

1992

Public Interest Law Project 1992-1993

Nova University

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Public Interest Law Project

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1992 - 93 Steering Committee

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William R. Black
Professor Douglas Donoho
Professor Angela Gilmore
Walter Honaman
Sharon Kung
Ian Mann
Professor Michael Masinter
J. "Rusty" Perez
Arlene Rohr
Professor Marc Rohr
Lisa Steinberg
David Valdin

Interested in ENVIRONMENTAL LAW? COMMUNICATIONS LAW? DISABILITY LAW? IMMIGRATION LAW?

Dear Third Year Students:

On behalf of PILP, I urge you to consider working for two years (and earning an LL.M. degree in the process) with the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. They are recruiting for two graduate fellow/staff attorney positions, where you will gain intensive experience in litigation and administrative and legislative advocacy. The annual stipend for the position will be approximately \$26,000.


Examples of recent communications projects include petitioning the FCC to prohibit childrens' television programs in which the characters are drawn from advertisements and commenting on proposed new criteria for awarding broadcast licenses.

Environmental Law projects have included advising a homeowner's group fighting the development of a private power plant, resisting zoning changes that would expand the operations of an industrial plant that pollutes local rivers, working closely with neighborhood groups concerned with health threats from a municipal ash dump, and researching a wide range of local and federal environmental law issues. In short, the project's goal is to focus on threats to public health among economically disadvantaged and minority populations.

In recent years, the balance of projects have dealt with civil rights issues (principally in the area of access of persons with disabilities to transportation) and immigration law. In the future, they hope to expand their civil rights docket and to focus their immigration work on issues relating to political asylum and refugee issues.

If you think you might be interested, please see me or Mary Carchio in Career Services as soon as possible. A great opportunity! Go where the action is!

With best wishes,



Michael M. Rooke-Ley
Professor of Law

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Attention Third Year Students Interested In:

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STREET LAW programs for HIGH SCHOOLS and/or CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES and those interested in some day BECOMING A LAW SCHOOL CLINICAL PROFESSOR:

Georgetown Law Center in Washington DC is offering two-year graduate fellowships, through which fellows earn \$25,000 per year and a LL.M. degree, as well.

Georgetown's two Street Law Clinics are designed for candidates interested in developing research, teaching, and supervisory abilities in a law school clinical and public interest setting. The fellowship program combines seminar teaching, field supervision of second-and third-year law students, administration, curriculum development and scholarly research in the context of practical law affecting one's everyday life.

In the Street Law: High Schools Clinic, the fellow supervises law students who teach year-long elective courses in practical law in District of Columbia senior high schools. These courses cover criminal, torts, consumer, housing, family, and individual rights matters and culminate in a mock trial competition.

In the Street Law: Corrections Clinic, the fellow supervises students who teach practical law courses in District of Columbia correctional facilities. These courses cover constitutional law outside and inside the prisons, criminal procedure, first amendment, freedom of speech and religion, corrections law, and selected topics in civil law.

Please see me or Mary Carchio in Career Services for further details.

With best wishes,



Michael M. Rooke-Ley
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Again this year 25 Skadden Fellowships will be awarded to graduating law students nationwide. The Fellows provide civil legal services to the poor, including the elderly, the homeless, the disabled and those deprived of their civil or human rights. Fellowships are awarded for one year, with the expectation of renewal for a second year. Each Skadden Fellow's salary is \$32,500, plus all fringe benefits and all debt service on law school loans.

Grants are made to the public interest organizations chosen by the Fellows. Thus, applicants must secure a potential position with a sponsoring public interest organization before applying for a fellowship. Our Career Services Office has a long list of possible organizations and can help you make selections. For example, Florida Rural Legal Services is seeking to sponsor a fellow, as is the Hispanic Project of the Legal Aid Society in Atlanta, Georgia, which provides desperately-needed legal services to the rapidly-growing Hispanic community in the Metro-Atlanta area.

Examples of past placement⁴ for Skadden Fellows include the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund in West Virginia, the ACLU's AIDS Project in Chicago, the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, Native Americans Rights Funds in Colorado, Southern Prisoners' Defense Committee in Atlanta, Disability Law Center in Boston, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in New York, Immigrant Legal Resource Center in San Francisco, Legal Clinic for the Homeless in Washington DC, and Legal Services of Greater Miami.

This is a very prestigious fellowship, and those of us with PILP and Career Services will do all we can to help you.

With best wishes,



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FELLOWSHIPS FOR EQUAL JUSTICE

Dear Third Year Students:

The National Association for Public Interest Law is beginning a brand new program for 1993 grads: Fellowships for Equal Justice. Applicants are asked to develop a one- or two-year project to serve under-represented people or interests. The applicant may propose to work with an existing non-profit organization, or may design an independent project if she/he cannot identify a sponsoring organization because of the unique nature of the project.

Each fellowship will be a one-year placement with the option to renew for a second year. Fellowships will be provided in an amount equal to the starting salary at the sponsoring organization up to \$30,000; a fellow may apply for a second-year grant at half the base salary, up to \$15,000. NAPIL Fellowships will provide grants or no-interest loans during the course of the fellowship to pay any monthly educational debt payments.

We have a long list of public interest/social justice organizations throughout Florida, as well as nationwide, for whom you might work. Or you may propose your own project. For details or assistance, please see me or Mary Carchio in Career Services ASAP.

With best wishes,



Michael Rooke-Ley
Professor of Law

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Dear Third Year Women:

On behalf of your PILP colleagues, I would like to encourage you to consider the Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program at Georgetown University in Washington DC. This is an extraordinary program, focusing on important issues, and is an opportunity to work with major players in our nation's capital.

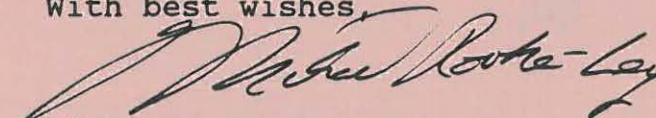
This one-year program enables law graduates with a special interest in women's rights to work on legal and policy issues affecting women. Fellows are placed with different organizations, including women's rights groups, civil rights groups, Congressional offices, governmental agencies, and the Georgetown University Law Center Sex Discrimination Clinic.

Additional fellowships have expanded the Program beyond its initial eight. The Rita Charatz Davidson Fellowship emphasizes issues affecting poor women and has supported two fellows. The recently established Harriett R. Burg Fellowship focuses on issues affecting women with disabilities. A fellowship program for international law graduates interested in women's rights is in the developmental stage. Each fellow receives a stipend of \$25,000, health insurance coverage, and vacation and sick leave.

If you are interested, please come to see me or Mary Carchio, our new Career Services Director. The application deadline is November 20, 1992, but you'll need plenty of lead time to craft a persuasive application. We will work with you on the materials you submit, and faculty members will be happy to recommend you.

Don't pass this up! Broaden your horizons!

With best wishes,



Michael Rooke-Ley
Professor of Law

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NOVA
RAD (78)
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE!

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For these 3 Haitians, there is hope

MIAMI HERALD 9-12-92, p. B1

Attorney Michael Ray got an urgent visit at his office last week. A Haitian client told him relatives had been detained at Miami International Airport and would be deported to Haiti within a couple of hours even though they wanted to ask for political asylum.

Ray dashed over to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to request a hearing. In doing this, he knew INS officials had to let the three refugees stay in the country until their claims were heard. He tried to reach airport immigration inspectors by phone to alert them, but couldn't get through.

In a mad rush to save the refugees from deportation, Ray, long an advocate of Haitian rights, scrambled down airport concourses and made frantic calls to U.S. officials.

One INS inspector told him by phone at the airport not to worry, the refugees would not be returned. Ray waited at the gate where the Haiti Trans Air crew prepared for departure. And he waited. But no one brought the refugees. He fumed as he watched the plane pull away.

He darted to federal court. With less than an hour before closing time, Ray scribbled an emergency petition by hand. If a judge granted his motion, he hoped, the refugees could be returned to Miami on the same plane that night.

Meanwhile, en route to their homeland were a 17-year-old student named Evna Normil, a 35-year-old political activist named Vanes Clerval and his 22-year-old wife, Magalie Presendieu, eight months pregnant.

Clerval shuddered at the thought of going home. He had been active in the party of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. After the coup of September 1991, Clerval says military thugs were looking to kill him. One day last March, soldiers came for

wife escaped out the back door and fled their St. Marc home for the capital.

Evna Normil, too, was scared. Ten months ago, her uncle, an Aristide supporter, was dragged away by soldiers and disappeared. She and her aunt left home and hid in the capital.

The three refugees knew one another, but had no idea they would wind up on a plane seeking asylum together. When they landed in Miami, INS officials detained them for two days on charges they entered the country as stowaways. Presendieu was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital for severe cramps. Back on the plane, the three worried their days were numbered.

When they reached the Haitian immigration post, they were greeted with a threat, they say. "They said they were going to show us what happened to people who leave the country illegally. They said they would kick our butts," says Clerval.

Then a flight attendant called them back aboard.

Back in Miami, a U.S. magistrate had granted Ray's motion to bring the refugees back. Hours after landing in Miami, they were released to relatives.

On Friday, the U.S. attorney's office filed a motion to throw out the magistrate's ruling. It says the district court lacked the jurisdiction to issue such an order, since the refugees had already left the country. Besides, prosecutors say, it was unnecessary. INS had ordered the refugees returned to Miami anyway. It was the airline that didn't follow the directions from INS and placed the refugees back on the plane.

Michael Ray isn't so sure.

For whatever reason the refugees were returned, it was only a minor victory. Ray knows it is unlikely they will be granted political asylum. He knows so far this month 84 Haitian boat people have been interdicted and sent back without even a hearing.

But on that Thursday afternoon, for reasons that ultimately don't matter, three Haitians were given a chance to pursue asylum claims in this country.

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