



Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center

La Voz del Centro

DECEMBER 2012



For Former Law Center Student, Service to the Community is a Way of Life

The Google map had looked very straightforward, so I'd decided to skip my GPS device. Needless to say, it had taken me a while to find the right address in Mountain View. As I park, I try to estimate the size of her office by the size of its mini-parking lot – a driveway that accommodates six cars, each parking spot marked with a large number assigned to a different office in the same small building. Then, when I open one of the doors facing the lot, my suspicion becomes real as I gain instant access to her lobby, her office and her supply room – all in the same, compact room. Reema Diwan '09 is there, behind her desk, and greets me with a friendly smile.

"Oh good – you found us. Welcome!" she says. It takes me a minute to re-adjust my memory of her when she was a law student at the Alexander Community Law Center, just three years earlier. She is now

an immigration attorney at Apoyo Legal Migrante Asociado ("Associated Legal Support [for] Immigrants").

I had run into Reema when she attended the recent human trafficking workshop at the Center, offered by Lynette Parker, our Immigration Supervising Attorney. We spoke briefly afterwards, but I immediately knew that I needed to share her story because she truly exemplifies the capable and compassionate service to the community that is part of a Santa Clara education. "I need to get you in our newsletter," I said to her, and this is what has brought me to her office.

Reema introduces me to her colleague, Mary Dutcher, and their full-time volunteer-assistant, Annie Martínez, but the presence of clients dictates a restrained greeting. Leaving behind the flurry of activity in the front, Reema leads me to their interviewing room, a spartan



SERGIO LOPEZ

Reema Diwan '09, Interviews Immigration Clients at Apoyo Legal Migrante Asociado, in Mountain View

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La Voz del Centro

Published by the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center at Santa Clara Law

A Message from the Executive Director



Happy Holidays! In this edition of our newsletter, we highlight some of the great work of the staff, students, and volunteers of the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, as well as some new additions to our staff.

As in previous years, we've seen several successes in our consumer protection litigation, immigration applications, and workers' rights cases. Some of the dramatic cases featured in this issue are just a few examples of our work. We also served hundreds of clients through our interviewing and counseling clinics, and we helped educate community members about their rights through our educational workshops. Because of growing demands for services – including the

new deferred action program that grants special immigration status for many undocumented youth – we've been able to secure additional funding and provide expanded services for clients in need.

This year, the Alexander Community Law Center welcomed several Graduate Fellows, who are recent graduates of the Santa Clara University School of Law who were honored with one-year post-graduate fellowships: Madeline Feldon (immigration), Carolyn Kim (immigration), Iustina Mignea (workers' rights), Amanda Sparks (low-income taxpayer clinic), and Navdeep Taunk (consumer). The fellowships provide important training for these graduates, and will greatly expand our capacity to provide high quality legal services.

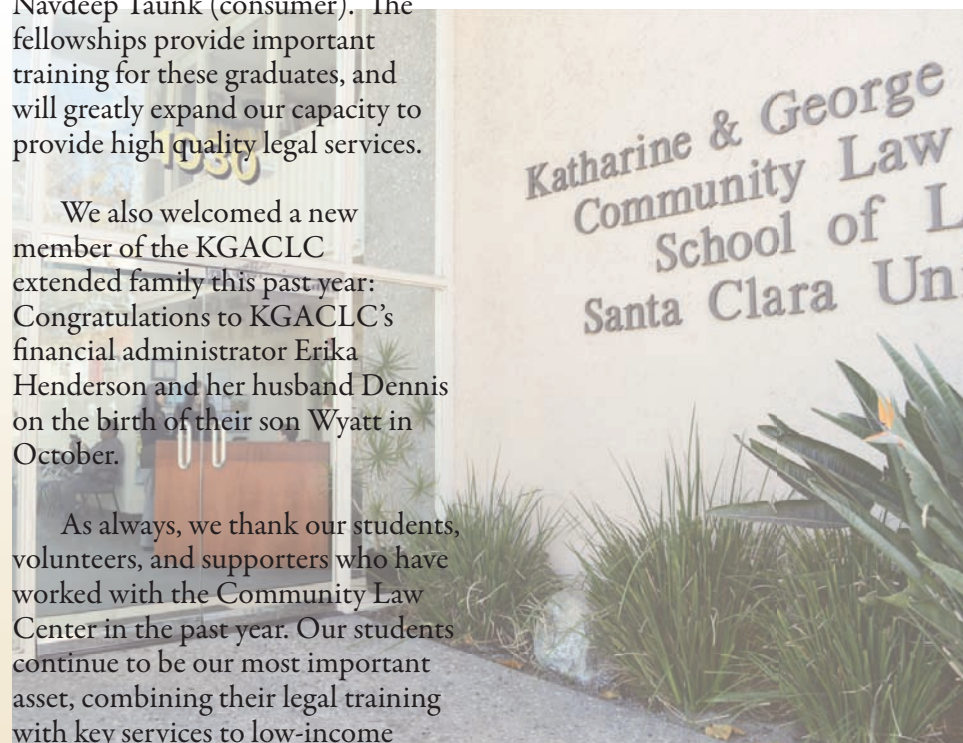
We also welcomed a new member of the KGACLC extended family this past year: Congratulations to KGACLC's financial administrator Erika Henderson and her husband Dennis on the birth of their son Wyatt in October.

As always, we thank our students, volunteers, and supporters who have worked with the Community Law Center in the past year. Our students continue to be our most important asset, combining their legal training with key services to low-income

clients, and the Center's work could not be possible without them. And, the agencies, law firms, foundations, and individuals who provide financial support to the Center remain in our deepest gratitude. This support has been invaluable, and we hope that all of our supporters will sustain their efforts in the coming year to ensure that we remain a vibrant resource for Santa Clara University and the local community.

Best wishes,

Angelo Ancheta



Serving her community

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office that is separated from the lobby by a wall and whose only artifacts are a table and some chairs in the center, a small bookcase in a corner, and a couple of small decorations on the wall.

"We just opened in November and have not been able to decorate or anything -- sorry," she says.

She explains that despite its short time in business, her office maintains a roster of about 80 low-income clients who seek assistance with family-based immigration services, T-visas (for victims of human trafficking) and U-visas (for victims of crimes that involve domestic violence). "That sounds like a lot of work for two attorneys," I declare.

She mentions that the hours are long, that she sometimes takes some work home, and that the office does have the help of some volunteers. I ask if their growth is a trend, and if they plan to expand in the future.

"Our goal for now is to be a viable source of assistance for our clients. We want to retain our scale so we can serve our clients effectively. The attention that we give to our clients is unique; it's something that you don't see in medium or large firms."

I ask her if they depend on grants to sustain their operations.

"No, we charge for our services, but our fees are extremely low compared to what other offices offer. We want to help people. We don't want to make our clients feel like paying their fees is the most important thing. And for us, it's just

enough to remain viable."

As our conversation continues, I ask her how her current legal work differs from what she did at the Law Center. She says that the way she did things at the KGACLC inspired her to set high standards for her practice.

"Lynette taught me to be very detail-oriented and that everything we did in a case or a file was for a very particular reason. All those details helped me appreciate the client experience even more and helped me gain a good grasp of the subject. I try to retain the same focus in my practice, but I realize that there are places where the focus is on getting cases completed as soon as possible to move to the next client. That's not what we do here. But the work does demand that we stay on top of the law, and that's why we attend classes and events like Lynette's workshop or the recent training on human trafficking (see p. 7), among other things."

"This sounds very demanding. Are you happy with what you do?"

"I love what I do!" she replies instantly. "My clients have the biggest heart. They bring me home-cooked meals, fruit, you name it. They're so grateful for what we do. Y'know, my husband sometimes asks me jokingly when I'll use my SCU degree to make some 'real money,' since he carries the bigger share of our household. But then he always follows it up by telling me how happy he is that I am able to give back to our community."

I tell her that it seems just like yesterday that she was a student at the Law Center, and when I ask about whether she

might have done things differently during those days, she offers a thoughtful reply: "I was so busy with my growing family at the time. I wish I had had more time to attend brown-bag sessions, to network, to volunteer in the community. SCU has so many programs and clinics. I wish I could have participated in more of them. I would recommend to current students to attend the speaker presentations – you get a good idea of what work would be like after you graduate. That's important."

I have other questions for her, but I know my time is up – her clients are waiting in the lobby. This is a busy place. On my way out, I take a few pictures and exchange a few words with Ms. Dutcher and Ms. Martinez. That's enough for me to know that the heart and dedication of this trio are way too big to fit in this small office. And I cannot help but feel proud and happy for Reema, who just reminded me of why I work at the Alexander Community Law Center.

*Sergio López
Communications Specialist*



Annie Martinez, Mary Dutcher and Reema Diwan '09, from *Apoyo Legal Migrante Asociado*

The Alexander Community Law Center is a beneficiary of the Graduate Fellowship Program (GFP), recently instituted by the Law School. Thanks to the program, five recent graduates are now employed as part-time fellows at the Law Center.

“Fellowships will permit recent graduates to perform important duties on behalf of the School of Law, and receive support and mentoring vital to the proper development of lawyering skills and perspectives,” announced the school in its call for applications in August, 2012. These positions are reserved for candidates who received a J.D. degree from Santa Clara Law after December 2010. The duration of the GFP will be at the discretion of the Law School.

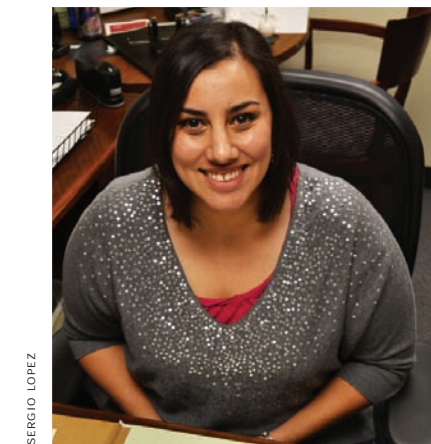
Angelo Ancheta, the Alexander Community Law Center’s Director says that the GFP “has been a great asset for the KGACLC and its clients. All of our fellows have been enormously helpful in assisting and representing our clients, and it’s an excellent opportunity for recent graduates to gain practical experience as they prepare for long-term employment.”

The GFP is administered by the Graduate Fellowship Committee, composed of a group of law school deans selected by the Dean, and by Law Career Services.

According to the program’s rules, fellows may not work more than 15 hours per week for the duration of this Fellowship period which concludes on June 30, 2013.

Vicki Huebner, Assistant Dean for Law Career Services, says that “we are very fortunate that Dean Polden had the wisdom and the foresight to implement this program. Not only is it responsive to the current conditions of the market, but it also expands the skills set of our twenty-or-so fellows. It allows them to take a class that they may not have had a chance to take, and it gives them an opportunity to have the guidance of mentors. But just as important, this advances the mission of the school and our community by giving our fellows a chance to contribute to our clinics and the work of our faculty.”

They Came for the Classes, Stayed for the Fellowship



Navdeep Taunk '12, Fellowship Recipient, Consumer Law

Navdeep Taunk '12 fulfills her part-time fellowship as the Research Assistant in the Consumer Law component, under Supervising Attorney Scott Maurer. She gained legal experience by taking the Skills I and II courses in the same component, and she is quick to remark that it reinvigorated her pursuit of a career in the legal profession.

“I found the clinical programs offered by the school to be the most valuable. It is one of the few opportunities in law school where you get to be a lawyer on behalf of real clients. It was there that I negotiated my first settlement, made my first appearance in court, interviewed my first client,

and so many other things that I had not had the opportunity to do in any other aspect of my law school career.”

Today, she collaborates with Maurer on the enforcement of judgments, performs preliminary phone interviews with clients, and produces publications that highlight people’s rights in specific situations – something clients appreciate when attending the Law Center’s Consumer Clinics. “Navdeep is very diligent in all that she does and she’s great with clients. We’re just delighted to have her on board,” says Maurer.

Asked if she has any advice for current law students, she says, “After you graduate, the law will still be available to you. You can read the code, the cases, treatises, etc., but the opportunities to gain the practical skills will be few. The [practical experience] clarified to me how the academics fit in with the practical skills, and in so doing made law school classes much easier to understand. Besides, given today’s job market, there are few employers who want to be the ones to pay you while you learn the basics, so why not give yourself an edge over all those students who have only experienced the legal profession through reading textbooks and writing papers.”

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—NAVDEEP TAUNK '12
CONSUMER LAW FELLOW, 2012-13

“The Graduate Fellowship Program has been a great asset for the KGACLC and its clients. All of our fellows have been enormously helpful in assisting and representing our clients, and it’s an excellent opportunity for recent graduates to gain practical experience as they prepare for long-term employment.”

—ANGELO ANCHETA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KGACLC



Iustina Mignea '11, Fellowship Recipient, Workers' Rights

Iustina Mignea '11 took the Skills I and Skills II courses in the Workers’ Rights component of the Community Law Center. She was admitted to the California Bar in December of this year. Now, as a part-time fellow, she collaborates with Margarita Alvarez, KGACLC’s Supervising Attorney, working mostly on *de novo* appeals of Labor Commission decisions.

Working in her new capacity as an attorney has added a different dimension of responsibility to her cases. “I love feeling more responsible to my clients and for the cases in general, but I am still reassured by the support I receive from Margarita,” she says. From the beginning, Iustina enjoyed a very good relationship with her supervising attorney, who gave her “lots of responsibility with the right amount of guidance along the way.” In particular, she appreciated the feedback, the trust and confidence that she received

as a student and which continues until today.

When asked about a case that stands out in experience at the Alexander Law Center, she cites that of Ms. O. She is a client who attended the Workers’ Rights clinic, seeking advice regarding a severe case of sexual harassment at her work place. “We soon found out that Ms. O had many, many legal issues that had already overwhelmed her emotionally. She was under tremendous stress, dealing with issues arising from her immigrant status, among many other things,” said Iustina of her client. “We were able to identify every area of concern, and when we could not help, we put her in touch with the right attorney or service provider in the community. It was really a team effort, and because her case was so extremely complex, it held the greatest learning value for me. I was able to see how a case can be broken into its different components and how an attorney can work on a specific issue.

I like my work because I can help people like Ms. O. And you can’t beat the professional experience you obtain working at the Law Center,” concluded Iustina.

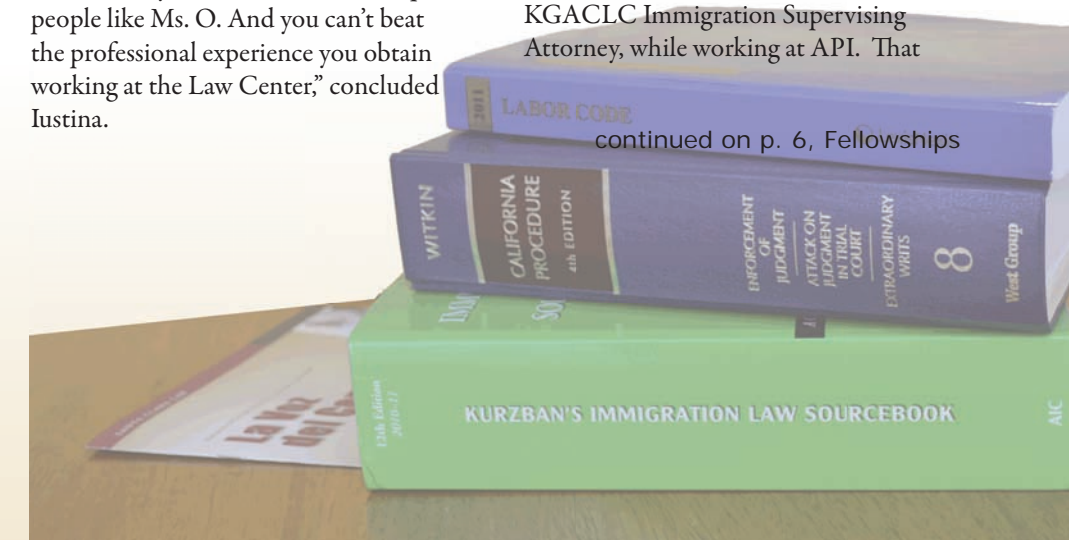


Carolyn Kim '12, Fellowship Recipient, Immigration Law

Carolyn Kim '12 took courses in the Consumer and the Immigration components of the Alexander Law Center during her time as a student. Now, as one of the two Immigration fellows, she screens clients to determine if they are eligible for T-visas, which are reserved for victims of severe forms of human trafficking. Her exposure to the subject of immigration law began during her first year of law school, when she worked at Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legal Outreach, in San Francisco, handling T-visas, U-visas (for victims of crime), visas under VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) and some family law issues.

Carolyn met Lynette Parker, KGACLC Immigration Supervising Attorney, while working at API. That

continued on p. 6, Fellowships



Fellowships

continued from p. 5

experience, plus her interest in human trafficking, helped her obtain her current fellowship and steered her attention towards the work of the Alexander Law Center.

“I have learned many valuable lessons from my supervising attorneys. Scott [Maurer, Consumer Law] taught me that litigation does not have to be unnecessarily aggressive. You can still represent your client fully without any dirty tricks. Scott was always very proper, respectful and preferred to take the high ground without exception. That’s the kind of lawyer I want to become.”

When asked about a case that was particularly challenging in either area, she pauses and redirects her answer. “You know,” she says, “the real challenge is for our clients, especially the victims of human trafficking. My clients are my heroes and role models. They are so strong and brilliant. I love working with them, and I love to imagine who they will become after they put this whole thing behind them.”

Parker is delighted to work with Carolyn because of the “thoroughness of her work and her big heart.” She says of Carolyn: “She is always concerned about our clients, even in the midst of all her other responsibilities. When she is away, she likes to check in to see if they have called for any reason. I always know that she will do everything possible to help her clients.”

Carolyn does recognize that it is sometimes difficult to find the boundaries between her work and her personal time because “everything always seems so urgent and important.” Nevertheless, the satisfaction she receives from assisting her clients still carries the day. “Being able to witness my clients’ transformation from victims to survivors is something simply amazing.”



Amanda Sparks '12, Fellowship Recipient, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

While in law school, Amanda Sparks '12, took the Federal Income Tax course because she always had an interest in the subject. The sheer wealth of information she learned begged the question of what to do with it. The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic at the Alexander Law Center became her next logical choice, and it was one that would make her feel good about her work and lead her to her current fellowship.

Dealing with tax issues, she admits, can be quite complicated and intimidating for the average person whose first language is English. “For our clients at the clinic, many of whom speak limited or no English, dealing with the IRS on their own can be next to impossible,” says Amanda.

“Caroline [Chen, the Low Income Tax Clinic’s Director and Supervising Attorney] does a good job at throwing you in the deep end with a good life preserver. She’s a good teacher who makes you feel confident, independent and safe when you work on your cases.”

—AMANDA SPARKS '12
LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC FELLOW

As a student at the Taxpayer Clinic, she worked on a handful of personal income taxes cases that exposed her to the various stages of evaluation at the IRS. “Before this clinic, I felt like the IRS was the bad guy out to get people’s money. Now I think that it only asks for what is fair under the law, and that the agents are pretty reasonable,” says Amanda. “I really enjoy learning about the subject and how the IRS operates. A constant challenge is dealing with the different time zones, because IRS offices are located all over the place and there is a good chance you’ll be dealing with an agent across the country. On top of that, there is the pressure from your clients who always want favorable results. Overall, though, I enjoyed this and felt that I was doing something good. I am glad we are able to offer these services to our community.”

Caroline [Chen, the clinic’s director and supervising attorney] does a good job at throwing you in the deep end with a good life preserver. She’s a good teacher who makes you feel confident, independent and safe when you work on your cases,” she continues.

Asked about her plans after her part-time fellowship at the Community Law Center, she says she would like to practice tax law, now that she’s a brand-new member of the California Bar, admitted this December. She is confident that the experience she gained at the KGACLC will help her land the next job.



Madeline Feldon '12, Fellowship Recipient, Immigration Law

Madeline Feldon '12, is an experienced KGACLC student, having taken the Skills I, Skills II and the Interviewing and Advice Clinic courses, plus an Independent Study course in the Immigration component of the Alexander Law Center. Now, as a newly-minted attorney (admitted to the California State Bar this December), she is on a partial fellowship, working mostly on DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) cases at the Center. On that front, the Law Center has submitted 26 applications on behalf of clients since July of this year, eight of which were completed by Madeline. During her four semesters as a KGACLC student, she worked on multiple applications for T-visas (reserved for victims of human trafficking), U and VAWA visas (for victims of crime and

domestic violence, respectively), and petitions for asylum. The most rewarding part of her job, she says, is the constant interaction with her clients, from the beginning to the conclusion of their cases. Most of her DACA clients are fully bilingual, but her Spanish-speaking clients “have helped me improve my Spanish tremendously and allowed me to remain connected to the Latino community. I have learned much from my experience at the Center, especially under the guidance of Lynette Parker, who has become a mentor to me. The chemistry I find here is great because everyone is so helpful. But most importantly, I believe in the mission of the Law Center. I do think that we do is very important to our community.”

Alexander Law Center Attorneys Play Key Role in Raising Human Trafficking Awareness

On Friday, November 16 of this year, the South Bay Coalition to End Human Trafficking (SBCEHT) and the County of Santa Clara’s Office of Women’s Policy sponsored a full-day training on Human Trafficking. The training provided an overview of human trafficking and included break-out sessions focusing on criminal and civil human trafficking cases, immigration issues, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) cases, and public benefits issues. It was attended by about 175 legal professionals, service providers, and members of the community, and the speakers were specialists in their field from around the country. The event sought to shed light on the challenges faced by victims of human trafficking while increasing awareness, within the legal profession, of the remedies and services available to victims and the issues that arise with concurrent civil, criminal, and immigration proceedings.

Ruth Silver Taube, Adjunct Profes-

sor at the SCU School of Law, Special Counsel to the Legal Aid Society – Employment Law Center, Legal Services Chair of the SBCEHT, and the primary organizer of the training, was gratified by the “good attendance and the opportunity to raise awareness of this important topic within the County and beyond.”

Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. Sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

According to Santa Clara County statistics, the Bay Area is a top destination point for trafficked victims. Its major harbors and airports, powerful economy, large immigrant population and its industries make it vulnerable to human trafficking. It is believed that as many as 17,500 individuals are trafficked into the United

States each year, and some have estimated that 100,000 U.S. citizen children are victims of trafficking within the United States. Despite these high figures, only 52 cases were charged by the Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorneys’ Offices in FY 2010 (the greatest number of cases in

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Martina E. Vandenberg, Open Society Foundations Fellow and Training Presenter

When 'Going the Extra Mile' is the Name of the Game, His Clients Win



Jayro Rivera Pizano '12 and Lynette Parker, Supervising Attorney, Immigration Law

Jayro Rivera Pizano '12 is soft-spoken and has a relaxed demeanor. But when his supervising attorneys at the Alexander Law Center talk about him, they enthusiastically concur that “he gets things done!” His clients look at him with much gratitude, and his work shows all the attributes of a great, soon-to-be attorney.

Jayro delved into Consumer Law at the Community Law Center through its Skills I course, and he subsequently pursued his growing interest in immigration through the Skills II and the Advice and Counseling courses at the Law Center. Under the supervision of Lynette Parker, Jayro worked on the case of a Central-American client, a political asylee, to help bring her two children to the United States through asylee derivative petitions. “Jayro took on this huge challenge that had to be addressed within a very tight deadline if it had any of hope of being successful. He got it done!” said Parker. Among other things, the challenge involved scheduling medical exams, visa applications and

interviews at the American embassy in a place that was thousands of miles away – all within 10 days. A natural-born American citizen who spent his formative years in Mexico, Jayro relied on his Spanish and his bicultural dexterity to deal with the seemingly endless amount of details involved. For instance, sending key correspondence to a small town in Central America became a real task due to the lack of formal addresses in the town. Undeterred, he simply looked for alternatives to this and other problems, and when everything else failed, he picked up the phone and spoke directly to the right person. “It was a bit stressful, but I knew that this work was making a big difference for my client, so I had to keep moving. My Spanish and my understanding of the culture helped a lot, both in dealing with the sensibilities and issues of my client and when calling all the places I had to call,” he says of this experience. In the end, the client’s children were able to join her legally in this country.

A similar case called for a birth certificate from another country, the issuance of which could be handled through the country’s local consulate. Jayro soon discovered that meeting



the requirements for such request would prove more challenging and time-consuming than obtaining the certificate directly through the region’s civil registrar. In his typical fashion, he did some research, picked up the phone and called the right office in that country. “I was able to convince them of the urgency of my request, but more importantly, I had to make them feel compassion for their countryman in need. They sent me the certificate and I was able to move my process forward.” Parker was “amazed with Jayro’s resourcefulness and his dedication to his clients.”

As for his experience at the Alexander Law Center, he figures that “it was time very well spent. I actually interned at the Public Defender’s office in San José before coming to the Law Center. But my experience here has been unique. I really enjoyed the hands-on experience and the fact that I had real control and responsibility for my cases. I feel that I did make a difference for my clients.”

“My time at the Alexander Community Law Center was very well spent. I actually interned at the Public Defender’s office in San José before coming to the Law Center. But my experience here has been unique. I really enjoyed the hands-on experience and the fact that I had real control and responsibility for my cases. I feel that I did make a difference for my clients.”

—JAYRO RIVERA PIZANO '12
IMMIGRATION LAW STUDENT

Housing Crisis, Bad Loans, Bankruptcy: Sorting Through the Issues, One at a Time

Mr. and Mrs. R sought the assistance of the Alexander Community Law Center in October 2011 after they had filed bankruptcy. They had been sued in bankruptcy court for \$140,000 based on allegations that they had committed fraud in applying for loans to finance the purchase of real property in 2007. Fraud claims are not dischargeable in bankruptcy. Persuaded that Mr. and Mrs. R. had not committed fraud and that fraud more likely had been committed by a loan broker who had submitted the loan applications to lenders on Mr. R’s behalf, the Law Center agreed to defend Mr. and Mrs. R in the bankruptcy court lawsuit.

The lawsuit had been filed by a company in the business of buying unpaid debt that had filed approximately 300 similar cases in bankruptcy courts in California. In this case, the debt buyer had purchased promissory notes executed by Mr. R. in favor of two different loan originators. The promissory notes, originally secured by subordinate liens on the real property that Mr. R. had purchased, had become unsecured when senior lienholders foreclosed on the property during the collapse of the housing market.

Law student Denise Miller '12 worked on the litigation from October 2011 through May 2012 (largely on discovery) and law student Jeremy Treanor '12 worked on the litigation from June 2012 through November 2012.

The Law Center was able to secure Mrs. R.’s dismissal from the lawsuit almost immediately because the complaint failed to even allege her participation in the loan application process. In preparing for a trial against Mr. R., Jeremy Treanor was prepared

to argue, among other things, that the originating lenders had not justifiably or reasonably relied on any allegedly false information in the loan applications because of superficial underwriting standards and procedures pervasive in the industry at the time. In advance of trial, he also prepared and filed a motion to dismiss for lack of standing.

Just prior to the hearing of the motion, the debt buyer agreed to dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice and without payment of anything by Mr. R. Although Jeremy had been relishing the opportunity to argue the motion and later, if necessary, to conduct the trial,

he was pleased to deliver Mr. R. the great news.

“Although I missed the opportunity to argue in court, I still enjoyed working on this case very much,” says Jeremy. “It really helped me improve my research skills, taught about interviewing a client through an interpreter, and helped me spot the strengths and weaknesses of a case. My supervising attorney also helped me to improve my legal writing. There is no class that will teach you all these practical skills all at once. This was a great experience overall.”

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—JEREMY TREANOR '12
CONSUMER LAW STUDENT



Human Trafficking Training

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Human Trafficking Training attendees check in at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, in East San Jose.

more than 10 years), stated Martina E. Vandenberg, Open Society Foundations Fellow, former pro bono advocacy counsel

for the Freedom Network U.S.A., and one of the presenters on civil litigation cases.

"In many instances, people do not know that they are victims of human trafficking, and this requires a higher level of alertness by the general public; we all have a stake in this," said Lynette Parker, KGACLC Immigration Supervising Attorney and a presenter at the training.

In an evaluation, an attendee wrote that "In the last seven years of many Human Trafficking training events that I've attended, I would say this is by far the best! I got to learn about Human Trafficking in a 360-degree view...I learned about HT on a micro as well as a macro level."

The sponsors of this event perform important work in the community. SBCEHT is the local effort that responds to human trafficking in Santa

Clara County. Through a victim-centered approach, it strengthens local capacity to respond to and identify human trafficking survivors.

The Office of Women's Policy was created to identify and address current and emerging issues for women and girls challenging our community today. It promotes special programs and activities to support and encourage the success of women and girls in all aspects of society. It serves as a focal point to enhance collaboration among women's organizations, and complement local advocacy efforts through a focus on education, effective public policy implementation, and systems and institutional reform to better serve women and girls.

Community, Commitment & Courage Awards, 2012

Each year, the Alexander Community Law Center celebrates the individuals and firms whose exemplary contributions advance the goals of the Law Center and the School of Law. This year's celebration was held on October 4, at the Adobe Logde and Mission Gardens.

Community Award: Ruth Silver Taube and Carole Vigne accepted the Award on behalf of the Legal Aid Society - Employment Law Center (LAS-ELC). The plaque read: "Honoring the LAS-ELC for its dedication to addressing the needs of low-income and disadvantaged communities. The LAS-ELC has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to workers' rights and has been a crucial bridge between legal services providers, law students and the legal profession...."

Commitment Award: Bernadette Connolly. The Law Center is grateful

for her continued dedication and commitment to its clients and students over the years. Her plaque read: "With sincere gratitude for the many hours you have committed to the KGACLC's Immigration Interviewing and Advice Clinics, All-Day Saturday training, as well as for the technical assistance on specific immigration issues, case assistance, and presentations to Santa Clara Law students."

Courage Award: Ms. Guadalupe Ochoa Martinez, a brave and humble Law Center client. Her plaque read: "We honor your courage to speak out and to pursue justice when it was safer to remain silent. Your courage has helped not only to shed light on an unacceptable violation of work place safety and personal security, but has also protected the rights of other workers."

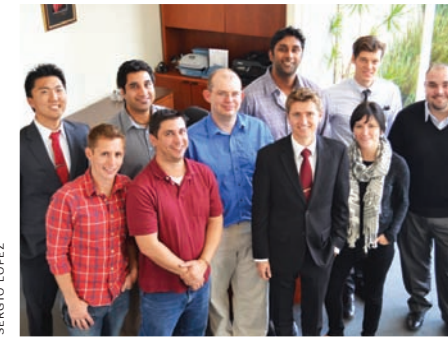
Reuben Castillo received a standing ovation during his acceptance of the **Eric & Nancy Wright Award**. This is the

second time he receives this award during his employment at the KGACLC, for "sharing your knowledge, expertise and experience with all your students. For your incredible hard work and devotion to the Law Center, and your compassion and dedication to all your clients."



Left to right: Bernadette Connolly, Reuben Castillo, Carole Vigne, Ruth Silver Taube and Guadalupe Ochoa Martinez

Our Work During Fiscal Year 2011-12



We at the George & Katharine Alexander Community Law Center are happy to have concluded another fiscal year so successfully. We could not have done it without the support of our volunteer attorneys, our law students, our undergraduates and all those who strive to serve our community with competence, conscience and compassion. Above all, we could not have done it without our supporters – thank you!

During the period of July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law provided brief services and advice to:

- 104 individuals during its Consumer Rights Clinics,
- 324 individuals during its Workers' Rights Clinics and
- 199 individuals during its Immigration Clinics.

During the same period, the Community Law Center was able to:

- recover a total of \$98,289.31 in damages for 25 clients in the

Consumer Law area, while it was able to save them a total of \$289,059.34 arising from contract disputes;

- recover \$142,293.74 in unpaid wages and for discrimination claims (for cumulative awards totaling \$268,825.97 for its Workers' Rights clients);

- open 13 Human Trafficking cases and close eight in its Immigration area;

- open 20 U-Visa cases for victims of crime and close 12 cases based on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Thanks to its mobile community workshops, KGACLC was able to reach 351 individuals in San José with information regarding their rights as consumers and tenants.

In all, KGACLC students logged 13,425 hours of work to ameliorate the lives of the many individuals cited above. At a billable rate of \$150 per hour, this would represent a direct benefit of \$2,013,750.00 to the community.

Of course, we have completed much more work in the second half of this year, and those figures will be reflected in the next fiscal year.

Thanks to all of you for helping the Alexander Community Law Center achieve its dual goal of assisting the community while providing learning opportunities of the highest caliber to our law students.

Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center at Santa Clara Law

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About us:

The Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center (KGACLC) is a civil legal component of Santa Clara University School of Law. Its mission is to educate law students in accordance with the highest professional and ethical standards by serving individuals and communities in need with competence, conscience and compassion through pro bono legal representation and education.

You may learn more about KGACLC at

<http://law.scu.edu/kgac/c/>
We are located at:
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Telephone: (408) 288-7030; Fax: (408) 288-3581

Santa Clara Law, founded in 1911 on the site of Santa Clara University, California's oldest operating higher-education institution, is dedicated to educating lawyers who lead, with a commitment to excellence, ethics, and social justice. One of the nation's most diverse law schools, Santa Clara Law offers its 975 students an academically rigorous program, including graduate degrees in international law and intellectual property law; a combined J.D./MBA degree; a combined J.D./MSIS degree; and certificates in intellectual property law, international law, and public interest and social justice law. Santa Clara Law is located in the world-class business center of Silicon Valley, and is distinguished nationally for its top-ranked program in intellectual property. For more information, see <http://law.scu.edu>.

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