

USC GOULD SCHOOL OF LAW

CLINICAL PERSPECTIVES

News and Current Issues: Spring/Summer 2012

USC Law Establishes Audrey Irmas Clinical Teaching Fellowship

Elizabeth Henneke appointed to two-year position.

BY GILIEN SILSBY

Elizabeth Henneke has been named the inaugural Audrey Irmas Clinical Teaching Fellow, a two-year position teaching and supervising cases and projects at USC Law that supports the legal rights of women and children.



Elizabeth Henneke

The fellowship is funded by Audrey Irmas, a long-time supporter of USC and USC Law. Four generations of her family have attended USC, with four family members graduating from the law school.

"I am so pleased that Elizabeth Henneke has joined the USC Law faculty and will be addressing

the needs of justice for a more humane society in our country," Irmas said.

Since she joined USC Law in October, Henneke has worked with USC Law faculty and students in the Post-Conviction Justice Project, the Immigration Clinic and the International Human Rights Clinic. In her new role, she assists in supervising casework and instructing students on how to effectively advocate for their clients.

"We are grateful to Audrey for her visionary investment in our clinical programs to further promote social justice across the globe," said USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. "Audrey is one of Los Angeles' most inspiring philanthropists, steadfastly supporting programs aimed at creating a more just society. This fellowship is helping our faculty and students work more effectively on behalf of hundreds of clients, domestically and

USC LAW CLINICAL PROGRAMS

- Immigration Clinic
- Intellectual Property and Technology Clinic
- International Human Rights Clinic
- Mediation Clinic
- Post-Conviction Justice Project
- Small Business Clinic



internationally. Elizabeth is doing a wonderful job in her new role."

Henneke most recently was a litigation associate at Washington, D.C.-based Williams & Connolly. Before joining the firm, she worked as a law clerk for the South Africa Constitutional Court and for Judge Edward C. Prado on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit.

After graduating from University of Texas Law School in 2007, Henneke was a clinical instructor for the University of Texas' National Security and Human Rights Clinic, where she received the 2007 Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award for her representation of Guantanamo detainees.

"I am honored to join the distinguished USC Law clinical program," Henneke said. "Clinical teaching is my dream job, it's so exciting to join

(please see Irmas Fellowship on page 2)

Mediation Clinic's Achievements Recognized in Ninth Circuit Judicial Council Award

BY LISA KLERMAN

USC Gould School of Law was selected by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee as the winner of the 2011 ADR Education Award.

Established in 2005, the award recognizes institutions that have advanced alternative dispute resolution scholarship and teaching. "We are deeply honored to receive this recognition," said USC Law Dean Robert K. Rasmussen. "This is a gratifying acknowledgment of the quality of the education that our students receive, especially in this increasingly important area."

In its letter announcing the decision, the committee chair highlighted several unique aspects of the USC Law Mediation Clinic's program: "We appreciate the unique way in which you allow law students to participate in a beginning mediation clinical program, and then encourage them

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PCJP and IHRC Team Up to Represent Human-Trafficking Victim

BY ELIZABETH HENNEKE

When I was hired as the Audrey Irmas Clinical Teaching Fellow at USC Law in October, I was excited by the opportunity to work with students on legally challenging cases that would test the system and help victims of underreported crimes. Six months into this fellowship, I am astounded by the difference that motivated and engaged students can make in the lives of voiceless victims. One case in particular stands out.

A victim of human trafficking at age 13, Marisol Garcia was convicted of first-degree murder at age 18, after her captor forced her to bury the body of a man he murdered. She was eight months pregnant at the time, and frightened for her life.

After spending two nearly decades in prison, Marisol, 36, contacted the Post-Conviction Justice Project (PCJP). Students and professors worked tirelessly on her case, and Marisol was found suitable for parole by Board of Parole Hearings, and released from prison last year. Upon her release, she was deported to Mexico, a country where she had not lived since she was 13.

Although I was proud to learn about the role that the PCJP had played in securing Marisol's release, I was devastated by the facts of the case because Marisol is clearly a survivor of human trafficking. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act defines a human trafficking survivor as a person induced to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud or coercion. It acknowledges that anyone under 18 does not have to show that they performed the labor or the commercial sex act because of force, fraud, or coercion, because as a minor they could not have given legal consent.

According to the United Nations, an estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year. Forty-three percent of the victims of trafficking are forced to engage in commercial sexual exploitation. And despite public perceptions that trafficking only occurs in distant lands, federally funded task forces have reported 2,515 suspected incidents of human trafficking

According to the United Nations, an estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.



USC Law students are seeking immigration relief for Marisol Garcia, a human trafficking victim.

in the United States from January 2008 to June 2010 alone.

Marisol's story is emblematic of the horrors that victims of severe forms of human trafficking endure. She was sold to her trafficker at the age of thirteen for two hundred dollars. Over the next six years, her trafficker repeatedly reminded her that she was his property, going so far as to tattoo his name and a drawing of his foot over her hands and arms. He controlled every aspect of her life, and would beat and rape her regularly if she disobeyed him in any way. After he killed two men, he threatened to kill her and her two-year-old son if she did not help him cover up his crimes.

Unfortunately for Marisol, the investigators, the prosecutors and the defense attorneys in her case did not recognize her as a survivor of human trafficking. Had they, Marisol would likely not have spent a single night in jail, let alone seventeen long years.

This year, USC Law's International Human Rights Clinic and the PCJP have teamed up to seek immigration relief for Marisol. As a victim of a severe form of human trafficking, Marisol is entitled to seek a T-visa, which would provide her the ability to return to the United States, where she has employment offers, access to medical

care and other support networks. Two students, Andrew Merten '12—who represented Marisol in front of the Board of Parole hearings—and Christine Parkins '12, have worked tirelessly to prepare Marisol's case for submission to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Working with these law students has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my professional career. I am humbled by the strength and perseverance that Marisol has shown over the years, inspired by the dedication that Andy and Christine have shown to their client and proud of the contribution I have made to rectify an unimaginable injustice.

(Irmas Fellowship, continued from page 1)

USC students and faculty on projects that advance the rights of women and children."

Prior to law school, Henneke studied at Yale University, where she conducted research in Kenya on the rights of the Maasai.

The fellowship is intended to assist the work of the Immigration Clinic, where students provide legal representation and advice to persons seeking asylum; the International Human Rights Clinic, where students work on cases before international tribunals and seek justice on behalf of victims of human rights abuses; and the Post-Conviction Justice Project, where students provide legal representation to women serving life terms who have demonstrated significant rehabilitation and are eligible for parole.

"Elizabeth's passion for social justice, wide-ranging legal experiences and enthusiasm for clinical teaching has truly enhanced our live-client programs," said USC Law Prof. Heidi Rummel, director of the Post-Conviction Justice Project. "We are thrilled to have her."



(left) Heidi Rummel and Michael Brennan. (center) PCJP's 30th Reunion attracted more than 120 former students and clients. (right) USC Law graduates with their former clients

PCJP Celebrates 30 Years

More than 100 alums, former clients and professors attend reunion

BY GILIEN SILSBY

The USC Law alumni attending the recent 30th anniversary of the Post-Conviction Justice Project (PCJP) hail from nearly every corner of the legal world—they are judges, public defenders, state and federal prosecutors, public interest lawyers and partners at law firms.

But, regardless of where they are today, many alums said they are forever bound by their work and commitment to USC Law's PCJP, where they collectively represented more than 5,000 prisoners as law students.

"There is no doubt that some of the smartest and best legal advocates in the country cut their teeth in the Post-Conviction Justice Project," said Heidi Rummel, co-director of PCJP. "Their representation of deserving clients is the underpinning of the success of the Project. It's an amazing group of individuals to bring together in one room."

For many in attendance at the January 25 celebration, PCJP was a career inspiring, if not a life-altering experience. Many credited their career success to their professors—Dennis E. Curtis, who founded PCJP in 1981; Chuck Weisselberg, who co-directed the clinic from 1987 to 1998, Carrie Hempel, co-director from 1996 to 2008, as well as Bill Genego, Noel Ragsdale, Denise Meyer, Stacey Turner and current co-directors Rummel and Michael Brennan.

More than 120 former PCJP students and clients attended the reception, which was the first formal gathering of the Project in 30 years.

Doreen Lawrence Hughes '98 said the Project not only helped her become a skilled attorney, it

gave her a better understanding of her clients. "From a practical standpoint, the Post-Conviction Justice Project taught me basic lawyering skills," she said. "But more importantly, the Project helped me to become a compassionate attorney. I learned to listen to clients rather than always having a solution."

Matt Thomas '82, who was a founding member of PCJP, said he became a Los Angeles public defender after his experience in the Project. "I'm very honored to be part of the first class," he said. "The Project really helped me learn how to interact with clients and know the value of helping people. I have been public defending ever since."

Since 1981, nearly 700 USC Law students in PCJP have represented state and federal inmates on post-conviction matters ranging from challenging convictions, adjusting the term of incarceration and parole matters. USC Law students have appeared at parole hearings, state and federal court proceedings, and have filed habeas petitions challenging denials of constitutional rights.

Weisselberg, who now teaches at UC Berkeley Law School, thanked the clients who attended the reunion. "I am honored by your presence tonight and the trust you placed in us. As clients, you faced really difficult circumstances, and I'm always astonished how much trust you put in us to handle the most important aspect of your lives. We owe you a great deal of gratitude."

USC Law Dean Robert Rasmussen acknowledged the PCJP alums for their work as well as their public service. He also introduced Elizabeth Henneke, the inaugural Audrey Irmas Clinical Teaching Fellow, who holds a two-year position

teaching and supervising cases and projects supporting the legal rights of women and children.

"Clinical education remains a vital and important part of the USC Law culture," Rasmussen said. "We are proud that we were among the first to offer clinical education to our students. I have no doubt that what you gained from your experience here has helped you throughout your careers."

When USC Law Prof. Dennis Curtis founded PCJP in 1981, it represented clients at the Federal Correctional Institute in Terminal Island, a medium security prison for men. Victor Bono, who attended the reunion, was among the clinic's first clients.

In 1993, the Project began representing state prisoners serving life-term sentences for murder convictions who were incarcerated at the California Institution for Women. Many suffered a history of abuse, and some were convicted of murder for killing their abusers.

Sandra Davis Lawrence, whose landmark case was taken to the California Supreme Court, credits PCJP for her freedom. The Lawrence decision was the first time that the state's highest court ruled in favor of a prisoner in a parole case. "I am forever grateful to USC Law School and their amazing work and commitment to me," Lawrence said at the reunion.

Lee Tsao '96 said PCJP was the experience that defined his career. "I joined the Los Angeles Public Defender's office mostly due to my experience in the Project and guidance from Prof. Mike Brennan," he said. "It's been a real privilege and I am so thankful for my experience in the Post-Conviction Justice Project. It's made me who I am today."



(above) Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) in Phnom Penh



Current IHRC students, (top row, from left to right) John Flynn, Zach Crowley and Dorna Moini (bottom row) Siyuan An, Alisa Randell, Lisa Foutch, Christine Parkins and Jennifer Ehrlich



(above) International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania (below) USC Law Prof. Hannah Garry (right) with USC Law graduates Aysha Pamukcu and Brian Rifkin at the ECCC



IHRC Students Fight Against Genocide and War Crimes

Clinic gives students firsthand legal experience.

BY ZACHARY CROWLEY, IHRC STUDENT '12

Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes are the most pressing human rights concerns of our day, and the subjects of USC Gould School of Law's International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC).

Launched by USC Law Prof. Hannah Garry in 2011, the clinic is training the next generation of lawyers to fight against human rights abuses. In unique partnerships established by the clinic, students have worked with judges and their staff on some of the world's most notable war crimes cases.

This past summer, six USC Law graduates were invited to work with the United Nations as judicial interns at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. They received the coveted invitations after spending their last year at USC working remotely for judges at these tribunals.

The graduates worked on trials involving some of history's worst crimes against humanity: the Cambodian Killing Fields of the 1970s, the Rwandan genocide of 1994 and atrocities committed during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

"USC Law is committed to giving our students real-world experience in the field," Garry said. "I am confident our students will go into the legal profession with a keen understanding of international law and all that is at stake."

This year, the clinic is broadening its scope by helping with human trafficking cases. Clinic students are assisting victims with their immigration status in connection with The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, and are working on an amicus brief in support of a petition for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court in the Movsesian case, involving heirs of survivors of the Armenian Genocide seeking payment on life insurance policies.

In addition to the students' substantive legal work, the International Human Rights Clinic has



Brian Rifkin visits a victims' memorial site in Cambodia.

organized several lectures and events to publicize international human rights issues. Garry organized a lecture by Luis Moreno Ocampo, prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, in conjunction with USC's School of Cinematic Arts. The IHRC also hosted lectures by Judge Joan Donoghue of the International Court of Justice, Eli Rosenbaum, director of the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section at the Department of Justice and David Scheffer, former Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes. The Clinic engaged in more direct advocacy with two events in spring 2011, presenting a screening of *Imprisoned in Iran*, a film documenting the struggles of the American hikers arrested in Iran, and hosting a press conference on behalf of the victims' families calling for their release, which took place in the fall 2011.

To read more about the USC Law IHRC graduates, who were invited to work with the United Nations as judicial interns at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (in Arusha) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, please go to: <http://tfm.usc.edu/spring-2012/lawyers-borders>.



USC Law Students Work with Nationwide Group of Filmmakers

USC Intellectual Property and Technology Clinic files comments in the United States Copyright Office.

BY GILIEN SILSBY

USC Law students from the USC Intellectual Property and Technology Clinic filed comments recently in the United States Copyright Office that would allow filmmakers to legally obtain materials from DVDs, Blu-ray discs, and online media for use in their films.

The clinic obtained a similar exemption to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) more than a year ago. Before a July 2010 decision, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 made it a crime to break the digital locks on DVDs and other online media, which ultimately prevented filmmakers from making fair use of the material. The recent filing seeks to renew the exemption for DVDs, and argues that in today's digital ecosystem, filmmakers need to access Blu-ray and streaming media as well.

Many filmmakers and authors, particularly those who incorporated current or historic events into their work, are restricted by the DMCA from using a wealth of material simply because it is on DVD.



Jack Lerner

"Without this exemption, filmmakers who want to use a movie clip on a DVD could still be sued for going around the locks—even if the use itself is perfectly legal," said Jack Lerner, USC Law professor and director of the USC Intel-

lectual Property and Technology Clinic. "Instead of using DVDs, filmmakers would be forced to use costly, time-consuming and technically inadequate workarounds, like trying to take the footage they sought for their films from screen capture software. This doesn't make practical sense for documentary filmmakers and in fact casts a pall over all filmmaking."



(from left) Jack Lerner, Ashlee Lin, Chris Perez and Michael Donaldson in Washington D.C.

Under Lerner's supervision and in collaboration with Beverly Hills attorneys Michael Donaldson, Ashlee Lin '10 and Chris Perez '10, USC Law students in the IP Clinic, drafted comments and are coordinating a nationwide coalition of documentary filmmakers and filmmaker organizations, including the International Documentary Association, Kartemquin Films, Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP) and the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture (NAMAC). They have also filed a similar request on behalf of several scholars who are facing the same problems as they create multimedia e-books. In the coming months, the USC Law students will prepare to testify before the Copyright Office and to assist the filmmakers and scholars as they prepare their testimony. A decision is expected in the fall of 2012.

Alex Cohen, a '13 Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic student, said working on the project was a rewarding experience. "I was very excited and honored to be able to work on the DMCA exemption project because of my passion for the intersection of law, technology and business," he said. "In particular, it was humbling to learn about how the DMCA was negatively

impacting the ability for both filmmakers and multimedia e-book authors to make fair use."

Included in the comments are statements from a variety of filmmakers working on projects that require taking fair use content from DVD, Blu-ray and online video. A wealth of documentaries including Kartemquin's *The Trials of Muhammad Ali*, *American Arab* and *Mormons Make Movies* require the DMCA exemption.

"Without a DMCA exemption for filmmakers, many important documentaries currently in production could not be made," said Donaldson.

(Mediation Award, continued from page 1)

to participate in the advanced mediation clinic. The idea of having the advanced mediation clinic students train and mentor the beginning student mediators is an exceptional way for the advanced students to improve their mediation skills."

Under the direction of adjunct professor Lisa Klerman, the law school's Mediation Clinic and Advanced Mediation Clinic teach students dispute resolution skills that they put into real world practice by mediating cases in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

"Unlike in traditional litigation clinics, where students learn to advocate for one side in a dispute, we teach students how to act as a third party neutral," Klerman said. "Our students have helped hundreds of litigants settle their cases."

"Mediation is a growing trend in law that shows no signs of diminishing," Rasmussen said. "It is important that our law students know and recognize this as an important legal tool in the 21st century."

Making it Legal for Entrepreneurs

SBC students help fledgling businesses with a variety of legal issues when launching businesses



Michael Chasalow

BY GILIEN SILSBY

As director of USC's Small Business Clinic (SBC), Michael Chasalow continues to be amazed by the creativity of entrepreneurs who are seeking his students' legal help.

In the past five years, 45 USC Law students have helped a variety of clients, including a bicycle bread company, a dog walker and even a bee company that rents bees for movie productions and sells honey at farmers' markets. In all, the law students in the SBC have handled approximately 375 legal matters since the clinic was launched.

"This is why I love my job—there's never a dull moment," said Chasalow, who practiced law and spent several years involved with private equity groups focused on the development and financing of start-up and early stage companies.

Under Chasalow's direction, USC Law students help business owners with issues ranging from entity formation, contracts and general business agreements to licensing issues or unforeseen legal problems.

Chasalow talked to Gilien Silsby about how the clinic has grown and changed over the years.

What is the main goal of the Small Business Clinic?

The SBC was created in 2007 to provide law students with an opportunity to gain practical experience using legal skills to handle transactional projects with live clients in the community. Students develop substantive business skills in forming business entities and drafting contracts, but they also learn to manage a variety of clients. They experience what it's like to handle business matters as an attorney. Students generally manage 8 to 10 different clients during their year in the clinic.

What kinds of clients do you help?

Most of our clients are Mom and Pop businesses, rather than high-tech startups. Our clients range

from service businesses such as tutors, camps, trainers, yoga instructors, security services, consultants, website developers and ticket brokers, to product-based businesses that sell or distribute toys, jewelry, food, cosmetics, clothing, automotive products, media, newspapers, iPhone applications, medical products, novelties and accessories. The SBC has also formed and obtained nonprofit status for a variety of organizations that provide services to those in need in the community.

How do you match students with clients?

I try to assign students a range of clients so that they get to work on different projects. I focus more on the project than on the client. As students spend more time with the clinic their projects increase in complexity.

What's your primary goal for the students?

My goal is for each student to leave the clinic with skills that will serve them throughout their careers. Of course, I want them to have substantive knowledge, but my primary goal is for them to understand and possess the skills that distinguish a good lawyer from a great lawyer. These include understanding how best to serve a client, having insight into the purpose of a project and the client's objectives. I also want students to understand the critical importance of attention to detail, and be able to explain a difficult concept to a client and guide a client through a difficult process. This ability to maintain a focus on the big picture and the client's objectives, while simultaneously performing with a rigorous attention to detail, is what makes a great attorney.

Are students ever intimidated or worried that they may mess up and ultimately hurt their client? What safeguards are in place?

Most students are a little nervous before they meet their first client. However, they quickly realize how much their services are needed and how capable they are of accomplishing the job. It is my job to make sure that students are prepared to do



Bill Lewis, owner of Bill's Bees, Inc. sought help from clinic students.

their respective projects, and the SBC does not take projects that would require expertise beyond the students' capabilities.

How many clients have you helped in the past five years? Any standouts?

Some of the most memorable clients were those providing unique services. One client designed an Internet service to provide individuals with disabilities useful information about various restaurants, theaters and other venues in the community. Another client provides transportation services for sick animals. The Bicycle Bread Company, Inc., makes and sells healthy, delicious bread in the community surrounding USC. Finally, Embrace Sweets, LLC, makes the best brownies I have ever tasted.

How do clients learn about the clinic?

Most clients learn about the SBC through referrals and many of our former clients refer new clients. We can also be found on the Internet. Also, the SBC puts on seminars throughout the community and many business owners attend the seminar and then seek assistance for their own businesses. Finally, the SBC works with community organizations that provide business advice, but not legal assistance, such as SCORE, PACE, various chambers of commerce and economic development counsels. Clients apply to the SBC through our website at:

<http://law.usc.edu/sbc>

Immigration Clinic Students Represent Transgender Clients Seeking Asylum

BY GILIEN SILSBY

The abuse and banishment of Marbella Gomez* began when she was barely a teenager living in a small Honduran town.

Marbella was born a boy, but from a young age identified as female. She felt most comfortable when she wore effeminate clothing, and later, when she dressed and lived as a woman.

But taking on a female identity in her town of Marcala was a dangerous proposition. She was raped and beaten by local police when she was 16, and later attacked and robbed by gang members in her family's home.

When she was 22, Marbella left Honduras and tried to enter the United States, which she heard was accepting of transgender people. She was arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, and detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Texas.

After being released from detention and being allowed to come to Los Angeles to live with a friend, she learned about the Immigration Clinic (IC) and its work with other transgender victims of violence.

On Valentine's Day, 2012—four years after her detainment—Marbella and students with the IC won a major victory: U.S. Judge Ira Bank of the Los Angeles Immigration Court granted her asylum.

"It's amazing and wonderful," Marbella said. "I am very happy. It took a long time, but I feel free." Today, Marbella works at a swap meet and lives in a small apartment in Los Angeles. She is taking English classes, and eventually plans to apply for American citizenship and legally change her name from Marvin to Marbella.

Marbella is one of more than a dozen transgender clients who have been represented by the IC's students in the past five years. Many learned about the clinic from other transgender

individuals while in immigration detention.

"Marbella's case was complicated by the violence she experienced in Honduras and the fact that the attacks affected her ability to provide the precise details demanded by the ICE prosecutors who were opposing her asylum claim," said Niels Frenzen, director of the IC. "The clinic students used the expert witness testimony of a therapist to explain to the Court why our client's memory was not perfect."

For the USC Law students who worked on Marbella's case, the victory is gratifying. For years, they pieced together a case that showed that Marbella had been and would be persecuted on account of her gender identity if she were to be deported to Honduras.



Marbella Gomez (center) discusses her immigration status with Kara Mahoney and Prof. Niels Frenzen

"Marbella was subjected to horrific persecution in Honduras based on her status as a transgender individual," said Kara Mahoney, a third-year USC Law student, who represented Marbella at her asylum hearing. "If forced to return to Honduras, she feared further persecution. There is significant danger facing transgender individuals in Honduras—recently six transgender women have been murdered."

Andrea Fontana '10, Corri Freedman '10, and Anna Lee '12 also worked on Marbella's case.

The IC, which was launched in 2001, provides pro bono representation to clients such as Marbella in a variety of immigration cases. USC Law students have represented individuals fighting for asylum, relief under the Violence Against Women Act and other applications for relief from removal. Many of the clients who are seeking asylum are victims of torture, rape and severe violence.

Currently the clinic's student lawyers are representing clients from more than 25 countries and have about 90 open cases.

"Marbella's case has given me an incomparable experience that I will never forget," Mahoney said.

**Marbella's true last name has been changed for the article.*

Public Service Remains Strong at USC Law

Every year up to 150 USC Law students extern for non-profit legal services providers or for the government. Malissa Barnwell-Scott, director of the Office of Public Service (OPS), spoke with Max Castro '12, Student Clinical Director, about the tradition of public service at USC Law.

What is the role of the Office of Public Service at USC Law School?

OPS is the home for public service at USC Law. We oversee externships for academic credit and we collaborate with the administration to create learning opportunities through public service.

What kind of service do you provide students with?

I primarily assist students with identifying experiential learning opportunities either through the externship program for academic credit or by providing information about volunteer opportunities with local legal service providers.

What types of public interest work do students perform?

Public interest legal work traditionally involves advocating for persons or causes that are not typically served by the private legal sector. There are a wide variety of public interest employers including but not limited to: legal service providers; public defender offices; advocacy organizations; and private law firms devoted to serving the under-represented.

How do students benefit from the work?

First of all, public interest attorneys get a great amount of responsibility and experience soon after beginning their first job. In addition, for those who are passionate about helping the public or promoting a cause, there is a great amount of satisfaction that comes from choosing a life's work that is in line with one's values and beliefs. Finally, public interest attorneys usually have a better chance of achieving a work-life balance than private sector attorneys.

USC Law Clinics In Brief

■ Intellectual Property and Technology Clinic students, **Wendy Shu '12** and **Zak Davidson '12**, traveled to Austin, Texas last fall to present a newly developed online tool that will help television stations identify public domain materials. The team show-cased the "Public Domain Guide" at the annual convention of the Association for Moving Image Archivists (AMIA). "Many television stations have materials in their vaults that are in the public domain, but the process of determining this is incredibly challenging," said Shu. "So, we built an online tool that will help stations identify public domain materials in their collection, and at AMIA we unveiled and demonstrated it." Since 2010, clinic students have advised the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as it plans to build and launch the American Archive, an online archive

which will preserve and make available all public media content going back the 1940s and 50s. "The response we received at AMIA was phenomenal and a wonderful validation of this work," Davidson said. "The Public Domain Guide took over a year to build and is based on an algorithm containing over 75 steps."

■ Six USC Law International Human Rights students completed three-month judicial internships with international tribunals for Rwanda, Cambodia and the former Yugoslavia in the summer/fall 2011, and received \$6,000 grants each. LexisNexis funded **Shannon Raj '11**, and named her its "Rule of Law Hero"; Bob and Georgia Roth funded **Brian Rifkin '11**, and **Seepan Parseghian '11** as "Roth Human Rights Fellows"; and USC Law's Board of Councillors funded **Trevar Kolodny '11**, and **Aysha Pamukcu '11**.

■ Three students argued on behalf of PCJP clients in appellate courts this year—two in the California Courts of Appeal and one in the Ninth Circuit. In June, **Zach Crowley '13** convinced a panel of

the Fourth District Court of Appeal that the Governor violated a client's due process rights by reversing her grant of parole. In November, **Anand Krishnaswamy '12** argued a federal habeas case in the Ninth Circuit and was commended by **Judge Dorothy Nelson LLM '56**, former dean of USC Law, on his advocacy. **Steve Papazian '12** argued a difficult parole habeas case before the California Court of Appeal in the wake of the recent Shaputis II decision by the California Supreme Court.

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