







FACES OF CHANGE
Together We Make a Difference





The mission of Equal Justice Works is to create a just society by mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice. For nearly 25 years, Equal Justice Works has collaborated with the nation's leading law firms, corporate legal departments, bar foundations, law schools and nonprofit organizations to provide the training and opportunities that enable attorneys to provide effective representation to vulnerable populations.

- We help law schools establish and strengthen public interest programs.
- We provide public service work experience, professional development and training for students and lawyers.
- We build strong support in the legal profession for public service through pro bono work and financial support.
- We work to reduce the educational debt barriers to public service through outreach and advocacy.

"While working on my project, I have come to realize that noncitizen youth represent an invisible class of 'at-risk youth' – they go unnoticed and their needs go unaddressed by most mainstream intervention efforts. These kids require and deserve the assistance of every talented advocate who is willing to help."

Mike Peters, 2009 Equal Justice Works Fellow Hosted by Northwest Immigrant Rights Project Sponsored by Microsoft Corporation

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ON THE COVER: Equal Justice Works Fellows pictured left to right: Todd Belcore, Anna Nguyen, Elizabeth Lockett, Anneliese Gryta, Andrés Durá and Amanda Shackelton.

Have you seen our **Faces of Change** video? Visit equaljusticeworks.org or scan this code for immediate access.





Dear Friend of Equal Justice Works,

In 2010, the economy and high unemployment rates continued to present huge challenges across the nation, hitting hard those who were already struggling and vulnerable. We read story after story of a foreclosure crisis that continued to grow, while legal aid organizations faced reduced budgets and an increased demand for their services. The result was tens of thousands of people facing homelessness with no one to help them.

We responded to this crisis by putting 30 lawyers to work in areas that were hardest hit including Ohio, Michigan and Southern California. These Fellows helped 10,388 clients, including 2,834 who were in danger of losing their homes, and successfully prevented 39% of these foreclosures. Our Fellows continue this work to keep families in their homes.

As wars continued to be fought around the globe, we were saddened by the fact that more and more of those who served our country returned home only to be confronted with additional challenges. According to a report by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, veterans are twice as likely to be homeless than other groups. Moreover, veterans suffering from the effects of combat face higher levels of unemployment and incarceration, as well as mental and physical health issues.

To begin to address these issues, we placed 10 lawyers in the field to help homeless veterans secure housing as well as access the medical care and support services they need. This is the first step to improving the quality and availability of much needed legal services for this community. In the coming months we will explore ways to expand our program, place more Fellows in the field and raise awareness of the serious legal needs of those who have fought for our country.

We as a nation have also become increasingly aware of the broken promise to provide legal counsel to criminal defendants who are unable to afford it. Too often, particularly in the South and in rural communities, government does not provide minimally competent criminal defense representation, resulting in wrongful convictions or longer jail sentences than those who receive adequate representation.

In partnership with the Southern Public Defender Training Center, we have launched a new fellowship program that will begin to address the crisis in indigent defense. In its 2011 pilot year, Public Defender Corps will provide three-year fellowships to approximately 20 lawyers who will undergo rigorous "boot camp" training and then disperse to public defender offices in some of the most challenged areas. With ongoing support and mentoring, these Fellows will improve the quality of representation for accused persons who cannot afford counsel.

Looking ahead, 2011 is an exciting time as we will celebrate 25 years of working toward equal justice for all. While much has changed over the years, our resolve to create a just society by mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to justice remains the same.

On behalf of the Equal Justice Works Board of Directors and staff, we thank you for your continued interest and support.

David Stern Executive Director

Allan Waxman

Chair of the Board of Directors

allen Wayern

Year in Review

hange is a versatile word that has many meanings. It is a signal of hope and new beginnings. It can mean a career transformation for a young law student who worked with a public defender over the summer. It can mean access to knowledge and tools that help remove the debt barriers that can deter a lawyer from a career in public service. Or it can mean a new life for a homeless veteran who once struggled to obtain the most basic of needs.

Change is at the core of Equal Justice Works' mission and without it, we will be unable to achieve equal justice for all. But we are not alone in this pursuit. Our partnership with law schools, law firms, corporations and other nonprofit organizations is essential for our success. There are many faces of change who have contributed to our success. Together we **are** making a difference.



Fellows attending the 2010 Awards Dinner catch a moment with special guest emcee David Gregory, moderator of NBC's Meet the Press.

Every fall, all Equal Justice Works Fellows convene in Washington, D.C. for an intense. three-day training and networking event.

Fellows not only receive essential skills training for their projects, they also have a chance to connect with other Fellows working on similar issues.

FELLOWSHIPS

Our Fellowship programs continue to thrive. In 2010, 144 Equal Justice Works Fellows worked on behalf of underserved populations and causes in 21 states. The Fellows served at 120 nonprofit organizations across the country, addressing critical issues such as access to services for disabled children, predatory lending in immigrant communities and domestic violence.

10,000

Since 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has supported Equal Justice Works' postgraduate AmeriCorps Legal Fellowships and Summer Corps program for law students. In 2010, CNCS provided funding for 66 Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellows and 541 Summer Corps members. Our AmeriCorps Fellows, with the help of 4,495 recruited pro bono lawyers and law students, provided help to 34,455 low-income clients in need of legal assistance.

THANKS TO THE WORK OF EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS FELLOW MORGAN WILLIAMS, MORE THAN 10,000 PEOPLE LIVE FREE OF HOUSING DISCRIMINATION IN POST-KATRINA NEW ORLEANS.



"Serving the needs of vulnerable families has been my passion and what I find most rewarding. I hope to be able to do this for the rest of my life."

> Shana Platz, 2009 Equal Justice Works Fellow Hosted by New York Legal Assistance Group Sponsored by Pfizer Inc

NUMBER OF CLIENTS SERVED IN 2010 BY **541**SUMMER CORPS MEMBERS AT **310**NONPROFIT LEGAL AID AND PUBLIC
DEFENDER OFFICES IN **44**STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Thanks to a \$1.2 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant, we were also able to support 30 additional AmeriCorps Fellows who provided legal assistance to 10,388 clients who were facing foreclosure or were otherwise impacted

by the economic downturn. The Joint Economic Committee of Congress estimates the cost of a foreclosure to a community to be \$77,395. These 30 AmeriCorps Legal Fellows saved 1,086 homes from foreclosure last year – a return of \$71 for every taxpayer dollar invested.

980

VETERANS WERE PROVIDED BENEFITS

AND FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE BY

AMERICORPS LEGAL FELLOWS.

ADDITIONALLY, **140** HOMELESS

VETERANS SECURED HOUSING.

10,000

IN KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, SIX

OVERBURDENED PUBLIC DEFENDERS HANDLED

MORE THAN 10,000 CASES IN ONE YEAR,

AVERAGING LESS THAN ONE HOUR PER CASE.¹

In 2010 we expanded our fellowship offerings with the launch of the pilot phase of the Public Defender Corps. Developed in partnership with the Southern Public Defender Training Center, Public Defender Corps is a three-year fellowship program that will begin to tackle the growing crisis in public defense by improving the quality of representation for adults and juveniles nationwide. More than 450 candidates applied for 18 fellowships. The Fellows will begin their service in August 2011 with an intensive two-week training program and then move to public defender offices in some of the areas that need it most.



¹Justice Denied: America's Continuing Neglect of Our Constitutional Right to Counsel, Report of the National Right to Counsel Committee, April 2009.



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LAW SCHOOLS ARE MEMBERS OF **EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS.**

LAW SCHOOLS

Equal Justice Works collaborates with law schools across the country to develop public interest programs and opportunities not only for students already committed to public interest careers, but for all students.

The annual Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair brought together more than 1,000 law students and lawyers pursuing public interest law careers. In addition to participating in skills development workshops, attendees took advantage of opportunities for résumé review and connecting with like-minded students and professionals. The event attracted 130 nonprofit and federal agency employers seeking to fill over 500 summer and permanent positions.

EDUCATIONAL DEBT

According to the American Bar Association, the average annual private law school tuition has more than tripled since 1985, growing from \$7,500 per year to \$34,000, with many top tier schools now exceeding \$45,000. It is not uncommon for law school graduates to accumulate \$150,000 in educational debt, a burden that has prevented many from considering public service jobs.

200,000

THE NUMBER OF TIMES OUR ONLINE EDUCATIONAL DEBT RESOURCES WERE VIEWED.

Equal Justice Works continues to take a leadership role in educating law students and graduates about available programs for reducing debt burdens, including loan repayment assistance programs and the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), which provides for income-based loan repayment and debt forgiveness for those who work for 10 years in the public sector. In 2010, we hosted 10 free webinars that were attended by more than 2,000 students, public service employees and civil legal aid attorneys. Our staff also conducted 17 regional trainings reaching an additional 2,100 law students, public interest lawyers and financial aid advisors.



Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair attendees were treated to a discussion of public service and the role of lawyers in society with Professor Laurence Tribe, First Senior Counselor for Access to Justice, and Judge David Tatel.

Financial Position and Activities

Year ended June 30, 2010.

	2010	2009		2010	2009
Assets			Undesignated Revenue		
Current Assets			Fellowships	5,014,383	5,266,444
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$416,935	\$1,190,515	Other Grants	426,745	261,272
Grants and Pledges Receivable	3,014,737	2,623,488	Federal Grants	2,203,407	1,159,389
Accrued Interest Receivable	22,585	19,723	Annual Dinner and Events	1,814,309	1,721,785
Prepaid Expenses	134,693	98,483	Membership and Dues	321,750	322,175
Other Current Assets	47,620	28,747	Individuals & Other Income	274,343	100,560
Total Current Assets	\$3,636,570	\$3,960,956	Cy Pres	350,191	-
Investments	7,010,691	6,636,167	In Kind Contributions	431,000	94,506
Property and Equipment, Net	105,492	158,678	Designated Net Assets Used to Fund Expenses	760,000	650,000
Deposits	35,225	6,060	Total Undesignated Revenue	11,596,128	9,576,131
Total Assets	\$10,787,978	\$10,761,861			
			Expenses		
Liabilities and Net Assets			Fellowships Program	5,046,345	5,563,341
Current Liabilities			AmeriCorps Program	2,422,217	1,280,225
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$329,243	\$237,033	Katrina Project	-	66,428
Accrued Salaries and Benefits	184,835	215,477	Law School	756,627	967,161
Refundable Advances and Sponsorships	308,290	739,725	Fundraising	939,999	987,511
Other Liabilities	115,662	151,632	Communications	204,756	265,436
Total Liabilities	938,030	1,343,867	In Kind Contributions	431,000	94,506
Net Assets			Management and General	955,866	815,319
Unrestricted:			Total Expenses	10,756,810	10,039,927
Undesignated	5,921,901	4,900,589			
Designated	54,164	81,819	Change in Undesignated Net Assets	\$839,318	\$(463,796)
Total Unrestricted	5,976,065	4,982,408			
Temporarily Restricted	3,408,976	3,970,679			
Permanently Restricted	464,907	464,907			
Total Net Assets	9,849,948	9,417,994			
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$10,787,978	\$10,761,861			

Sponsors and Fellows

Launched in 1992 to address the shortage of attorneys working on behalf of traditionally underserved populations and causes, Equal Justice Works Fellowships provide the opportunity for lawyers to impact vulnerable communities around the country. With the generous support of law firms, corporations and private foundations, Equal Justice Works Fellows are on the frontlines of public interest law helping to bridge the justice gap. Sponsors in 2010 included:

Key

Sponsor

Fellow Host Organization

AIG

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Leisa Morrill-Wintz Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida Ashley Ortagus The Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.

Kevin Probst Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc. Peterson St. Phillipe Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. Dante Trevisani Florida Justice Institute, Inc. Karen Winston Jacksonville Area Legal Aid

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Gina Clayton Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem



"The population of indigent children with disabilities in foster care served by the Fellowship project are greatly in need of services, and without Lauren (Michaels, 2009 Fellow), ELC would be virtually unable to serve any of these children, given our severe funding shortages."

> Elizabeth Athos, Senior Attorney Education Law Center, Inc.

Greenberg Traurig

Alpa Amin Georgia Asylum & Immigration Network Marissa Band Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. Todd Belcore Sargent Shriver National Center for Poverty Law

Edget Betru Refugee Resettlement & Immigration Services of Atlanta

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Dennis Hsieh Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

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Latham & Watkins LLP

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Sarah Leberstein National Employment Law Project

Tana Liu-Beers North Carolina Justice Center

Vivek Mittal National Immigration Law Center

Chase Strangio Sylvia Rivera Law Project

Phoebe Taubman A Better Balance



As a law student, Michelle Parris had a profound experience working at the Immigrants' Rights Clinic at Stanford University: she successfully represented a permanent resident with schizophrenia whose immigration status was in jeopardy because of criminal convictions he suffered years ago when he was unable to manage his illness. The result is a project with The Bronx Defenders to provide holistic civil representation to people with psychiatric disabilities who have been affected by the criminal justice system.

Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service has supported Equal Justice Works programs for 17 years. The Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellowships program is one of the most productive and highly regarded national service programs in the country, and our Summer Corps program provides law students with the opportunity to dedicate their summer to a legal project at a qualifying nonprofit public interest organization. Both programs expand the delivery of critically needed legal assistance in low-income and underserved communities across the country. AmeriCorps Legal Fellows working in the field in 2010 included:

Access to Justice, South Dakota

Joshua Houy Leroy LaPlante, Jr. Joseph Thronson

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality

Lauren Dreshman **Andrew Neuhauser**

Community Legal Aid Services, Akron

Carla Bulford

Legal Aid of Western Ohio

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Brandie Ingalls Rhonda Stanger

Legal Aid of West Virginia

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Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee

Nicholas Toman

Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia

Jennifer Cheung Jennifer Ngai

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Katie Higgins

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Maura Hagen Carolyn Krieger

Michigan Legal Services

Jamison Brewer Tammy Howze

Lone Star Legal Aid

Adrea Chow **Fallon Hamilton** Jennifer Forman Flizabeth Lockett

Louisiana Bar Foundation

Anthony Sartorio Debra Weinberg

Mississippi Center for Justice

Whitney Barkley Margaret Enfinger Seth Shannon Lan Diep

Montana Legal Services Association

Joseph Hardgrave Tonya Herring Beth Hayes Jessie Lundberg Jillian Haynal Bernadette O'Donnell



"I had such a successful and positive experience at my placement, and I am glad to say I helped Learning Rights in a number of respects. I will be staying on to volunteer at my placement throughout the next semester, and hopefully even beyond that."

Derek Lipkin, 2010 Summer Corps Member Hosted by Learning Rights Law Center

Northwest Justice Project

Rory O'Sullivan Lauren Peach

OneJustice

Candace Chen

Julie Mercer Ingram

Doan Nguyen

Ariadna Renteria-Torres

Legal Services of Northern California

Chio Saephanh

San Diego Veterans Project

Ed Neusteter

Watsonville Law Center

Jenna Grambort

Public Counsel

Banafsheh Amirzadeh

Christian Canas

Christine Khalili-Borna

Susan McClure

Rebecca Raizman

Joseph Rebella

Gregory Smith

Brandon Weiss

Nancy Wheeler

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Public Law Center

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Leigh Ferrin

Vanessa Leonardo

Roberto Sarmiento

Munmeeth Soni

South Brooklyn Legal Services

Laurie Izutsu-Keener

Southeast Louisiana Legal Services

Ayanna Butler

Amanda Furst

Amanda Golob

Patricia Guzman

Margaret Kuklewicz

Anthony Sartorio

Three Rivers Legal Services

Nery Alonso

Patricia Antonucci

Deanna Coates

Summer Griggs

Tee Ho

Crystal Johnson

Allyson Millender

Jorge Tormes

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Maureen Contreni

Stacy Jones

University of Miami/Miami Dade PD

Sarah Borak

Volunteer Legal Services Program

Allison Anderman

Sarah Hoskinson

Alison Ponder



One of the legacies of the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is an economically depressed seafood and fishing industry. These hardships have been particularly felt by the local Vietnamese American community that depends on this industry to make a living. Many in the community do not know how and are reluctant to seek help because of the language barrier. However, as an AmeriCorps Legal Fellow and native Vietnamese speaker, Lan Diep is successfully reaching out to and educating the community about their rights and how to process claims.

Leadership

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Beth A. Wilkinson Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

The Honorable Ann Claire Williams U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit



"Reaching law students and lawyers early in their careers and giving them a chance to make a change, in their own lives and in the lives of others, and enabling them to use their skills to advance justice in this country - that's what Equal Justice Works is about."

> Marc Gary, Vice Chair, Equal Justice Works Board **Executive Vice President and General Counsel** Fidelity Investments

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Equal Justice Works acknowledges the generosity of the following institutions that made contributions of \$2,500 or more during the period July 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010.

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\$1.	n	n	n	റ	n	n	
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Corporation for National & Community Service

\$500,000-\$999,999

Greenberg Traurig Open Society Institute

\$250,000-\$499,999

Ford Foundation Texas Access to Justice Foundation Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation

\$100,000-\$249,999

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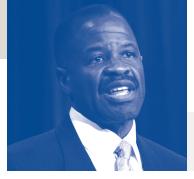
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