

Highlights 2018-19



REIMAGINING CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bringing together leading advocates for criminal justice reform, in February the Criminal Justice Program and UCLA Law's *Criminal Justice Law Review* hosted a symposium titled "Reimagining the Criminal Justice System." The keynote speaker was Center for Constitutional Rights Executive Director Vince Warren. Other panelists included Gideon's Promise President Jonathan Rapping, Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva and Taylor Lytle from the California Coalition for Women Prisoners. The symposium encouraged attendees to reimagine solutions to issues that perpetuate inequality within law enforcement, the practice of public defense and in carceral facilities.

CONNECTING ART AND JUSTICE

Blending art and action in a series of events at UCLA and two area juvenile detention facilities, lawyers, artists, activists and people impacted by the criminal justice system came together in April for the inaugural Connecting Art and Law for Liberation Festival. Film and TV star Danny Glover and hip hop legend Chuck D participated alongside state Sen. Holly Mitchell (D-Los Angeles) and many others. Glover and Bryonn Bain, director of the Prison Education Program at UCLA, opened the festival with an event with youth at Central Juvenile Hall. Simultaneously, artists and activists Maya Jupiter and Aloe Blacc led hip hop and poetry workshops at Barry J. Nidorff Juvenile Hall in Sylmar.



CLINIC GARNERS PARDONS FOR 5

Students in UCLA School of Law's Criminal Defense Clinic played a key role in earning gubernatorial pardons for five Southern California residents in 2018. All five clients of the clinic came to the U.S. when they were children and, without the pardons, were threatened with possible deportation under current federal policy. Under the direction of clinic director Ingrid Eagly, students prepared detailed information and procured letters of support for their clients, and submitted the material to the office of then-Gov. Jerry Brown, who then issued the pardons. Eight law students — Viviana Arcia '18, Tara Brown '19, Phoebe Kasdin '18, Mitzi Marquez-Avila '19, Kelly Miller '19, Sasha Novis '19, Kyle Peters '18 and Jorge Roldan '19 — worked on the initiative.

YOUTH AND JUSTICE

In Fall 2018 students in UCLA Law's Youth and Justice Clinic authored a report, entitled "Ensuring the Well-Being of Incarcerated Pregnant Youth," that highlighted flaws in Los Angeles County's treatment of pregnant teens and women behind bars. The report prompted the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to unanimously approve a motion to investigate the issue and improve conditions. The report, written by the 11 students in the clinic, was supervised by Jyoti Nanda, then UCLA Law's Binder Clinical Teaching Fellow, now a faculty member at Golden Gate University School of Law.



GIFT CREATES FELLOWSHIP IN PRISON LAW

The Bien-Kahn family and the civil rights law firm of Rosen, Bien, Galvan and Grunfeld made a generous gift to endow a new UCLA Prison Law and Policy Program fellowship. The Jane Kahn Prison Law Fellowship, named for the late, long-time prisoners' rights lawyer and mental health advocate, goes to law students working with Professor Sharon Dolovich and Criminal Justice Program Associate Director Alicia Virani to further the program's mission. Jordan Palmer '21 is the inaugural Kahn Fellow.

NEW COURSES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In 2018-19, the Criminal Justice Program added new courses including:

- *Current Topics in Criminal Law*, which explores the legal and policy implications of issues including civil asset forfeiture, opioid abuse, marijuana legalization, mens rea reform, juvenile justice reform and penal disenfranchisement.
- *Ethical Lawyering in the Criminal Context*, which examines the extent to which the professional roles of prosecutors and defense attorneys contribute to or detract from public values including fairness, nondiscrimination, accuracy and public safety.
- *Pay or Stay: An Exploration of the Bail System in America*, which examines the money bail system and gives students the opportunity to work with the Los Angeles County Office of the Public Defender to represent clients in bail hearings and advocate for their release.
- *Re-envisioning the Lawyer's Role: Trauma Informed Lawyering and Restorative/Transformative Justice*, a January Term short course.

Criminal Justice Program Leaders



Máximo Langer, Faculty Director, delivered presentations on international criminal justice in multiple U.S. law schools and in eight foreign countries, and was named a member of the American Law Institute. His upcoming publications include "The Quiet Expansion of Universal Jurisdiction" (with Mackenzie Eason), 30 *European Journal of International Law* (forthcoming).



Alicia Virani '05, Associate Director, is a former deputy public defender with a background in juvenile and restorative justice.



Robin Steinberg, Gilbert Foundation Senior Fellow, is the founder and former executive director of The Bronx Defenders and CEO of the Bail Project.

Selected Faculty



Professor Jennifer Chacon authored "Prosecutors and the Immigration Enforcement System," in *The Oxford Handbook on Prosecutors and Prosecution*, Oxford University Press (forthcoming).



Professor Beth Colgan published "Wealth-Based Penal Disenfranchisement," 72 *Vanderbilt Law Review* 55 (2019) and *Addressing Modern Debtors' Prisons with Graduated Economic Sanctions that Depend on Ability to Pay*, Brookings Institute (2019). She received UCLA Law's 2019 Rutter Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Professor Sharon Dolovich gave talks on "Eighth Amendment Excessive Force" at the University of Chicago, UCLA-University of Michigan Prison Law and Policy Roundtable and elsewhere. A book she co-edited, *The New Criminal Justice Thinking* (NYU Press, 2017), was issued in paperback.



Professor Ingrid Eagly co-authored "Lexipol: The Privatization of Police Policymaking," 96 *Tex. L. Rev.* 891 (2018) (with Joanna Schwartz).



Professor Sunita Patel directs the UCLA Veterans Justice Legal Clinic and focuses on police misconduct, migrant rights, civil rights litigation and social movement theory.



Professor Joanna Schwartz co-authored amicus briefs to the United States Supreme Court urging reconsidering of the qualified immunity doctrine in *Allah v. Milling*, *Doe v. Woodard* and *Baxter v. Bracey*. Her recent publications include "The Case Against Qualified Immunity," 93 *Notre Dame L. Rev.* 1797 (2018); "Lexipol: The Privatization of Police Policymaking," 96 *Tex. L. Rev.* 891 (2018) (with Ingrid Eagly) and "Systems Failures in Policing," 51 *Suffolk University Law Review* 535 (2018).

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