

Pro Bono & Justice

A periodic publication of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities

Tara and Tom Talks

July, 2017

Dear Friends,

As we find ourselves in the Ides of Summer, we wonder where the time has gone as we prepare for the return of students next month.

In many ways, Summer is our New Year's Eve/Day. We enter into it with a fair amount of celebration and excitement, which soon turns into reflection and circumspection. Summer provides us the space to think about what worked well in the previous year, what did not meet our expectations, what were pleasant surprises, and what were uninvited disturbances. It also provides us the space to transform what we learn from looking back into what we want to do looking forward. We plan out next year's calendar, mixing old faithful programming with new progressive initiatives. And, just like we do around New Year's, we make resolutions on how to be better, do better – in our work, our engagement with students, our collaboration with colleagues, our contribution to the community.

As you make these plans, however, remember Voltaire's warning in "La Bégueule" – "the best is the enemy of good". As we seek to improve, grow, and innovate, we must also be mindful of one key word – capacity. Capacity is defined as "the ability or power to do, experience, or understand something." No matter the idea, we must ask ourselves the following questions:

1. Is there institutional capacity?
2. Is there student capacity?
3. Is there community capacity?
4. Do I have the capacity?

The first three questions may be answered by doing a simple asset audit regarding budgets, staffing, community need, etc. That last question, though, can only be answered by asking yourself. Do you have the personal bandwidth to take on this new program or to undertake an existing program's complete overhaul? That is a much more difficult question to answer, especially when your very nature seeks out to do more if it means it will help more.

As the summer days wind down, we encourage you to reflect, reconsider, plan, and dream. All four components equally important in planning for the coming year. And, as Henry David Thoreau once said, "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them."

Happy New Year!

Best,
Your Co-Chairs

Tara Casey
University of Richmond School of Law

Tom Schoenherr
Fordham University School of Law

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders: Mobilizing Students and Community Partner Collaboration to Respond to the Unexpected

Wednesday, January 3, 2018 – 1:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Please plan to join us for our section program at the 2018 Annual Meeting in San Diego!

This past year has presented unexpected opportunities for us to work with our students on rapid response pro bono projects. Our panel will explore multiple ways in which our law school pro bono programs can lend help collaborating not only with our typical not-for-profit legal partners, but also with law firms, bar associations, and non-legal service providers at this time of expanded and unpredictable need. We will also focus upon the ways in which these projects provide unique leadership skills development opportunities for our motivated students. We will discuss ways in which we and our students can meaningfully connect with this broad range of volunteer providers with existing/evolving rapid response initiatives while remaining realistic about what our students can and cannot do given their status as students and the demands of their coursework and other law school activities.

Our speakers will also address: How do we balance our personal views with our role as administrator and advisor? How can we now attempt to prospectively identify issues and mobilize law students for future work? What models have been established already for rapid response? What's replicable?

Moderator:

\Laura Burstein – SMU Deadman School of Law – Director of Public Service and Academic Success.

Panelists:

Alison Korn – UCLA Law School – Clinical Director for the Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy and one of the former law student national leaders of the Student Hurricane Network.

Mary Spector – SMU Deadman School of School – Dean of Clinics and Director of the Consumer Law Clinic.

Saralyn Cohen – Shearman & Sterling LLP – Pro Bono Counsel and Global Director of Pro Bono

Sasha Novis – UCLA Law School Class of 2019 – Co-Executive Director of Law Students for Immigrant Justice at UCLA.

SERVICE PROJECT @ 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

On January 4, 2018 members of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities will show what real pro bono work looks like by engaging in a hands on project serving the local San Diego community. The service project will be held at **Mama's Kitchen** (<http://www.mamaskitchen.org/>), a community-driven organization that provides nutrition support to men, women, and children affected by AIDS or cancer who are vulnerable to hunger.



Mama's Kitchen strives to help clients stay healthy, preserve their dignity, and keep their families together by providing free, culturally appropriate home-delivered meals, along with pantry services and nutrition education. Participants will prepare meals and pack grocery bags to be delivered to those in need. Close-toed shoes are required and sleeveless shirts are prohibited. Hats may be worn or hairnets will be provided.

The project site (3960 Home Ave.) is 3.7 miles from the Annual Meeting, and participants are asked to provide their own transportation. Those interested in ride-sharing should meet in the lobby of the Marriott Marquis Hotel at Noon to depart at 12:15pm.



START YOUR NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF PRO BONO PLANNING NOW!

Over the past eight years, with your help, the ABA's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service has succeeded in focusing an annual national spotlight on pro bono. During the 2016 National Celebration, over 700 organizations participated by planning more than 1200 events!

This year's National Celebration is only a few short months away! Visit the Celebration Website at <https://www.probono.net/celebrateprobono/> for great organizing ideas and tools. Contact the ABA's Center for Pro Bono to help facilitate your planning at celebrateprobono@americanbar.org.

On the Celebration website, you can find planning tips and tools specifically tailored to law school pro bono programs by visiting https://www.probono.net/celebrateprobono/resources/folder.379548-Law_School_Resources. Here are some suggestions for the 2017 Celebration:

- Does your state have ABAFreeLegalAnswers? Host a question-a-thon where law students can answer questions with attorney assistance and supervision. Order pizza and spend a few hours doing pro bono via internet!
- Host a pro bono fair for students to learn about the great pro bono opportunities at your school!
- Get your students and your pro bono program involved in social media! Have students tweet about their favorite way to do pro bono, post it with the hashtag [#celebrateprobono](#).
- Make sure to share any events you have on the Celebration website, and tweet about it with the hashtag [#celebrateprobono](#).

SHARE YOUR PRO BONO STORY

Your own pro bono story has the potential to inspire others to do the essential work of providing legal assistance to the underserved. Send an email to celebrateprobono@americanbar.org with a picture or story about your favorite way to do pro bono!

CELEBRATION STORE – OPENING MID-JULY

Be sure to check-out the Celebration Store for unique and exciting products to provide you with gift and promotional items for your pro bono volunteers.

[Did you see the Grand Opening in July?](#)

[Let the ABA know your plans!](#)

Award Nominations Being Accepted

The AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities will present two awards at the AALS Annual meeting in January 2018. The purpose of these awards is to honor those who have dedicated significant efforts toward increasing access to justice through the law school environment and to inspire similar efforts from others. The intent is to honor those who personally design and manage pro bono programs, those leaders in legal education who promote these programs and those who personally give of their time and talents in pro bono service.

The Deborah L. Rhode Award will be awarded to a full-time faculty member or dean who has made an outstanding contribution to increasing pro bono and public service in the law school setting through scholarship, leadership, or service.

The Father Robert Drinan Award will be presented to a professional faculty or staff member at a law school who has forwarded the ethic of pro bono service through personal service, program design or management.

Nominations of others or oneself may be made by any member of AALS until October 3, 2017 at 5:00 PM EST. Please email nominations to Jill Friedman at jill.friedman@rutgers.edu. Nomination letters should be no longer than five pages and may be accompanied by no more than three letters of support. Please use a descriptive subject line such as "Nomination of xxx by xxx for the Rhode Award," or "Letter of support for nomination of xxx for Father Drinan Award from xxx." Re-nomination of persons who have been previously nominated but not selected is encouraged. Feel free to call Jill at 856-225-6263 with questions.

Ours is a story less well-publicized. This story is about dedicated students and faculty members across the United States who diligently pursue the goal of equal justice for all by providing sorely needed legal representation."

...these are the words of 2018 AALS President, Paul Marcus as he announced that the theme for the 2018 Annual meeting would be "Access to Justice"

Section Leadership

Co-chairs: Tara Casey (University of Richmond) & Tom Schoenherr (Fordham University)
tcasey@richmond.edu tschoenherr@fordham.edu

Chair-Elect: Jennifer Tschirch (Georgetown University) Jennifer.Tschirch@law.georgetown.edu

Secretary/Awards Chair: Jill Friedman (Rutgers Law School) jillfrie@camden.rutgers.edu

Treasurer: Stephen Rispoli (Baylor University) jillfrie@camden.rutgers.edu

Publications/Communications: Pam Robinson (University of South Carolina) Robinspd@law.sc.edu
Immediate Past Chair: Carolyn Goodwin (Boston University) cgoodwin@bu.edu

At Large: Lisa Mead (UCLA) MEAD@law.ucla.edu

Christina Jackson (NALP) cjackson@nalp.org

Membership: Alisa Rosales (Indiana University Maurer School of Law)



Welcome to the Pro Bono Collaboration Corner. AALS members have come together with representatives from NALP, Equal Justice Works (EJW), the ABA Center for Pro Bono, and the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) to share information on law school pro bono. The goal is to provide our greater communities with news, events, conference recaps, and more so that we are not working in parallel or at cross-purposes.

Big news: We are pleased to welcome Carolyn Goodwin, Director for Public Service and Pro Bono at Boston University School of Law, as the new chair of the Pro Bono Collaboration Group.

Best Practices in Pro Bono Series:

The collaboration workgroup is working on a series of small, topic-specific best practices guides. The following topics will be the inaugural set of guides. We plan to launch the completed guides in time for the AALS annual meeting in January. Topics are:

- i. Cultivating Volunteers (Attracting volunteers and keeping them interested and returning)
- ii. Cultural Competency
- iii. Training Volunteers
- iv. Supervising Volunteers
- v. Tracking volunteer hours

Please be on the lookout for emails or survey requests from our volunteers, who are working to compile resources and information on these topics.

Conference recaps and upcoming RFP deadlines:

NALP Conference: There were a variety of programs for all experience levels. A particularly provocative discussion happened during “Counselor, Activist, Advocate — What is the Role of Career Services Offices During Campus Protests?” And for our own wellness, folks found “When We’re Beside Ourselves: Using Personality Type to Manage Stress” engaging. You can access all the handouts from the conference on the NALP website (NALP member log-in required).

Equal Justice Conference (EJC): The law school pro bono pre-conference is always a wealth of information. The project exchange was particularly helpful. You can access all the documents, handouts, and notes from this and other programs in this dropbox folder <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ottv5tsvero6iey/AACDxPQ9RoQPuHiadHw58GCQa?dl=0>

Update your ABA Directory of Pro Bono Programs entry:

Marissa LaVette, Assistant Staff Counsel, Center for Pro Bono reminds us to review and update, if necessary, our pro bono programs listed in the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service and the Center for Pro Bono’s Directory of Pro Bono Programs. The Directory provides a state-by-state listing of pro bono programs, including law school programs. To update your program’s entry in the Directory, please Email the Center for Pro Bono or Marissa at Marissa.LaVette@americanbar.org.

Call for input:

This group’s primary goal is to bring together the pro bono community in a way that allows us to work better, smarter, faster. If you know of an event or information that should be shared, please pass it along to Carolyn Goodwin at cgoodwin@bu.edu.

2017

- October 25-26, 2017** **NALP Public Service Mini Conference**
Washington, DC
- October 27-28, 2017** **Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair**
Arlington, VA
- December 6-9, 2017** **NLADA Annual Conference**
Washington, DC

2018

- January 3-6, 2018** **AALS Annual Meeting**
San Diego, CA
- January 10-12, 2018** **LSC Tech Innovations Conference**
New Orleans, LA
- April 29-May 2, 2018** **AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education**
Austin, TX
- May 10-12, 2018** **ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference**
San Diego, CA

AALS -Association for American Law Schools
<http://www.aals.org>

ABA- American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/probono_public_service.html

EJW- Equal Justice Works
<http://www.equaljusticeworks.org>

NALP- National Association for Law Placement
<http://www.nalp.org>

PSJD-Public Service Job Directory
<http://www.psjd.org>



RESULTS

Periodically the Section will post a Survey question on the Listserv, results will be published in the next newsletter

PopUp Survey Question #5

Question #1

What are your barriers to attending or participating in a pro bono conference or workshop? Budget, length of conference/workshop, timing during the year, location, conflicts, etc.? Please write a short paragraph describing your frustrations. We ask this question for pro bono specific conferences/workshops only, not clinical or legal issue specific conferences or workshops.

Question #2

If you only attend one conference or workshop per year, which one do you go to? Or would you go to?

#1 Lack of time Distance from home

Insufficient relevant programming to justify time/expense

#2 ABA EJC conference - it's the only one that brings EVERYONE together from all corners of the pro bono universe.

Arlene Rivera Finkelstein

Penn Law

#1 I have a limited amount of funding and since pro bono is not my specific area of responsibility at my school, I don't feel that I can justify asking the school to fund travel for a pro bono conference or workshop

#2 In the years that the externship conferences are held (even years), that's what I would choose to attend. Otherwise, the AALS clinical conference is the one I would attend

Beth Schwartz

Fordham

#1 Budget woes and scheduling conflicts often prohibit participation

#2 NALP Annual Education Conference because it offers sessions regarding several of my advising specialties.

Diane Fears

Wayne State

#1 Budget and location (as it connects to budget)

Carolyn Goodwin

Boston

#1 Budget Constraints

#2 AALA

Virgie Mouton

Texas Southern

#1 Budget and timing during the year.

#2 Last year only attended EJW. This year, attending EJW and AALS and hoping to also attend NALP - but it is a budget question largely.

Laura Burstein
SMU Dedman

#1 I have commitments to other conferences that make it unlikely that I would attend a pro bono conference unless my school had dedicated funding for attending a pro bono conference. My role is not primarily a pro bono one

Carl Circo
Arkansas

#1 I have an interest and helped create our pb/ps program, but am not the point person, so there is no money for me to attend, and I am already spending personally for conferences closer to my primary work; I have a disabled husband and have to limit how much I can travel as a result

#2 It would depend on the year and my interests/needs at the time.

Ellen Suni
UMKC

#1 AALS Clinical Conference and EJC conflict every year otherwise I would like to go to both. I have an annual \$3500 faculty support account to attend conferences and given that I am on the west coast often needing to travel to the east coast, I typically can attend two conferences each year maximum.

#2 AALS Clinical/Externship Conference

Lisa Mead
UCLA

#1 Often it's just a matter of prioritizing which conferences to attend in a given year. As someone who does public interest career counseling and pro bono administration, I could potentially attend: PSJD Mini-Conference + Equal Justice Works Conference & Career Fair in October; AALS in January; NALP in April; ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference in May. And I usually attend our state bar annual conference in July, as well. While these are all good conferences, it's hard to justify that much time & money spent on travel, so I don't attend each of these every year. There's also the location issue

-- some years there are multiple conferences in similar locations. For example, next year, when both AALS and EJC will be in San Diego. A few years ago, NALP was in Seattle and EJC was in Portland two weeks later. Travel time and costs to get to the West coast twice a year adds up!

#2 If I could only attend one, I would go to the ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference.

Glory McLaughlin
Alabama

#1 I wish the ABA-NLADA Equal Justice Conference could be in June instead of May. It's usually scheduled so close to the NALP conference that it's hard to attend both. I always attend NALP, and would love to always attend EJC, too.

#2 I'm fortunate to be able to attend a few. I always got to AALS, Equal Justice Works (October in DC), and NALP.

Tom Schoeherr
Fordham

#1 Often times, it is the scheduling. Conferences that occur in the midst of final exams, graduation, etc., are nearly impossible to attend due to the commitments still on many teaching faculty.

#2 AALS Annual Meeting is a great connector across so many disciplines. I learn so much not just from my own section's program but from other sections as well. Plus, I love catching up with colleagues from other schools in person.

Tara Casey
Richmond

#1 It's a close call when balancing budget impact and lost-time against the potential benefits. This feels especially true because conference don't generally have tons of content specific to law school pro bono engagement

#2 Equal Justice Conference

Mike Winn

Stanford

#1 It won't take a short paragraph; I can address this in one word: funding

#2 I'm taking liberties by naming two: Equal Justice and American Constitution Society. Thank you for doing this, Pam

Jill Friedman

Rutgers

#1 \$\$ - can't afford more than one. Also Equal Justice Conference is always very close to the AALS Clinical Teaching Conference

#2 Externship Conference or clinical teaching conference

Laurie Barron

RWU

#1 There are, of course, budgetary concerns. But I also have limited time for conferences, and since my primary areas of teaching and scholarship are business law, I tend to focus on those events (conferences and symposia) with my limited dollars and time

#2 The Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) conference

Joan Hemingway

Tennessee

#1 Budget is the biggest barrier, the second is timing during the year. The most valuable conference for me is the ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference, and it nearly always takes place over the same weekend as our school's graduation, which I hate to miss

#2 ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference

Page Potter

NCCU

#1 I am both the pro bono and the externship director, so it is hard to do both types of conferences in a given year. I have long wanted to attend the EJ Conference, but it is often at the same time or too close to the AALS clinical conference.

#2 the Externships Conference, which is held every other year

Amy Sankaran

Michigan

#1 I am generally limited by the expense of travel and accommodations, especially when a long distance from Rhode Island. My school generally permits just one conference per year. If the conference isn't compelling and relevant to my work, the expense usually outweighs my desire to go. I wish that the conference sessions could be recorded and shared, even for a fee.

#2 Generally it has been the ABA Equal Justice with the Law School pre-conference but I haven't been in 2 years.

Eliza Vorenberg

RWU

#1 It is difficult to get away, especially for anything that occurs on the weekend.

#2 NLADA Equal Justice Conference

Anna Davis

UC Irvine

#1 Timing! I often have to choose between graduation and attending a conference. Also few conferences have enough law school pro bono specific content. I have to be sure that state dollars are wisely spent and there is enough content to be valuable to my actual job. This often includes the non-workshop time but the surrounding opportunities to network
#2 I typically attend the AALS Annual Meeting and the ABA Equal Justice Conference. I also attend a national gathering of directors of state and local volunteer lawyers for the arts programs. If I only had one it would be the ABA EJC Conference since it has at least one full day of law school pro bono content. (Newsletter Editor license to choose more than 1)

Pamela Robinson
South Carolina

#1 I teach an Externship course. Michelle Condon does the pro bono program.

#2 Depends on the conference. Externship, Clinical, AALS, ABA, Fireworks

James Klein
Charleston

#1 None. My school encourages attendance at at least 1 pro bono conferences or workshop each academic year

#2 I would like to attend the AALS Annual Conference or ABA Equal Justice Conference.

Tonya Jupiter
Tulane

#1 The primary barrier to attending one of these conferences tends to be budget which is affected by the conference registration fee, cost to get to the location and time of year. Because I teach in a clinic, trying to go to a conference in the beginning or middle of the semester just does not work.

#2 If going to only one conference, we usually go to the AALS clinic conference. However, our state poverty law conference is "free" for speakers >> including the travel, hotel, and food costs so that is the other conference we usually attend.

Janet Heppard
Houston

#1 Funding.

#2 Externships happens every other year AALS Clinical

EJC - especially law school pro bono part

Sue Schechter
UC Berkeley

Do you have new staff members, anyone retiring, changing jobs, adding responsibilities? Let us know and we will publish your *comings and goings* here!



Interested in more engagement with the Section?

Join in for the *Quarterly Call*

August 16, 2017 2-3 pm EDT

1-877-870-7831 #912253

How to Know Compassion Fatigue and Prevent It

Kathleen Haas, LCSW, MA Ed, CADC
Baylor University Counseling Center



Most people working and studying in the legal profession hear the statistics regarding the high rates of anxiety, depression and substance abuse lawyers experience and tell themselves, “That won’t be me, but I feel sorry for that other guy.” Honestly, living life daily, with an active practice of positive emotional and behavioral habits is the only thing separating you or I from being “that other guy.” It’s hard to hear, but destructive forms of anger, mood, fatigue, compulsive behaviors and frequent illness can be common experiences associated with the helping profession of law. Compassion fatigue can be the culprit. It is likely and many would say unavoidable for those who work intimately with the intense, tedious, final and/or traumatic nature of many client cases to experience compassion fatigue. A majority of cases will and do alter the lives of clients in dramatic and sometimes devastating ways. Preventative self-care is the most effective way to navigate this particular work hazard.

Compassion fatigue is defined as the process of a physical, emotional and spiritual fatigue or exhaustion that takes over a person and causes a decline in their ability to experience joy or to feel and care for others. Care for self is compromised when weeks, months or years are allowed to elapse while preoccupied with work. The symptoms and process of compassion fatigue often edge their way into your life without notice. Without intervention, compassion fatigue may result in a personal experience of over-identifying cognitively and emotionally with your client’s experience. Repeated exposure to traumatic details of cases without paying attention to your own self-care may result in your experiencing compassion fatigue. It can involve feeling states of chronic tension, mental and/or emotional hyper-arousal, numbness, or avoidance of the case material. During the long hours of seeking to understand the facts, delineating questions of relevancy and cause and effect; the traumatizing details of cases and the devastating particulars of the real people behind the cases can take a heavy toll. Taking time to debrief, break from the case, seek preventative counseling or get extra rest and personal attention needed may be delayed repeatedly. It is this repeat nature of delaying recovery time and perspective that feeds the progression of compassion fatigue.

Cognitive symptoms of compassion fatigue include compromised concentration skills, rigid and apathetic thoughts/views, as well as, perfectionism and decreased self-esteem. Relationships may also suffer with unchecked compassion fatigue and increased interpersonal conflicts, anger, and loneliness can occur. Work performance is also impacted and low motivation, obsession about details, withdrawal and/or conflicts with colleagues can result.

Preventing and minimizing compassion fatigue involves intentional self-awareness, and planned self-care. Use supervisory relationships at work and/or peer consults to debrief from case work that includes obvious traumatic detail and extended handling. Consider and establish work-life boundaries which have actual guidelines that allow you to create needed space and time to engage in enjoyable activities individually or with family and friends. Take a few minutes a day to reflect on and remember great memories associated with these times and you will get maximum returns on your emotional well-being. Get routine preventative health care appointments into your schedule regularly and follow any recommendations doctors may make that will positively support your physical and mental wellbeing. Invest in your relationships with significant others and if you need to brush up on your communication skills do so. Take time to see a therapist or attend workshops focused on professional and relational learning. And yes, some form of physical exercise whether it’s a 15 minute walk at lunch break, biking, yoga, etc. will contribute to your goal of preventing compassion fatigue! Don’t just read this article and forget about it. Decide on two or three actions and get ahead of compassion fatigue.