeful, and doing the best they can to make their lives worthwhile," Hart said. "Being a part of the Post-Conviction Justice Project has really allowed me to make a difference in people's lives, and I feel that throughout this school year, the clinic will truly (please see *Youth Offenders* on page 7)

Transgender Client Inspires Audrey Irmas Fellow

BY ELIZABETH HENNEKE

After a year as the Audrey Irmas Clinical Teaching Fellow at USC Gould, I have a new appreciation for the strength of the human spirit.

We have many remarkable cases involving courageous people, but one case that I find especially compelling involves a transgender woman who has faced one hurdle after the next, but still remains optimistic. Her name is Monica Santos.*

Growing up in Mexico, Monica knew by the time she was 6 years old that, despite her male genitalia, she felt and acted like a girl. As she struggled with her identity, Monica endured severe abuse and realized she was truly alone. A neighbor violently raped her when she was a child, and what is worse, her mother walked in on the rape and beat Monica. She insisted that Monica had wanted the rape to occur.



Monica Santos

For years, Monica was raped and abused by male family members. Despite reporting the violence to Mexican police, little changed. It became clear that her feminine identity subjected her to significant danger in Mexico, where males with a feminine identity have often been killed.

When she was 14 years old, Monica fled to the United States, where for the first time in her life she enjoyed the freedom to live openly as a woman without fear. But given her lack of legal immigration status, demons (please see *Transgender Client Inspires* on page 7)

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IHRC Teaches Attorney-Client Trust

BY ROSEMARY DiPIETRANTONIO '14



Rosemary
DiPietrantonio '14

One of my first assignments as a student in the International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC) this past summer was to work with a client who was trafficked into the United States. Her story is heartbreaking: She was forced into slave labor in

Los Angeles and later became a victim of domestic violence. Luckily she escaped, and she was brave enough to report her abuser to local police. This was instrumental in his prosecution.

I met this courageous woman when I began my summer work with the clinic. She was the first client referred to us from the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST), and my job was to help her with a Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status, the first step to her living freely in Los Angeles.

I remember clearly my initial interview with my client. Although Prof. Hannah Garry, director of the IHRC, helped me prepare, I was still nervous. It was difficult to ask her questions that dealt with sensitive and emotional topics, especially since we had not yet formed a close relationship. But by the end of the interview, my client turned to me and said, "You are my angel sent here to help me." This not only gave me the confidence in subsequent interviews with her, but

it made me realize that she was really depending on me and the clinic to help her gain legal status in the United States.

In the past several months, my client and I have formed a bond—something I have never before experienced. I have learned that trust is crucial in a client-attorney relationship. It was my client's trust in me that kept me working so diligently on her case even when obstacles arose. And in turn, I believe it was my trust in the client that kept her motivated to do everything we requested of her.

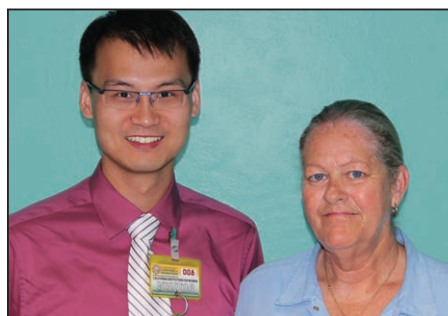
Working with this client, under the guidance of Prof. Garry, has strengthened me in many ways. It has given me insight into what it really means to be a great attorney.

PCJP Teaches USC Gould Student Empathy, Patience

BY CHAO QI '14

My first year of law school can be summed up by various two-word phrases: Socratic method, reading cases, writing memos, outlining courses and taking exams. After my first year, I began an internship with the Post-Conviction Justice Project (PCJP). I joined PCJP because I believed in its work: representing women serving life sentences for murder. Many come from unfathomable circumstances, have committed egregious crimes, and yet have found the inner strength to rehabilitate themselves. I had no idea the impact the Project would have on both my personal and professional development.

When I was assigned to represent Nadine Hosman, I knew nothing about her except that we came from completely different worlds. I am a first-generation Chinese immigrant with a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Wisconsin. She is a self-described "Harley-Davidson kind of gal" who spent her entire life in Bakersfield until she was sent to prison for a 1987 conviction for conspiracy to commit murder. She suffered a stroke in 1996 and has no recollection of her life before. The stroke significantly impaired her ability to formulate and articulate



Chao Qi '14 with client Nadine Hosman

her thoughts. She understood me, but she could not answer my questions beyond a simple yes or no.

Our meetings were short, and I admit I was envious of the other students' relationships with clients who were open, forthcoming and chatty. When I asked Nadine about her family, she would fix me with a stare and firmly say, "No." I continued to visit her, trying to get a glimpse into her life. In time, I learned that she watches *Criminal Minds*, reads Stephen King novels and listens to Led Zeppelin.

Our weekly meetings followed a standard script: I updated her on the case, asked if she had questions and discussed her upcoming parole hearing. Then one day when I asked her why she wanted parole, she became tearful for the first

time. We had our longest meeting that day, and I realized it was never that Nadine had nothing to say—rather, I never perceived what she was actually saying when she spoke. Her words were opaque, but her emotions were always clear. Instead of pressing her for details of her life, I needed only to observe and let her reveal herself to me. And so I learned to understand what she wanted to say before she was able to say it. In this manner, we worked hard to prepare for her parole hearing.

I was anxious the day of her hearing. I knew that her memory loss and difficulties communicating would present unique challenges to obtaining a grant of parole. During her hearing, Nadine struggled and sometimes failed to answer the parole board's questions. But when it was my turn to question her, she responded with short statements and effectively communicated her thoughts and feelings to the board.

After extensive deliberation, the board found Nadine suitable for parole. She was shocked by the decision—but I was smiling. All of her hard work brought her one step closer to going home. Before I left the room, the commissioner commented on the strangeness of the case and how my supervisors "gave [me] a weird one." But I cannot imagine being assigned to any other case.

Entrepreneurs Seek Guidance from Small Business Clinic Students

BY SAMUEL KIM

A progressive children's book featuring punk rock characters might strike some as an unusual venture, but it is just one of many conventional and unconventional businesses that seek the assistance of USC Gould's Small Business Clinic (SBC).

The idea for the book, *Jazzy Forever*, came to Pedro Doniaz in the middle of the night about five years ago. He grabbed his laptop, and within a few hours, he created the central character, Jazzy, whose tattooed father plays bass in a punk band and mother dresses in vintage clothing and drives a classic car.

Although Doniaz's friends and family thought the book would be a hit at concerts and festivals, he didn't have the capital to self-publish it. When a friend offered to invest in his idea, Doniaz turned to the SBC for advice.

"I have heard of many business ventures involving friends that went bad because they did not properly set up contracts or agreements. They ended with huge legal disputes," Doniaz said. "I wanted to avoid that scenario from the get-go."

Under the supervision of USC Gould Prof. Michael Chasalow, director of the SBC, Melissa Zonne '14 structured a contractual arrangement between Doniaz and his friend. Zonne worked with Doniaz to create a uniquely structured Promissory Note and a Consulting Agreement that addressed the needs of the parties and kept the arrangement friendly but professional.

"It protected us and was fair to us," Doniaz said. "It was exactly what I wanted. The Small Business Clinic was very thorough and insightful. They helped me address many things in the agreement that I would not have thought of on my own. I could not be more satisfied with the help they offered me."



SBC client Pedro Doniaz



Since its inception in 2007, the SBC has offered legal support to hundreds of clients like Doniaz. The pro-bono service not only helps fledgling businesses and entrepreneurs, it provides a platform for USC Gould students to gain practical, one-on-one experience with a variety of clients.

"I learned so much from this case," Zonne said. "I really enjoy the client-centered focus of the Small Business Clinic and working with people like Mr. Doniaz. When I'm working in the future, I will have to interact not only with my colleagues, but also with clients, so it is an important skill to be practicing right now."

Chasalow developed the clinic with one goal in mind: He wants his students to leave with skills that distinguish a good lawyer from a great lawyer. "Most good business lawyers can implement requests made by a client," he said. "Great lawyers go beyond that and identify issues of which the client might be unaware and find structures and solutions that address the client's needs and protect the client from a multitude of problems that might arise in a business deal."

In addition to small businesses, the SBC also helps a variety of nonprofit organizations. Jasmin Baveja '14 is currently working with a client to establish a nonprofit organization that will provide housing and transitional services such as counseling and job training to some of the more "underserved" individuals in Los Angeles' homeless population. "It is rewarding and also a great experience," Baveja said. "I'm learning about the regulations and rules that apply to a publicly owned organization."

Students generally manage eight to 10 clients during their year with the SBC. Zonne said each of her clients is different, which keeps the work varied and interesting. In addition to the children's book client, she is working with a business owner focused on limiting the use of fossil fuels and helping other businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

Baveja is also working with a website radio start-up that will help songwriters distribute their music more widely. She is drafting her first service agreement with terms and conditions.

"We have a sense of ownership," Baveja said. "I believe the clinic is a great experience for the future because it provides exceptional practice in client interaction, dealing with regulatory matters and filings, and gaining a sense of responsibility over 'your' clients. It is also a lot of fun."



Prof. Michael Chasalow (right) meets with clinic students Melissa Zonne '14 (left) and Jasmin Baveja '14 (center)



Jennifer Ehrlich '13 secured a competitive externship at the Department of Justice's Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section. She is pictured with its director, Eli Rosenbaum.



United States Supreme Court



Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Photo by Roger Dohmen for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon at www.flickr.com/photos/stlebanon/6302574450/.
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(top row, from left to right)

Peter Goldschmidt '14, Ian Henry '14, Ali Al-Sarraf '13
(bottom row) KyraAnne Gates '14, Margaret Buckles '14,
Rosemary DiPietrantonio '14, Joel Frost-Tift '14,
Michelle Shaffie '13

IHRC Tackles New Cases Closer to Home

BY GILLEN SILSBY

USC Gould's International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC) is adding a variety of domestic work to its legal docket, including representing human trafficking survivors, working with the U.S. Department of Justice and providing legal analysis for a Supreme Court case. It is also expanding its global reach through a new partnership with an international tribunal in The Hague.

"Our efforts are now truly global," said USC Gould Prof. Hannah Garry, director of the IHRC. "We believe it's important to fight serious human rights abuses not only abroad but also here at home in Los Angeles and across the United States."

Throughout the past months, several IHRC students, including Christine Parkins '12, Lisa Foutch '13, Jennifer Ehrlich '13 and Rosemary DiPietrantonio '14, have been taking on human trafficking and domestic violence cases in Los Angeles. One has been in partnership with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST).

Under the direction of Garry and CAST attorneys, DiPietrantonio is representing a woman who was trafficked into the United States under forced labor and later became a victim of domestic violence. The clinic is working to help her secure legal residency by completing a Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status, which would entitle her to live legally in the United States. The clinic is accepting two more human trafficking cases this fall.

"It has been a steep learning curve," DiPietrantonio said. "I've learned how to talk to a client who has experienced very traumatic situations about important legal issues and build a relationship of trust. It's extremely important to be clear and direct, but also make the client feel comfortable. Her life is literally in our hands. It's a big responsibility."

In another domestic move, the clinic is establishing a presence in Washington, D.C. For the first time, an IHRC student has secured a competitive externship at the Department

of Justice's Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section. Working with its director, Eli Rosenbaum, Ehrlich will help this fall in the prosecution of modern-day war criminals and genocidaires now living in the United States.

"My work with the clinic taught me so much about international human rights law," Ehrlich said. "I am really looking forward to continuing my education by learning about domestic human rights law through my DOJ internship."

IHRC students have also provided critical legal analysis and research in support of a petition for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Movsesian v. Versicherung AG*, which was filed in June. The case involves thousands of heirs of survivors of the Armenian Genocide seeking payment on life insurance policies under a California statute. The statute was struck down by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals as preempted by the federal government's foreign affairs power under the U.S. Constitution. Dorna Moini '12, Alisa Randell '13 and Johnston Chen '14 worked on the case.

Since the clinic launched in 2011, 14 USC Gould students have worked remotely with judges on cases prosecuting genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity before international criminal tribunals in Cambodia and Tanzania. Six students also worked onsite at the tribunals in 2011 and another four are currently interning in Cambodia and The Hague.

This year, the clinic is expanding its international reach to include a new partnership providing assistance to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague. This tribunal is the first international court to adjudicate terrorism as a distinct international crime, and is the first to operate in the Middle East.

The clinic will also begin representing refugees abroad in partnership with a USC student organization, the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project.

"The idea is to work with survivors of some of the most serious human rights abuses in tandem with prosecuting perpetrators of those crimes before international tribunals," Garry said.

Mediation Clinic Celebrates Fifth Anniversary, Volunteers

BY LISA KLERMAN

USC Gould's Mediation Clinic recently honored and recognized nearly a dozen mediation professionals and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) court personnel who donate their time and talent to the clinic. The special dinner, held at the USC University Club, celebrated the clinic's fifth anniversary and its role in helping the law school receive the prestigious Ninth Circuit Judicial Council's ADR Education Award.

"These volunteer professionals are very generous with their time," said Lisa Klerman, director of the Mediation Clinic. "They act as private coaches to our students and give them a real window into the world of mediation. My students have frequently described their contact with the volunteer lawyers and mediators as one of the highlights of their clinic experience."

Relying on her network of practicing lawyers and mediators, Klerman carefully selects those who are best able to assist in class and in court. Many of the professional mediators invite USC

Gould students to "shadow" them while they mediate their own cases.

"The coaching we received from professional mediators was one of the most valuable aspects of the Mediation Clinic," said Dmitrii Gabriellov '13. "Their feedback helped me identify the strengths and improve on the weaknesses in my mediation style, which greatly accelerated my learning curve."

For their part, the Mediation Clinic's volunteer mediators uniformly report a positive experience working with the students. Several noted that, until recently, formal mediation training was never taught in law school.

"It's good to see that law schools are finally teaching these techniques," said Joe Markowitz, a lawyer and mediator who volunteers as a mediation coach in the clinic. "I can't remember spending even a minute of formal training in negotiation when I went to law school, yet I soon found that it was a major part of practicing law."

Today lawyers must know how to negotiate and to resolve conflicts other than by trial, added



Dean Robert K. Rasmussen and
Mediation Clinic Director Lisa Klerman

Phyllis G. Pollack, another Mediation Clinic coach. "The clinic provides this crucial training to the lawyers of tomorrow," she said. "I have found the students to be very bright, energetic learners and eager to embrace this new style of lawyering."

USC Gould Dean Robert K. Rasmussen said he is proud of the Mediation Clinic's work to create innovative programs in alternative dispute resolution. "Law students who receive training in the Mediation Clinic will certainly have an advantage when they graduate. This is a gratifying acknowledgment of the quality of the education that our students receive, especially in this increasingly important area."



Dozens of USC Gould students participated
in summer service projects.

BY MALISSA BARNWELL-SCOTT

In an effort to provide incoming USC Gould students with the tools to promote justice through public service, USC Gould's Office of Public Service sponsored its annual summer service project for new students.

In a partnership with Inner City Law Center (ICLC), which provides legal services to people living on Skid Row in Los Angeles, nearly 60 USC Gould students participated in three legal projects,

Summer Service Project Takes Students to Skid Row

including educating residents about inspections by city officials, housing and health services.

"As aspiring members of the legal profession, it is important that our students understand the privilege to practice law," said Malissa Barnwell-Scott, director of the Office of Public Service. "Each year, the service project has been different and increasingly more legally substantive. It provides students with real world experience before they even start classes."

The students worked with ICLC staff, including Lisa Mead, former USC Gould dean of students and founder of the school's Office of Public Service. They educated Skid Row residents about

health services they are eligible for through General Relief and Healthy Way LA.

In another project with ICLC, students talked to residents of single resident occupancy housing about ways to deal with landlords regarding late rent payments. Students also canvassed local multi-unit housing developments scheduled for an inspection by the Los Angeles Housing Dept.

Niles Pierson '15 said the community service project helped him to understand the need for public interest work. "As students, we saw that even a minimal effort can go a long way to helping protect the most vulnerable members of our society."

Filmmakers, Creatives Receive Legal Help from the Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic

BY GILLEN SILSBY



Jack Lerner

Since taking the helm of the Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic (IPTLC) three years ago, Jack Lerner has exposed his law students to clients ranging from low-budget independent filmmakers

to major national organizations such as the International Documentary Association.

As they gain practical experience, IPTLC students learn to tackle complex public policy questions surrounding intellectual property in the digital age. Designed to deal with problems at the crossroads of law, technology and policy, the IPTLC teaches the expertise, skills and thoughtfulness necessary to be an effective lawyer and technology law professional. Lerner spoke with Gilien Silsby recently about the clinic's mission, goals and latest work.

How has the clinic changed and evolved since it was first launched in 2005?

First, the Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic's work on behalf of documentary and independent filmmakers has gotten more challenging and, we think, more impactful. Second, we have developed an international practice working with individuals, organizations and policymakers in the developing world who are facing increasingly difficult intellectual property challenges as they adapt to the digital era.

What kinds of cases have students worked on?

It's a wide variety designed to maximize both our public service impact and the educational value to our students. We've worked with everyone from low-budget local independent filmmakers, to tiny arts nonprofits like LA-Artist.com, to major organizations like the International Documentary

Association, to governmental agencies such as the Chile Ministry of Education.

What's your primary goal for students?

Fundamentally, we want students to develop a real understanding of what it means to be a technology law professional, and to learn how to think through the complexities of intellectual property and technology law.

We make sure every student develops substantive expertise in one or more areas of intellectual property or technology law, and an appreciation for how IP and tech law affect the public interest. They also cultivate key professional skills such as writing, research and oral advocacy. By the end of the year, the students acquire a deep understanding and appreciation of the unique role that technology lawyers have, and the enormous responsibility that comes with that role. For most students, a key outcome of this transformative journey is a newfound confidence, which itself is based on competence. It's enormously rewarding to be a part of.

The clinic has done quite a bit of work on behalf of filmmakers, most notably filing comments with the U.S. Copyright Office in 2008 seeking to help filmmakers legally obtain material from DVDs for purposes of criticism and commentary. What is the latest work you've done on this project?

The Librarian of Congress granted our 2008 request, meaning that since 2010, documentary filmmakers have been able to obtain clips legally from DVDs for purposes of criticism and commentary. But that exemption expires this fall, so last year we filed a new request. We just wrapped up nearly 10 months' worth of comments, hearings and letter correspondence, and we expect to hear the results sometime in late October.

How has this work benefited both clinic students and the client?



In June, outside the Library of Congress after testifying before the U.S. Copyright Office. (left to right) Prof. Jack Lerner, Brendan Charney '13, Alex Cohen '13, Michael Donaldson (Donaldson & Callif and co-counsel to the clinic), Jim Morrisette (Technical Director, Kartemquin Films) and Gordon Quinn (Founder and Artistic Director, Kartemquin Films)

This was one of the most challenging and ambitious projects the clinic has taken on, and we've always felt that it had the potential to affect documentary filmmaking on a fundamental level. It has been humbling to hear of filmmakers whom we've never met in far-flung states that have been able to rely on this exemption and make films that otherwise would never have been possible.

Of course, it was a phenomenal experience for our students. For the most recent effort, Brendan Charney '13 and Alex Cohen '13 coordinated a large coalition of filmmakers and organizations and drafted hundreds of pages' worth of documents. They also prepped our clients to testify before the U.S. Copyright Office in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, and testified themselves as well. As you can imagine, they were really put to the test, but they were up to the challenge and raved about the experience. It was an immense thrill to watch them become absolute experts in this field and develop into superb lawyers along the way.

What are your plans and goals for the clinic?

The world is becoming more networked every day, and the growing penetration of mobile smartphones, tablets and social media is having an increasingly profound effect on consumer privacy. Although this has always been part of our docket, we are seeing more demand now than ever before for help in this area, and we expect to be doing more work in this field in the near future.

More than 300 juvenile offenders in California could be left behind without the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act.

(Youth Offenders, continued from page 1)

be effecting policy and creating new precedents to give individuals a second chance at life.”

PCJP’s clients share similar stories—they were convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to die in prison, in some cases without actually killing anyone. For example, Christian Bracamontes was convicted of first-degree murder after a friend shot and killed another teenager over a marijuana sale. Similarly, Elizabeth Lozano was 16 years old when she was sentenced to life without parole following a felony murder conviction. Both have rehabilitated in prison and been praised for reaching out to at-risk youth, despite spending their formative years in prison.

“I was overwhelmed with joy when I heard that Gov. Brown signed the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act,” Lozano said. “It gives me hope for

future generations.”

Nationwide, about 2,500 inmates convicted of homicide crimes as juveniles are serving life in prison without parole. Many will be directly affected by the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent ruling striking down mandatory life without parole sentences for juveniles as cruel and unusual punishment.

But more than 300 juvenile offenders in California would have been left behind without the Fair Sentencing for Youth Act. Although inmates will have to meet stringent criteria to be eligible for resentencing, and will have to convince a parole board that they are suitable for parole, the act gives them hope.

“It’s very difficult for juveniles to face a sentence to die in prison,” Rummel said. “The Fair Sentencing law gives them hope that they are

not beyond redemption—if they work hard and rehabilitate, they might have a chance to go home.”

For the past three years, Rummel and her PCJP students have been advocating to change the juvenile sentencing laws in California. They have traveled to Sacramento to discuss the issue with lawmakers and testified before the state legislature.

“It is uniquely rewarding for students to see that their efforts can make such an important difference,” Rummel said.

Clinic co-director Brennan has overseen the PCJP’s long history of post-conviction representation.

“This is a relevant opportunity to expand our client base and practice in a developing area of the law,” Brennan said. “These cases also present a rich legal experience for our students.”



Monica Santos (right) with a friend

(Transgender Client Inspires, continued from page 1)

continued to haunt her. She struggled to fit in, and for a short time turned to drugs. After being arrested for selling methamphetamine, Monica was detained by immigration and placed under removal proceedings.

The clinic took Monica’s case, seeking protection for her under the Convention Against Torture, which prevents the deportation of immigrants to a country where they would face torture.

USC Gould students and professors worked vigilantly on her case, ultimately arguing before an immigration judge in Los Angeles. While the judge appeared sympathetic to Monica’s story,

he ruled against her. He concluded that Monica had failed to meet the standard for protection under the Convention Against Torture, which requires establishing that it is more likely than not that Monica would be tortured if she were returned to Mexico.

Based on the extreme conditions facing transgender individuals in Mexico and Monica’s personal history, the clinic appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which similarly denied Monica’s claim. While a subsequent appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was pending, Monica was removed to Mexico. The 9th Circuit denied a motion for a stay, concluding that Monica was unlikely to succeed in her appeal.

Within hours of her removal, two Mexican police officers kidnapped Monica, dragged her to the outskirts of Tijuana, and gang-raped her. Monica fled to the San Ysidro Port of Entry and sought protection once again in this country. The clinic stepped in, notifying the 9th Circuit and the Board of Immigration Appeals about the events in Mexico. In response to briefing by the clinic, the 9th Circuit issued a ruling that prevented immigration officials from sending

Monica back to Mexico. They also stayed her case while the Board of Immigration Appeals considered whether to reopen it.

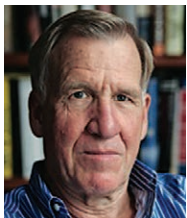
In a rare exercise of its discretion, the Board of Immigration Appeals chose to reopen Monica’s case and has remanded it back to the immigration judge who initially denied her Convention Against Torture claim. While Monica’s case is still pending, we are hopeful that she will be granted protection, so that she will not be removed to Mexico.

Through Monica’s case, I have seen our students learn about the law as well as interact with clients who couldn’t be more different than them. Clinic student Jeremy Mishalli ’13 spent the summer working on Monica’s case. He recently said to me, “Monica’s personal resiliency also shows how strong the human spirit can be when faced with the most dire of circumstances, and she has been an inspiration to me throughout the summer.” I couldn’t have said it better myself.

Elizabeth Henneke was named the inaugural Audrey Irmas Teaching Fellow in 2011.

**Monica’s true last name has been changed for this article.*

USC Gould Clinics In Brief

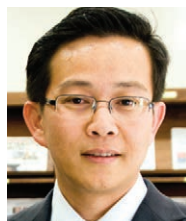


■ Pulitzer Prize-winning author and *New York Times* reporter **Ray Bonner** spoke at USC Gould recently about his new book, *Anatomy of Injustice: A Murder Case Gone Wrong*.

Bonner described the case of Edward Lee Elmore, a semiliterate, mentally disabled African-American man with no previous felony record, who was tried, convicted and sentenced to death for a murder he did not commit. Bonner discussed what went wrong, and how Elmore was saved by Diana Holt, a freshly minted attorney, who took on his appeal. The event was co-sponsored by the Post-Conviction Justice Project and the Critical Legal Studies Association.

■ **Kosal Path**, a survivor of the Cambodian genocide and lecturer at USC School of International Relations, spoke at USC Gould recently about his experience growing up under the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. Path described his current field research in Cambodia on the genocide and reactions of Cambodians to the recent conviction and life sentence of Duch, head of the notorious S-21 prison, by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. The event was co-sponsored by the International Human Rights Clinic, the USC Shoah Foundation and the International Law and Relations Organization.

■ The International Human Rights Clinic and USC School of Cinematic Arts will host a film screening and panel discussion on **"The Special Court for Sierra Leone at 10 Years: Its Legacy and the Taylor Trial."** The screening of **"War**



Don Don" will be followed by a discussion with director **Rebecca Richmond Cohen**, Harvard University, **Elise Keppler**, Human Rights Watch, **Prof. Michael Renov**, USC School of Cinematic Arts, and **Prof. Hannah Garry**, USC Gould School of Law. The event will take place Nov. 7, 2012 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at SCA's Ray Starke Theater, USC 106 and is open to the public. For more information call (213) 740-9154.

USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

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