



A Note from the Director

The Law Clinic is dedicated to meeting the demands of clinical teaching together with outstanding lawyering. This newsletter shares just a peek into some of the cases, projects, and accomplishments. The Law Clinic faculty, students, and staff share a deep commitment to service and to the representation of vulnerable people. Please enjoy our most recent newsletter update below.

Sincerely,
Davida Finger, Director, Law Clinic

2023 LSBA Children's Law Award



Top row (left to right): **Davida Finger**, **Hector Linares**, and **Tobie Tranchina**
Bottom row (left to right): **Cheryl Buchert** and **Ramona Fernandez**
Not Pictured: Sara Godchaux, Staff Attorney, Youth Justice Section

On May 17, 2023, the [Louisiana State Bar Association](#) will recognize the Loyola Law Clinic with the 2023 Children's Law Award for outstanding services in the field of Children's Law.

Professor Cheryl Buchert, Professor Hector Linares, and Professor Ramona Fernandez will accept the award on behalf of the Law Clinic.

Section Updates

Youth Justice

The Youth Justice section, supervised by [Professor Hector Linares](#), has filed and litigated 10 administrative complaints on its special education docket. Through its litigation work, the clinic has been able to get 5 different students, including a preschooler, back into school and has obtained hundreds of hours of compensatory education for its clients. [Read More >>](#)



Children's Rights

The Children's Rights section, supervised by [Professor Ramona Fernandez](#), continues to advocate for the minor child in a paternity action that began in 2017. The case is now going before the Louisiana Supreme Court for the second time. [Read More >>](#)

Family Law

This semester, the Family Law section, supervised by [Professor Cheryl Buchert](#), represents children in five custody cases with children ranging in age from 4 years to 16 years. In other cases, the student practitioners represent clients in divorces, continuing tutorships, and absentee defendant cases. The Family Law student practitioners have twenty Court appearances in Orleans and Jefferson Parish Courts this semester, including three full days of a custody trial. [Read More >>](#)

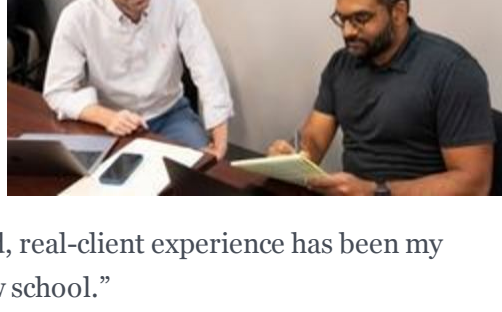


Workplace Justice

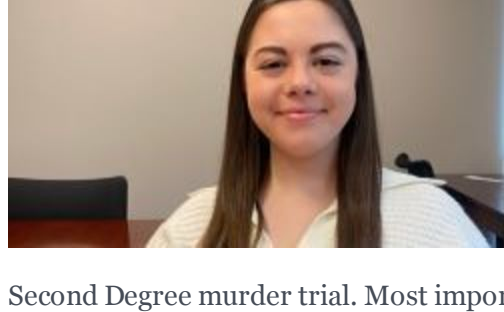
The [Workplace Justice Project](#), supervised by [Professor Luz M. Molina](#), is making a substantial impact in the lives of workers. As the academic year ends, students celebrate many successes: increased recovery of wages, critical awareness of the need for employer accountability in the workplace; activism in shaping public policy which affects workplace equity; and the fact that the Project has established a solid reputation in the community as a legal resource for litigation, worker education and policy. [Read More >>](#)

Criminal Defense

"Bridging the gap between textbook and trial litigation, Loyola's [Criminal Defense clinic](#) has allowed me to gain experience in courthouse practicalities but, even more importantly, in strategic client representation. When a person's very freedom is at risk, the benefit of a team environment and Prof. Sneed's guidance cannot be overstated. This real-world, real-client experience has been my most significant education during my three years in law school."



-Peter Finney (pictured left), supervised by [Professor D. Majeeda Sneed](#)



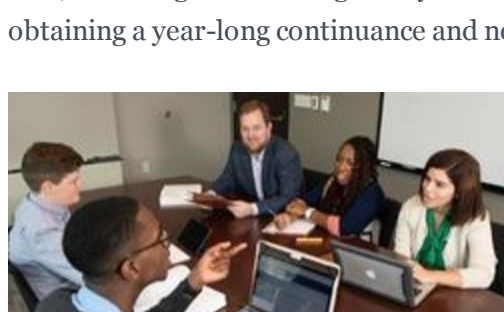
Misdemeanor

"[Misdemeanor clinic](#) provided me with the invaluable opportunity to represent indigent defendants in misdemeanor and felony cases at the [Orleans Parish Criminal District Court](#). I gained experience and success in getting bond reductions, negotiating plea deals, and participating in the voir dire process for a Second Degree murder trial. Most importantly, I now have a better understanding of the practices and procedures of criminal court."

-Meaghan Mulvey, supervised by [Professor Judson Mitchell](#)

Immigration

[Professor Hiroko Kusuda](#), along with a team of law student externs and research assistants, represented clients in various types of immigration proceedings. In one case, the team represented a 13 year old boy from Honduras. Law student LindseyAnna Pardue (pictured far right) took the lead in preparing the case, including interviewing family members and drafting pleadings. The team was successful in obtaining a year-long continuance and no removal. [Read More >>](#)

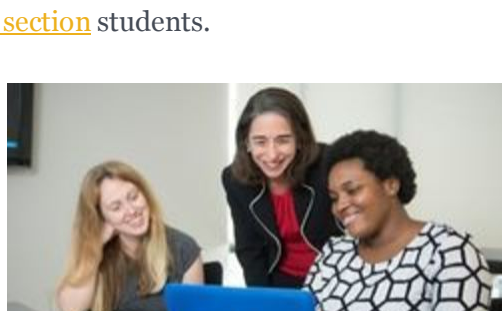


Prosecution

[Dr. Timothy Scanlan](#), a court-qualified expert on firearm and tool mark examination, bloodstain pattern analysis, crime scene reconstruction, and crime scene processing and analysis, spoke with the [Prosecution section](#) students.

Externships

The [Externship Program](#) continues to grow with 28 students engaged in field placements for Spring 2023. Placements include judicial externships with state trial and appellate level courts along with the Eastern District of Louisiana. Other government and non-profit placements include: [E Pluribus Unum](#), [Orleans Public Defenders](#), [U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana](#), [Vera Institute of Justice](#), and [more](#). Student externs are enrolled in a semester-long, weekly skills/reflection seminar class with [Professor Finger](#).



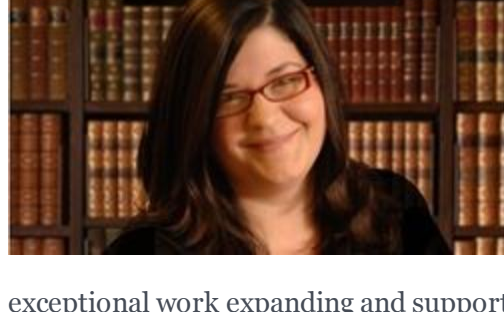
Faculty & Staff Achievements

Fulbright Specialist

The [U.S. State Department](#) named [Professor Davida Finger](#) a Fulbright Specialist for the next 3 years. The [Fulbright Specialist program](#) matches U.S. academics and professionals with significant expertise with the opportunity to complete short term project-based exchanges designed by institutions around the world.



Professor Finger's focus is on collaboration with experiential curricula and law clinic programs.



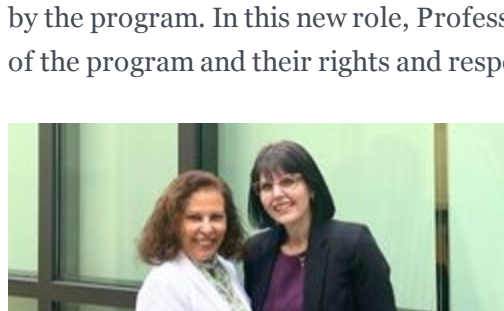
Pro Bono Honor Roll

[Christina Luwisch](#), Law Clinic Administrator and Associate Director of the [Gillis Long Poverty Law Center](#), was named to the [Inaugural Pro Bono Honor Roll](#) by the [Association of American Law Schools](#) and the [Section on Pro Bono Access to Justice](#). The Pro Bono Honor Roll recognized Ms. Luwisch's exceptional work expanding and supporting pro bono legal services.

Clinic Initiatives

Family Preservation Court

[Professor Ramona Fernandez](#) has agreed to join the Family Preservation Court team. This is a new initiative administered by the [Louisiana Supreme Court Drug and Specialty Court Program](#) that aims to assist families struggling with addiction. Team members will provide legal, medical, and social services to families who volunteer to seek treatment for addiction and follow a plan prescribed by the program. In this new role, Professor Fernandez will educate parents on the parameters of the program and their rights and responsibilities.



Louisiana Prisoner Re-entry Initiative

Loyola Law Clinic is continuing its partnership with [United Way of Southeast Louisiana](#) as the legal services provider for the [Jefferson and St. Tammany Prisoner Re-entry Initiative](#). The students in the children's rights section are currently working with 25 incarcerated or recently released participants. These cases address a variety of issues such as traffic, misdemeanor criminal, child support, and custody. The goal of the program and the students is to help the participants resolve these outstanding legal issues to put them in a better position to successfully re-enter society.

Alumni Voices

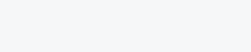


Ofelia Delgado, J.D. '12, was a student practitioner in the Workplace Justice clinic, supervised by [Professor Luz M. Molina](#).

The Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice

This [fully functioning legal clinic](#) gives third-year law students the opportunity to put their classroom knowledge to work in representing those in need under the supervision of experienced attorneys. Students gain practical experience in a number of fields while learning what it means to use the law to serve others.

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