



SCHOOL of LAW

The Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice: 2020-21 Annual Report

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

— Nelson Mandela, Former President of South Africa

The Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice supports and enhances several Loyola University Chicago School of Law clinics, programs, and initiatives that promote social and racial justice.

These include the ChildLaw Policy Institute and its Legislation & Policy Clinic, Civitas ChildLaw Clinic, the Education Law & Policy Institute, the Health Justice Project, experiential learning, and the Center for Public Interest. The Rodin Center also is represented by the work of the named Social Justice faculty, staff, and advisors.



During the 2020-21 academic year, the law school continued to conduct classes in a virtual environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether virtual or in-person, our students, faculty, and staff, will continue to be connected by the extraordinary mission of the Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice.

Our Call Toward Social Justice and Reform

The 2020-21 academic year presented ongoing and new challenges for students, staff, and faculty at the law school, and Curt and Linda Rodin Center faculty and advisors served a vital role in overcoming these hurdles. It was the second year of remote teaching, learning, and practice; we continued to experience turmoil, assaults on democracy, and racial violence across the country and in our own communities; and it was the first year working toward the law school's new mission statement, which calls on the School of Law to:

- **educate students** to be responsible and compassionate lawyers, judges, and law-related leaders in an increasingly diverse and interdependent world;
- **prepare graduates** who will be ethical advocates for justice and equity, who will lead efforts to dismantle the legal, economic, political, and social structures that generate and sustain racism and all forms of oppression, and who will advance a rule of law that promotes social justice; and
- **contribute to a deeper understanding** of law, legal institutions, and systems of oppression through a commitment to transformation, intersectionality, and anti-subordination in our teaching, research, scholarship, and public service.

This annual report is intended not only as a representation of the work undertaken this year, but as a tribute to the engagement and spirit of the faculty, staff, and students who persevered in troubling times and under challenging circumstances.

Responding to the expanded needs of our community in Chicago

Law school clinical faculty expanded their work to address the needs of community members during this period, adding new programs and increasing partnerships.

In February 2021, the Health Justice Project (HJP), under the direction of Rodin Center advisor Professor Kate Mitchell, and in partnership with Clinical Teaching Fellow Maya Watson, launched its new Maywood Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP), a collaboration with Loyola Medicine and Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. The new Maywood MLP received 20 referrals in its first month of operation. Interdisciplinary teams of law, medical, public health, and social work students assisted HJP and Maywood MLP clients with obtaining supplemental social security income

benefits (SSI), gaining access to Medicaid and SNAP benefits, advocating for healthy housing, and assisting with immigration matters. Two cases that illustrate the work of the MLPs include:

- The HJP represented Mary (pseudonym), who suffers from significant mental and physical disabilities, including severe anxiety and depression, a history of trauma, and struggles with homelessness with her young son. Mary was referred to the HJP for help appealing a denial of social security disability benefits. The HJP assisted her in successfully appealing the denial of benefits to federal court and



in successfully re-applying for and obtaining disability benefits while that appeal was pending. After a remanded administrative hearing, Mary was approved for benefits dating back to her original application in 2016. The HJP also assisted Mary with several other legal matters, with the goal of providing her holistic legal services

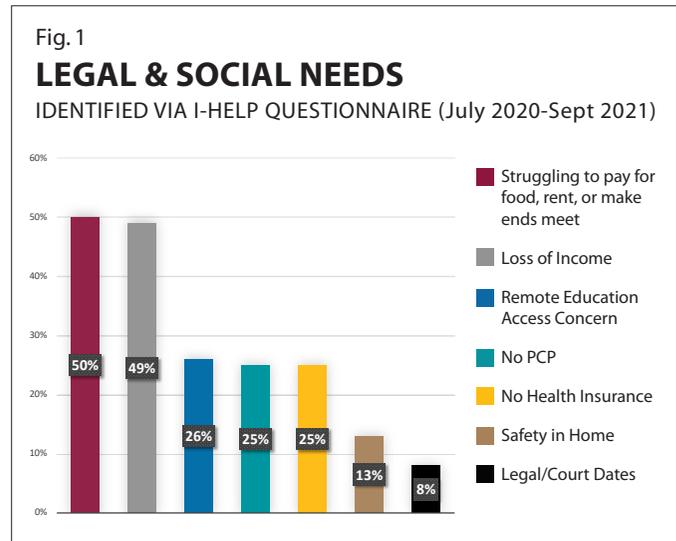
and securing her independence and financial security, including: successfully challenging over \$1,000 in claimed utility debt; advocating with the Illinois Department of Human Services to appeal reductions of SNAP and maintain medical insurance benefits; and securing reasonable accommodations for her housing choice voucher with the Chicago Housing Authority.

■ The Ruiz family (pseudonym) was referred to the HJP for conditions of disrepair in their apartment, including mold and an infestation of bedbugs. The family has three minor children. The Ruiz family faced significant barriers in negotiating with the landlord to enforce their rights, in part because they are undocumented immigrants and monolingual Spanish speakers. HJP students advised the family on their rights and options and assisted in negotiating with the landlord for a financial settlement so they could move into a new unit. Student

advocates provided the family with holistic services by also assisting in securing and moving into a new unit and obtaining a donation of new furniture to replace the bedbug-infested furniture.

The HJP continued its collaboration with students and faculty from Loyola’s schools of public health, medicine, and nursing through the COVID Equity Response Collaborative Loyola (CERCL), established in spring 2020. The collaborative continued working in Chicago’s near western suburbs to provide free COVID-19 testing and began to offer COVID-19 vaccines, referrals to other vaccine providers, education about COVID-19 safety and the vaccine, and

other social and legal supports to communities of color hit hard by COVID-19. From July 2020 through June 2021, CERCL volunteers screened 961 community members seeking COVID-19 testing. HJP staff and volunteers followed up with 403 people—who indicated needs related to education access, health care access issues, as well as safety, legal, and financial issues—and provided resources to 103



community members (See Fig. 1 for legal and social needs identified). HJP students and volunteers also created resource handouts, built up the CERCL website to expand education and resources, and continued to offer social and legal supports to community members responding to its screening tool.

Rodin Professors of Law and Social Justice Bruce Boyer and Stacey Platt worked with court personnel and other advocates in an ongoing effort to develop appropriate child-oriented practices for remote hearings and family visits. Professor Boyer, director of the Civitas ChildLaw Center, worked with attorneys from the Cook County Public Defender’s Office on a class-action lawsuit challenging the severe restriction of parent-child visits by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) due to COVID-19, including the imposition of a draconian, blanket policy preventing many children from having in-person contact with their

families. Professor Platt, associate director of the Civitas ChildLaw Clinic, joined an invited group of advocates to explore the benefits and drawbacks of remote proceedings in the domestic relations division, called together by the presiding judge in an effort to improve current practice and plan for post-COVID-19 procedures.

Anita Weinberg, director of the Rodin Center and a Rodin Clinical Professor of Law and Social Justice, continued work begun early in the pandemic, leading a group of advocates, including Professor Boyer, to address challenges to children and families who were in the child welfare system during the pandemic. The working group met regularly with legislators and leadership in the DCFS with the hope of effectively addressing identified concerns. As a result of this work and ongoing partnerships, important protections were put into place for youth aging out of foster care. In addition, DCFS continued to make efforts to respond to the increasing

needs of children and families in the system impacted by the pandemic.

The Education Law and Policy Institute, under the direction of Rodin Center advisor Miranda Johnson and staff attorneys Jackie Ross and Julie Pautsch, continued their work in response to the challenges that surfaced due to remote learning and focused much of their work in the areas of bullying, discipline, and special education to respond to needs arising during remote learning.

In response to current events, the Rodin Center convened several programs, including one focused on police accountability, and another on a 2020 ballot initiative concerning taxes.

The Rodin Center’s second annual program was titled “Police Accountability: What has been done and what more needs to be done.” Over 175 students, faculty, interdisciplinary practitioners, and community members attended the

program, which brought together legal scholars, community organizers, and elected representatives to explore the role of the U.S. Supreme Court in policies, legislative reform, community activism, and the use of consent decrees. Past and current initiatives to hold police accountable, and visions for a more just future, were discussed. Speakers and topics for this event included the following:

Introductory Remarks: Stephen Rushin, Judge Hubert Louis Will Professor of Law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law



On The Supreme Court, Racist Policing, and Alternative Avenues for Police Accountability: Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean, and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law



On State Legislative Reform: The Honorable Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Illinois State Senator and Chief Senate

Sponsor of HB 3653, landmark criminal justice reform, now P.A. 101-652, Moderator: **Jordan Shead**, Rodin Social Justice Fellow, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

On Community Activism: Desmon Yancy, Director of Community Organizing, Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN); **Trina Reynolds-Tyler**, Citizen Police Data Project, Invisible Institute; and **Chaclyn Hunt**, Youth/Police Project, Invisible Institute, Moderator: **Cruz Rodriguez**, Rodin Social Justice Fellow, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

On Police Abolition: Asha Rosa Ransby-Sporn, Co-founder, Black Youth Project 100 and **Frank**



Chapman, Chicago Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, Moderator: **Andy Froelich**, Rodin Social Justice Fellow, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

On the Use of Consent Decrees: Walter Katz, Vice President of Criminal Justice, Arnold Ventures, Moderator: **Kelsey Wilson**, Rodin Social Justice Fellow, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

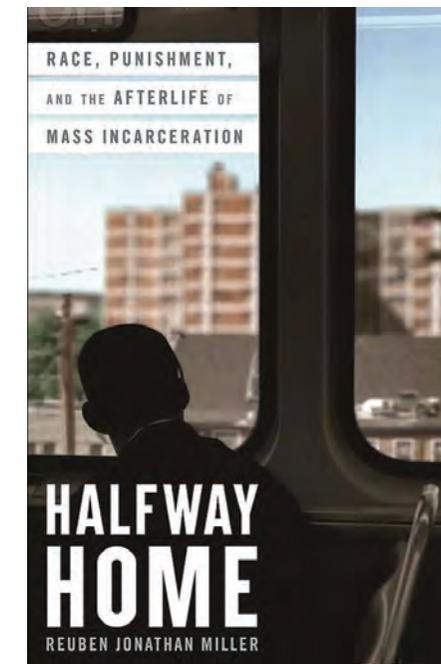
Closing Remarks: MariaCarolina Gomez-Gonzalez and **Maggie Pfeiffer**, Rodin Social Justice Fellows, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

The first question on the November 2020 ballot in Illinois asked voters whether they wanted to change the Illinois Constitution from requiring that all taxes on income be at the same rate (a “flat tax”), or that the State be given the authority to impose higher taxes on those with higher incomes and lower taxes on

those with middle-or lower-income levels. Advocates of the amendment argued that the impact of such a change in tax structure would improve the delivery of human services. Under the auspices of the Rodin Center, over 70 attendees listened as John Bouman, former president of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law, engaged in conversation with Samuel Brunson, a Loyola Law Georgia Reithal Professor of Law, about the proposed constitutional amendment.

The annual Amaker Retreat, planned by a team of law students and Social Justice Leader-In-Residence Mary Bird, examined “Organizing and Activism in Chicago: The Role of the Legal Community.” Movement attorneys and activists spoke at the program, which brought together over 90 attendees, including Chicago-area law students, community members, faculty, and staff.

Law students, law graduates, and community members participated in



a virtual book discussion convened by Social Justice Leader-In-Residence Bird, with Reuben Jonathan Miller, author of *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*.

“Social justice advocacy is a team sport. No one does social justice alone. There is nothing more exciting than being a part of a group that is trying to make the world a better place.”

— William P. Quigley, Law Professor and Director, Gillis Long Poverty Law Center, Loyola University New Orleans



Responding to the expanded needs of our community in the Corboy Law Center

Rodin Center faculty and advisors also responded to the needs of students, staff, and faculty in the face of the pandemic and racial reckoning.

During the 2020-21 academic year, the University underwent a strategic process to examine its focus on racial justice, through its curriculum and service to the larger community, to inform next steps for Loyola University Chicago's Anti-Racism Initiative.

Professor Miranda Johnson served on the School of Law's Curriculum Committee and its Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Committee, which played a leadership role in the Racial Justice Examen process. In addition, she helped facilitate a



series of faculty dialogues during spring 2021 in furtherance of the Racial Justice Examen process.

As chair of the Admissions Committee, Curt and Linda Rodin Associate Professor of Law and Social Justice Alan Raphael prepared documents for the University's Racial Justice Examen process and advocated for a significant increase in the enrollment of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color to the JD program. This work led to creation of a new scholarship supported by faculty, alumni, and friends. The first award was planned for

distribution in August 2021, but will instead be awarded in fall 2022 so that more significant award amounts may be given to students with need.

Professor Anita Weinberg chaired the Clinics and Public Interest Committee, which analyzed data and made recommendations regarding curriculum, pedagogy, hiring and retention of clinical faculty, engagement of students in clinical opportunities, scholarship, and school culture in furtherance of the Racial Justice Examen process. Rodin faculty Bruce Boyer and Stacey Platt, Rodin

advisor Kate Mitchell, and Rodin Social Justice Leader-in-Residence Mary Bird served on the committee, along with other faculty, staff, and student partners in the law school.

Rodin faculty also served as advisors for many students and alumni interested in public interest careers and issues, participated in the interview process to select new fellows, and engaged with students during the orientation process to ensure the goals and objectives of the Rodin Center were widely shared and represented.

Our Ongoing Efforts

Rodin faculty and advisors also remained engaged in their ongoing teaching, social justice activism, and scholarship. The following examples illustrate their important and ongoing work.





Teaching

Accolades and recognition received by Rodin Center programs indicate the gravity and quality of work being accomplished by our faculty. In 2020-21, Loyola's childlaw, education, and health law curricula and programs were considered leaders in the field.

Loyola is ranked #3 for its health care law program by *U.S. News & World Report*, and the program received an A+ from *National Jurist* and *preLaw*. While *U.S. News & World Report* does not rank child law programs, the law school received an A+ from *preLaw* for its Child and Family Law Program and was identified by *Best Accredited Colleges and College Learners* as being among the best law schools for family law. Additionally, a published national survey identified the law school as having the most extensive education law curriculum in the country, ahead of Harvard, Stanford, and NYU Law.

Rodin faculty courses address the disproportionate impact of our government systems on poor communities and communities of color, and the need for more creative, effective responses.

For the first time, the law school offered a course devoted to the topic of diversity and inclusion as a social and professional responsibility. Rodin Clinical Professor of Law and Social Justice and Assistant Dean Josie Gough, along with adjunct faculty member and CEO of the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession, Sandra Yamate, developed the upper-level course, which focuses on the legal profession's ongoing discussion, debate, and constant grappling with diversity and inclusion issues over several decades.

Countless resources have been directed toward efforts to make this profession more diverse and inclusive, yet it remains one of the least diverse of American professions. This is

particularly troubling when we consider the mission statement of the law school and as we consider the societal roles that lawyers play: counselors and advocates; prosecutors and defense counsel; legislators, civic leaders, and community activists; and government officials and judges.

In this new course, students have an opportunity to learn about the legal profession's diversity and inclusion history and challenges, organizational and individual roles and strategies, and current research. The course is



designed so that students may become fluent in the language of diversity and inclusion as used by professionals and academics. Additionally, students develop a deeper understanding of how diversity and inclusion efforts intersect with professional responsibility and the impact on social justice. The course features lectures, group discussions, guest speakers from around the country, and readings created by thought leaders.

This was the third year of the law school's mandatory course on diversity, inclusion, bias, and anti-racism for first-year students. Professor Miranda Johnson continued to serve as a lead faculty member and participated in extensive curricular changes made to adapt to the online delivery model and the urgency of conversations around race and racism following the racial reckoning that took place during summer 2020.

Professor Alan Raphael taught classes in Constitutional Law, Criminal

Procedure: Investigation, and Criminal Procedure: Adjudication. A significant amount of class time was devoted to cases and issues concerned with race. Each of the classes included discussions of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others as well as the demonstrations that followed those deaths.

Hank Rose, Rodin Professor of Law and Social Justice, taught classes on Law and Poverty and on Civil Rights. In Law and Poverty, students learned about the governmental programs that are designed to assist low-income Americans, including Social Security, Welfare, Unemployment Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, and Federal Housing Assistance. In Civil Rights, students learned about federal laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, religion, and sex in employment, housing, and voting contexts. Rodin Professor of Law and

Social Justice Juan Perea taught Constitutional Law, Race and the Law, and Employment Law. He also taught Latinos and the Law at the University of Virginia Law School.

Our law clinics and programs continued to provide impactful, live-client experiential learning opportunities for students that also made a difference in the lives of underrepresented and underserved individuals.

The Public Interest Law Seminar, taught by Professor Marueen Kieffer and Social Justice Leader-In-Residence Mary Bird, is a capstone course for upper-level students, taken as part of the requirements for Loyola Law's Public Interest and Social Justice Certificate. Through readings, discussions, and guest speakers, the course surveys public interest topics including poverty, housing, criminal justice reform, the environment, and education. Attention is given to how the topic intersects with race, equity,

and disproportionality. The course also addresses innovative legal service responses to challenges, including the use of technology, and collaborations between legal aid organizations and community members. It also explores movement lawyering and trauma-informed lawyering for our many students who choose a public interest or social justice career path.

Seminar students volunteered with organizations including First Defense Legal Aid, the Chicago Community Bond Fund, and the Moran Center. They assisted with representation of clients, both virtually and in-person, and helped develop materials for future legal interns and pro bono attorneys. Students researched topics including electronic monitoring, police in schools, access to K-12 education for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, police brutality, and other civil rights issues affecting minoritized communities.

In its client work, the Civitas ChildLaw Clinic, under the leadership of

professors Boyer and Platt, has continued to serve as counsel for vulnerable children in child protection and domestic relations courts, as well as in other areas, including international child abduction and education matters. Each semester, 18 to 20 students assist in representing approximately 100 child clients. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the vast majority of court proceedings continue to be conducted remotely via Zoom, presenting additional challenges to teaching.

In their stewardship of the ChildLaw Clinic, the faculty have worked to integrate an increased focus on the overrepresentation of minority families in the child welfare system. Course content has included classes on cultural relativity, implicit bias, and—most recently—an examination of the movement calling for the wholesale abolition of the child welfare system. This movement—known as “upEnd”—has sought to expose the child protection apparatus as a “family



regulation” system, in recognition of the disproportionate involvement of minority families in the foster care system. Too often, these families experience court-based interventions as inconsistent with the nonadversarial and rehabilitative model envisioned by the founders of the original juvenile court, and instead is intrusive, disempowering, coercive, and focused

more on the goals of surveillance and judgment rather than on improving the lives of children and their families. Clinic students have been asked to weigh the disproportionate impact of state-based interventions on minority families, and to consider other strategies that might better serve the stated goals of the child protection system.

Law students also had an opportunity to explore these issues in the Children's Summer Institute, an intensive, interdisciplinary course co-taught by Professor Anita Weinberg and Tonya Bibbs, a faculty member at the Erikson Institute. During summers 2020 and 2021, the Summer Institute focused on the impact of COVID-19 on communities of color and racial inequities, and its impact on children and families of color in the child welfare system. That discussion was expanded during summer 2021 and specifically focused on the movement to transform or abolish the child welfare system because of its disproportionate impact on families of color. These topics expanded issues addressed in previous years, including the disproportionate impact of the child welfare system on communities of color, the school-to-prison pipeline, and immigration policies.

Both the Summer Institute and the Legislation and Policy Clinic taught by Professor Weinberg and post-graduate

teaching fellow Eve Rips incorporated discussion on the meaning, use, and significance of racial equity impact assessments when considering policy decision making.

Students in the Legislation and Policy Clinic directed by Professor Weinberg developed skills in critiquing legislation, assessing a legislative problem, researching the problem, proposing solutions, examining the potential disproportionate or inequitable impact of various decisions, and drafting materials and presenting information orally—all essential components of legislative advocacy. Students continued to advocate on behalf of underrepresented and marginalized communities. This past year, students worked on policy and legislative issues related to child welfare, juvenile justice, and education.

Students in the Health Justice Project (HJP) represented more than 29 clients referred by Erie Family Health Center

to address the health-harming legal needs of patients in poverty through holistic civil legal services. These cases involved disability benefits, Medicaid and other public benefits, guardianship, housing, education, and immigration matters.

Street Law students adapted to remote learning both for themselves and for their high school students, to whom they provided law-related lessons, under the direction of Social Justice Leader-In-Residence Bird, and other Street Law instructors. Street Law students, along with other law student volunteers, also taught law-related education classes to residents of the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.



Teaching to educate other practitioners

Faculty shared their expertise and teaching beyond the walls of the law school with attorneys, practitioners in other disciplines, and community members.

This past spring, Professor Bruce Boyer was invited to testify before an Illinois Supreme Court Committee tasked with exploring reasons for the disproportionate representation of minority youth in both the juvenile justice and child welfare court systems. His testimony focused on the critical points of discretion in both the investigative and judicial elements of the child welfare system where state actors continue to exercise judgments that fuel the cumulative overrepresentation of minorities, and on strategies that should be aimed at remediating racial disparities.

Dean Josie Gough was a frequent speaker on issues associated with diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

Professor Miranda Johnson spoke at an ABA program in spring 2021 on “Re-Imagining Legal Education: Magic Happens When Students and Faculty Collaborate.” Her talk focused on innovations to our curriculum that were furthered by student initiative and faculty-student collaboration, including the creation of Community Circles and the Stand Up for Each Other (SUFE0) education law helpline.

Professor Johnson also organized the Institute’s 8th Annual Education Law: A Year in Review event, which provided a way to update the education law community and other partners on key developments in education law during a year like no other in pre-K to 12 education. The program included a session focusing on diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism in education law, a

legal and legislative update from the Illinois State Board of Education, and a panel discussion on the way forward for special education in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Juan Perea engaged in numerous public appearances, including the inaugural celebration of Juneteenth by the Chicago Public Library; a screening and discussion of the film *Bad Hombres*, sponsored by LatinoJustice PRLDEF; and a presentation on the Proslavery Constitution and Structural Racism at the Vera Institute of Justice.

Professor Stacey Platt continued to serve as lead teacher for the American Bar Association’s Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence in their litigation trainings for advocates representing survivors in custody cases. In addition, in her role as vice president of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, an international and interdisciplinary family peace organization, Professor

Platt presented this year on issues including the impact of child participation in family dispute resolution and safe practices for family disputes involving gender questioning and transgender youth.

Professor Hank Rose was a speaker at the law school’s annual public service convocation; a law school conference on racial inequity in lending practices; and a law school program focusing on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act.

Professor Weinberg, with then third-year law student Lilia Valdez, spoke on child welfare, reasonable efforts, and COVID-19 in the Symposium: Children’s Rights in the Time of COVID-19. The virtual symposium, convened by the law school’s Center for the Human Rights of Children, explored the COVID-19 pandemic through the lens of children’s rights.



Social Activism

Rodin faculty and advisors worked to strengthen and expand the law school’s outreach to underrepresented communities.

Assistant Dean Josie Gough continued to curate programs that focused on racial and social justice with community partners from legal, government, civic, cultural, and faith-based communities.

One of the major and ongoing program initiatives is with the American Bar Association’s Council for Diversity in the Educational Pipeline. Dean Gough served as a member of the symposium planning committee and as a program facilitator for the programs devoted to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession. Additionally, through the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity, Dean Gough continued to encourage students to engage in the American Bar Association’s Judicial



Clerkship program on an annual basis. Dean Gough was the law school's representative and primary contact with the American Bar Association regarding this program. Students who participate in this program do not incur any expenses associated with their participation as a result of the generosity of our dean.

After joining the law school's faculty in 2011, and many accomplishments and achievements during her tenure, Assistant Dean Gough retired in

December 2021. She will be sorely missed by our community.

Professor Hank Rose was a co-chair of the law school's Loan Repayment Assistance Program that manages financial assistance provided by the law school to 39 alumni engaged in full-time public interest work; this funding helps students to pay their educational debt.

Beginning in 2020 and through early 2021, Professor Anita Weinberg served

on the governor-appointed Task Force on Children of Incarcerated Mothers. The task force effort culminated in a final report with recommendations and a press event to present and discuss the nature and significance of the recommendations. Professor Weinberg was involved in developing the recommendations and editing the report, and was invited to participate, with two other task force members and the state representative who chaired the task force, in the program and press event when the report was released. Efforts are underway to implement some of the recommendations.

As a part of their clinical work with students, clinic faculty engaged in successful policy and legislative initiatives that seek to reform or change systems that disproportionately harm communities of color. Successful efforts this year included:

Students and faculty in the Health Justice Project (HJP) helped

advocate for passage of the Cook County Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance (RTLO). The ordinance seeks to address the problem of substandard housing, which can cause an array of serious health conditions and disproportionately harms low-income and Black and Latino people, who are exposed to environmental risks in their homes and communities at much higher rates. The countywide RTLO, which went into effect on June 1, 2021, helps to rectify this disparity by ensuring that all Cook County tenants have protections from harmful housing conditions.

The Legislation and Policy Clinic worked with the Statewide Youth Advisory Board to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop a policy agenda and advocate for it. Two priority agenda items were passed by the General Assembly during the spring legislative session. One of the clinic students and a member of the

youth advisory board testified in committees about the legislation:

- A law strengthening youth voice by ensuring that young people in the foster care system have the ability to identify and contact their attorney or guardian ad litem; and
- Resolutions in both the State House and Senate setting out the General Assembly's directive that it is the overarching policy of the State that restraint and seclusion should only be used as a last resort and should never be used for punishment, discipline, or convenience, and urging child-serving state agencies (including juvenile justice, mental health, child welfare, education) to adopt policy decisions that align with the goal of preventing, reducing, and ultimately eliminating the use of restraint and seclusion. The language in the resolution already is being included by one state agency in its draft rules; the effort

to rewrite rules was also undertaken as a result of the clinic's work with the youth advisory board.

- Clinic students spearheaded drafting a bill with a working group convened by the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership to address juvenile competency issues. The bill is being introduced in the spring 2022 legislative session.

The Legislation and Policy Clinic took a lead in an early movement to rethink how youth are held accountable for their behaviors. "Incapable of Criminal Intent: The Case for Setting a Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility in Illinois," was published in early 2021, and grew out of a Legislation and Policy Clinic project. Under the leadership of post-graduate teaching fellow Eve Rips and Professor Anita Weinberg, students researched and wrote early drafts, which Rips then completed.



Scholarship

Rodin faculty and advisors focused their scholarship on social justice issues.

Professor Miranda Johnson worked collaboratively to co-edit and support chapter authors of a book on discipline of students with disabilities and the intersection with race. This volume used an interdisciplinary lens to examine the scope of the problem, profile promising practices, and identify solutions. It is forthcoming by Teachers College Press in spring 2022.

Professor Juan Perea completed the article “Denying the Violence: The Missing Constitutional Law of Conquest,” which will appear next year in the University of Pennsylvania *Journal of Constitutional Law*.

Professor Hank Rose wrote an article, “Why Do the Poor Not Have a Constitutional Right to File Civil Claims in Court Under Their First Amendment

Right to Petition the Government for a Redress of Grievances?,” that will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Seattle University Law Review*. Professor Rose was also the faculty advisor to the law school’s student-edited *Public Interest Law Reporter*.

Professor Anita Weinberg’s article, “Seeing the Forest through the Trees: Rethinking the Meaning of ‘Child Welfare,’” was published in January 2021 by the Child Welfare League of America in *Reflections on Child Welfare Areas of Practice, Issues, and Service Populations: Sociological Autobiographies, Volume 2*. Professor Weinberg concludes the article with three strategies for systemic change to better serve children and their families in the child welfare system:

1. To build policy based on evidence-based practices and not as a response to cries for immediate change;
2. To go beyond the numbers and use data to understand

the implications of policies and inform what will better serve children and families; and

3. To focus on the root causes and not symptoms that bring children and their families into our child welfare system.

Professor Weinberg, with then third-year law student Lilia Valdez, wrote “Child Welfare, Reasonable Efforts, and COVID-19,” published in 41 *Children’s Legal Rights Journal 2* (2021). The article reflected work undertaken by a coalition of advocates convened by Professor Weinberg early in the pandemic to address challenges to children and families who were in the child welfare system during the pandemic.

Professors Boyer and Weinberg co-authored, with former student Kathryn Huber Kenyon, a chapter in *Child Welfare Law: Neglected, Abused and Dependent Minors* on “Dispositions and Permanency,” published by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

Rodin Center Fellows: Past and Present

Every year, the Rodin program selects three students as social justice fellows. As part of their fellowship, the students receive tuition remuneration during their last three semesters of law school and support for a summer internship.



2019-20 RODIN FELLOWS

Life after Loyola Law

After graduation, **Senator Jacqueline Collins (JD '20)** continues to serve in the Illinois State Senate addressing social justice issues impacting vulnerable communities in the state of Illinois. She is currently the Assistant Majority Leader.

Upon graduation, **Brianna Hill (JD '20)** became a staff attorney with Legal Aid Chicago. In November 2021 she moved over to the Cook County Office of the Public Guardian as an assistant public guardian.

Imani Hollie (JD '20) continues to work as an assistant state public defender in the Wisconsin Public Defender office, where she has been since she graduated. She also continues to serve as a workshop leader for the Professional Identity Formation (PIF) class in the law school.



After graduating with both Loyola law and social work degrees, **Kate Malcolm (JD '20, MSW '20)** worked at a criminal defense law firm, primarily handling federal and national terrorism cases.

Pursuing her goals, in November 2021 Kate completed The Basic School and is in The Naval Justice School of the U.S. Navy JAG Corps in Rhode Island.

2020-21 RODIN FELLOWS

A Post-Graduation Update

ANDY FROELICH (JD '21), James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

In May 2021, Andy Froelich graduated with his JD degree and a Public Interest and Social Justice Certificate from Loyola. Most of the summer after graduation was spent studying for the Illinois Bar Exam. After the bar exam, Froelich began a two-year Equal Justice Works fellowship with the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy, a community-based legal aid organization that serves young people in Evanston, Illinois. Froelich works to expand the Moran Center's Education Advocacy Program, which provides special education and school discipline legal services to low-income families, into Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood.

Froelich worked at the Moran Center for his 2020 Rodin summer internship.

Working in the Education Advocacy Program at the Center, he advocated for special education students and students facing exclusionary discipline hearings. He represented students at Individualized Education Program meetings, prepared due process cases, defended a student at an expulsion hearing, and advocated for a more equitable education system in Evanston schools. Most importantly, Froelich learned the fundamental importance of an education that is rooted in compassion and equity.



Froelich says that the Rodin Center experience gave him the freedom and flexibility to fully explore areas of public interest law that he is passionate about: education and child law. He strives to continuously deepen his commitment to social justice and, in particular, to disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. After his fellowship, Froelich hopes to continue advocating for students and for more equitable and restorative schools in the Chicagoland area.



JORDAN SHEAD (JD '21), James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

As a Rodin Fellow, Jordan Shead interned with the James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy in the Civil Legal Clinic division as part of her Rodin fellowship. Her cases involved

guardianship of minors and young adults as well as landlord-tenant disputes, such as advocating for clients whose landlords unlawfully withheld security deposits or who disregarded the governor's executive order issued early in the pandemic prohibiting evictions. She also helped

create training materials for pro bono attorneys and new interns regarding housing law, unemployment law, and family law issues.

"This experience really solidified that I want to have a career in civil legal aid," Shead says. "With civil legal aid, you are providing legal services to clients from a low-income background who otherwise would not be able to afford an attorney, which furthers social justice."

Graduating with her JD from Loyola in May 2021, Shead now works as a Loyola Public Interest Law Fellow in criminal records expungement at Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania (LASP). In this role, Shead helps her clients get their criminal records sealed, expunged, and pardoned by the Pennsylvania governor. Shead plans to take the bar exam for the first time in February 2022 as she relocated with her fiancé in the fall of 2021. Shead hopes to continue her work at LASP.



KELSEY WILSON (JD '21, MEd '21), Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

Kelsey Wilson witnessed community lawyering in action while interning with Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, a group that provides legal assistance and creates community-based solutions and policy reforms to promote racial equity and economic opportunity. Wilson conducted research and met with clients and coalition members about the administration of a local affordable housing program. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wilson helped draft guidance for educators on school discipline in virtual and blended learning environments with the Illinois Transforming School Discipline Collaborative.

Wilson learned that community lawyering is adaptive work. It involves navigating a landscape of conflicting values held by different groups in an effort to eliminate the gap between

people's differing values in order to improve lives.

"The Rodin Center helped shape my career direction by providing ample opportunities to engage in work that speaks to my values," Wilson says. "It fueled



my desire to work in multidisciplinary spaces that can tackle issues that span across sectors in tandem."

Throughout Wilson's dual degree program, Loyola's curriculum emphasized that all fields of study have relevance when it comes to implementing social justice initiatives. Her time in the Rodin Center provided opportunities to engage in multidisciplinary teams and coalitions of community organizations that carefully considered and worked to create more equitable outcomes. These experiences shaped how Wilson views advocacy and fueled her desire for a career in policy or legislative affairs. Wilson plans to sit for the bar exam for the first time in February 2022.

2021-22 RODIN FELLOWS Summer Internship Experiences

MARIACAROLINA GOMEZ-GONZALEZ, Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization (LSO) of Yale Law School

In summer 2021, MariaCarolina Gomez-Gonzalez worked with the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization (LSO) of Yale Law School.



LSO provides legal representation to individuals and organizations in need of legal services but unable to afford private attorneys. As a summer fellow, Gomez-Gonzalez worked under the guidance of Yale Law School faculty with LSO's three criminal law clinics: Challenging Mass Incarceration Clinic, Criminal Justice Advocacy Clinic, and Samuel Jacobs Criminal Justice Clinic. She prepared for a parole hearing of an adult given a lengthy sentence as a juvenile; conducted research on COVID-19 and prison protocols; and conducted research on wrongful convictions. For one of her projects, she worked with a client on their re-entry planning, including collaborating with community organizations and social support services.

"My experience expanded my interest in criminal law," says Gomez-Gonzalez. "I learned so much."



“The Rodin Center brings the School of Law’s social justice mission to life. The Center amplifies our work and advances our commitment to create a more just world for everyone.”

— Zelda B. Harris, Interim Dean, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

New Programming: Alumni Social Justice Series

Along with the Center for Public Interest, headed by Social Justice Leader-In-Residence Bird, and the offices of Career Services and Alumni Relations, the Rodin Center planned and co-hosted a speaker series designed to engage students in discussion on an array of social justice issues that affect our communities. Offered as webinars, the seven-part series was open to both alumni and students.

Each topic was presented by a graduate of the law school; presenters were interviewed by law students engaged in work related to the topic being discussed.

Series Schedule and Topics:

- **Criminal Justice Reform** with Nadia Woods (3L) and Elissa Johnson (JD '10) of FWD.us, a bipartisan political organization that believes America’s families, communities, and economy thrive when more individuals are able to achieve their full potential. *September 18*
- **Community-based Legal Services** with Bobby Vanecko (3L) and Tanya Woods (JD '13) of the Westside Justice Center. *September 25*
- **Environmental Justice** with Eli Woods (2L) and Andrew Bashi (JD '12) of the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center. *October 2*
- **Juvenile Defense** with Andy Froelich (3L) and Patrick Keenan-Devlin (JD '12) of the Moran Center for Youth Advocacy. *October 9*
- **Voting Rights** with Madison Heckel (3L) and David McKinney (JD '11) of the ACLU of Minnesota. *October 23*
- **Conflict Resolution - Chicago Police Reform** with Kate Finch (3L) and Rae Kyritsi (JD '12) of the Center for Conflict Resolution. *October 30*
- **Immigration Law** with Liliana Jimenez (2L) and Amanda Crews Slezak (JD '14) of the National Immigrant Justice Center. *November 6*

Focused on the Future



At the Rodin Center official launch in 2018, I quoted Marian Wright Edelman, the founder of the Children's Defense Fund, who wrote: "The challenge of social justice is to evoke a sense of community that we need to make our nation a better place, just as we make it a safer place."

I then added, "The importance of creating this community is clearer now than ever before," and offered the vision that the Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice gives the law school the opportunity to create the type of community Marian Wright Edelman described, within our walls and outside.

At the time, I could not have anticipated events that followed: The COVID-19 pandemic amplified and exacerbated inequities that already existed in our communities, our cities, and our country; the powerful protests for racial justice that rose up across the nation, demanding a reckoning; and the threats to our democratic institutions and norms.

As a country, we have a long way to go, but I remain hopeful that the Rodin Center, along with the School of Law and its new mission statement, will continue to serve a crucial role in addressing the challenges we face as a society. The Rodin Center has an even greater responsibility now than it did almost four years ago.

It has been my professional honor to serve as the founding director of the Rodin Center. While I will remain an active Rodin faculty member, I look forward to working with Earl Caldwell, the interim, part-time director for the Center, and the many engaged and passionate faculty, staff, and students involved in our work.

Loyola University Chicago School of Law remains grateful to Curt and Linda Rodin for the generosity and continuing partnership that help make the Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice a unique and special place for promoting fairness, equity, and decency in serving the underserved.

Gratefully,

Anita Weinberg (JD '86)

Curt and Linda Rodin Professor of Law and Social Justice



Artwork hanging in the Curt and Linda Rodin Center was produced by community members experiencing housing vulnerability, and coordinated by the Chicago Help Initiative.



SCHOOL of LAW

The Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice
at Loyola University Chicago School of Law

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