

**GAJE Newsletter: Volume 2 Issue 6 (December 2006)**

Starting with this issue, the GAJE Newsletter will be published in both English and Spanish; the Spanish translation will be posted on the GAJE web site by 29 December 2006.

Para el día 29 de diciembre de 2006, GAJE pondrá en su sitio web una traducción al español del boletín. Visite <http://www.gaje.org/E-Newsletter.htm>

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**1. GAJE news and events**

*Item:* **4<sup>th</sup> GAJE conference report summary**

*Details:* The 4<sup>th</sup> GAJE conference was held in Cordoba, Argentina from 27 November to 2 December 2006. The conference was a resounding success and its highlight was the increasingly popular and enriching workshops component. The conference's theme, '**Educating Lawyers for Social Justice: Law, Poverty and Social Change**', proved well placed for the region and the over 125 global participants representing more than 25 countries.

The conference was hosted by the Cordoba National University. The conference key note speaker at the opening ceremony was Mr. Roberto Nancucheo, an 'indigenous peoples' traditional leader in Argentina, who spoke passionately about his peoples' pursuit for social justice and the role of lawyers and law in effecting social change. Subsequent speakers and workshops themes effectively linked his speech with the conference theme and desired outcomes. For more details on the workshop themes and descriptions see [www.gaje.org](http://www.gaje.org).

During the conference, the GAJE Steering Committee Elections to replace outgoing members were also held. The details of the results are described in the item immediately below.

Apart from the workshops and side meetings among participants on ways of collaborating on clinical legal education, a couple of social events were arranged. Participants had excellent opportunities, among other things, to sample typical Argentine cuisine, music, dance, vibrant culture and beautiful art. A full report of the conference will be posted on the GAJE website as soon as possible.

*Item:* **Results of the GAJE Steering Committee Elections**

*Details:* The SC Elections were held on Thursday 30 November 2006, to replace members whose terms had either expired or resigned in accordance with the GAJE Constitution. Five (5) positions were vacant (all limited to male candidates, pursuant to GAJE's constitutional policy of one male and one female member per region). The members elected are:

Australasia: Ed Santow  
Eastern Europe (including Russia): Filip Czernicki  
South and Central America (including Mexico): Carlos Varas  
South and Central Asia (including the Mideast): S. Sivakumar  
North America: Clark Cunningham

As a result, the new Steering Committee is:

**Africa:** Thulisile Mhlungu, George Mukundi  
**Australasia:** Ed Santow, Vanessa Sweeney  
**East Asia:** Mao Ling, Carlos Medina  
**Eastern Europe (including Russia):** Filip Czernicki, Maria Kolikova  
**South and Central America (including Mexico):** Eva Rodriguez, Carlos Varas

**South and Central Asia (including the Mideast):** Lusine Hovhannisian, S.Sivakumar  
**North America:** Clark Cunningham, Catherine Klein  
**Western Europe:** Joanne Coysh, Stephen Levett  
**At-large:** David McQuoid-Mason

The SC members present held their inaugural meeting on the evening of the election date (30 November 2006) to map the way forward and set an agenda for the GAJE Business meeting that was held on Saturday 2 December 2006. The next SC meeting will be held during the month of February 2007.

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## 2. Other events and courses

### Event: **“Pro Bono Lawyer’s” contest in Poland**

*Organizer:* Polish Legal Clinics Foundation

*Details:* The fourth edition of the “Pro Bono Lawyer’s” contest is currently underway in Poland.

The contest is the only event in Poland aimed at promotion of voluntary involvement of lawyers in *pro bono* work in the field of law. Every year, a few dozen nominations from all over Poland are submitted to the jury comprising of the most outstanding Polish lawyers, including the President of the Constitutional Tribunal, the President of the Supreme Administrative Court and the Ombudsman. The “Pro Bono Lawyer’s” contest has a media patronage of the biggest newspapers, radio and TV stations in Poland. Last year the winner was Bogumil Jan Jopkiewicz, a retired advocate with over 45 years of professional experience from a provincial city of Kielce. He is blind and for many years has been deeply devoted to *pro bono* work, particularly legal aid to numerous local charities and NGOs. Every year the winner receives a statuette funded by the Minister of Justice and a diploma.

*Further information:* Contact the President of the Polish Legal Clinics Foundation Filip Czenicki

*Event:* 2007 Meeting of the Law & Society Association

*Dates:* July 25-28, 2007

*Venue:* Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

*Deadline:* Call for papers – deadline is January 12, 2007

*Details:* At five year intervals, the Association's annual meeting is part of an international meeting jointly sponsored with the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL) of the International Sociological Association (ISA). The international meetings are particularly exciting events and have resulted in several cross-country, interdisciplinary research projects. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Socio-Legal Studies Association (UK), the Japanese Association for Sociology of Law (Japan), the Vereinigung fur Rechtssoziologie (Germany), and the Sociology of Law Section of the German Sociological Association (Germany), and others to be named.

*Further details:* <http://www.lawandsociety.org/>

### **Course: Training course on prison education**

*Dates:* 22-26 January 2007: Deadline for registration: 11 December 2006.

*Venue:* Bratislava, Slovakia.

*Details:* Obcan a demokracia (Citizen and Democracy), a civic association based in Slovakia, is organising a training course for prison educators called *Law through Experience: Interactive and Participatory Socio-Legal Training for Prison Educators*. The overall objective of the course is to equip prison educators with knowledge, skills and materials that will, after their application in educators’ everyday work, result in helping prisoners to better understand their rights, duties and responsibilities, and thus to better re-socialise.

The course is not only open to people who are involved in prison education (such as prison staff), but also to individuals who come from other disciplines and provide education in prisons (NGOs, law clinics involved in work with prisoners, other public and private educational institutions - including those who train prisoners’ educators). The course is also open to members of prison managements. The training will be conducted by an international team of experts from Denmark, Greece, Poland and Slovakia from the fields of law, psychology, education and sociology and will be carried out with the use of methods of interactive and participatory teaching. The working language will be English.

For further information and detailed description of the training course see <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/index.cfm?fuseaction=DisplayCourse&cid=2893>. For participants from the EU or other countries eligible for funding from the Socrates scheme (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey), it is possible to apply for a grant covering the participants' course fees and other expenses at the Socrates National Agencies (the instructions for applying for a training event and deadlines for applications at the individual Socrates National Agencies can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/search.cfm>; the list of National Agencies can also be found at [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/socrates/nat-est\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/socrates/nat-est_en.html); the course number is SK-2007-005-001). Interested participants may also contact the training course coordinator Janka Debreceniová [debreceniov@oad.sk](mailto:debreceniov@oad.sk) Tel/Fax: +421 48 611 3461 or +421 905 825 408 (cell-phone)

**Item: US partners sought to conduct a digital video conference with Law Centre-I University of Delhi**

Dates: 8 January - 11 April 2007

Details: The Law Centre-I of University of Delhi is looking for partners in the United States who may be interested in conducting two Digital Video Conferences for one hour each on the themes of teaching methods with special focus on 'case method in teaching substantive subjects' and another on 'paper setting and evaluation'.

Further information: Contact Prof. Ved Kumari at [ved\\_k@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ved_k@yahoo.co.uk)

**Event: First Teachers' Training Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Legal Education in North India**

Dates: 26-28 January 2007: Deadline for applications/nominations: 30 December 2006

Organizer: Gender and Law Association (GALA)

Further information: See <http://www.wcl.american.edu/gender/wilp/gala/website/index.cfm>

**Event: The 5th International Journal of Clinical Legal Education conference**

Dates: 9th-11th July 2007

Venue: University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Costs: To be confirmed but likely to be £200 sterling, to include conference and conference dinner.

Details: The fifth IJCLE conference will be taking place in Johannesburg and will be held alongside the 2007 South African clinical conference, which is taking place under the aegis of AULAI. The focus of the conference will be Unity in Diversity – and the themes for the conference will include social justice through legal education; clinic and the law school curriculum; clinic and assessment within a social justice environment, and unity and diversity in clinical law experiences. The program will include opportunities to visit South African law clinics and some of the cultural and historical sites which are an integral part of the South African story.

"Unity in Diversity" appears in /Xam, the now extinct language of the original inhabitants of Southern Africa, on the South African coat of arms. When translated literally the phrase means "diverse peoples unite or come together". This has particular resonance within the clinical movement. Law clinics operate in many different jurisdictions with any number of different social, political, economic and environmental challenges. They reflect, individually, the society in which they function. And yet, within this diversity, there are as many unifying factors which present clinicians with the opportunity to learn from one another, to inspire one another and to join together in seeking solutions for the issues which they face.

Since its inception, the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference has provided an opportunity for legal educators from diverse jurisdictions to meet, to exchange ideas and experiences and to learn together. The conference has a tradition of providing a supportive environment which recognises the range and diversity of clinical programmes and which aims to support clinical developments in all jurisdictions.

The conference organisers welcome proposals for papers around these themes. Time limits will be posted shortly on the conference web site. All papers will be considered for publication

in the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education. International delegates please contact Phillip Plowden at +44(0)191 227 3995 or email him at [phillip.plowden@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:phillip.plowden@northumbria.ac.uk) South African delegates please contact Shaheda Mahomed at (011) 7178562, email [shaheda.mahomed@wits.ac.za](mailto:shaheda.mahomed@wits.ac.za) or Danny Wimpey at (011) 9970972, email [alex@rau.ac.za](mailto:alex@rau.ac.za)  
*Further information:* Full details will be posted soon on the conference websites at <http://hermes.wits.ac.za/www/Conferences/IJCLE/> and at [www.ijcle.com](http://www.ijcle.com). For enquiries in the meantime, please contact Maureen Cooke at [Maureen.cooke@unn.ac.uk](mailto:Maureen.cooke@unn.ac.uk)

*Event:* 2007 Workshop on Clinical Legal Education - Association of American Law Schools

*Dates:* May 2-6, 2007

*Venue:* New Orleans, Louisiana

*Details:* There will be a one-day session on May 2 for clinic directors. The workshop will begin on Thursday, May 3 with registration at 3:00 p.m. and a reception with posters at 6:30 p.m. The program will include three days of plenary sessions, concurrent sessions and small group discussions. The workshop will conclude at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 6, 2007. The workshop sessions and sleeping accommodations will be at the Hilton New Orleans, 2 Poydras at the Mississippi River, New Orleans. Jazz Fest will be held over the same dates as this Workshop, so it is important that you make your hotel reservations now, making allowances for early or late departure dates beyond the workshop dates. The hotels in New Orleans will sell out and that is why we urge you to make reservations now before selection is limited or not available. Registration fees per person for the Workshop on Clinical Legal Education are \$350 for faculty of AALS member and fee-paid schools, and \$400 for faculty of non-fee-paid law schools.

*Further Information:* [http://www.aals.org/events\\_2007clinical.php](http://www.aals.org/events_2007clinical.php)

*Courses:* **Online, distance learning mental disability law program**

*Host:* New York Law School (NYLS)

*Details:* During the spring 2007 semester, New York Law School (NYLS) will be offering three courses through its online, distance learning mental disability law program: *International Human Rights Law and Mental Disability Law*; *Lawyering Skills for the Representation of Persons with Mental Disabilities*; and *Mental Health Issues in Jails and Prisons* in the spring 2007 term. Registration is currently ongoing for students, and anyone interested. The courses are appropriate for law students, practicing lawyers, mental health professionals, international human rights activists, and mental health activists and advocates.

*Further information:* Contact the program senior administrator, Liane Bass, esq., ([lbass@nyls.edu](mailto:lbass@nyls.edu)), for information. See also: [www.nyls.edu/mdl](http://www.nyls.edu/mdl).

*Courses:* **Various online human rights courses**

*Organizer:* Human Rights Education Associates (HREA). While the deadline for application for the courses posted below has passed (1 December 2006) contact the HREA director Felissa Tibbitts [ftibbitts@hrea.org](mailto:ftibbitts@hrea.org) for a possible deadline extension citing the GAJE newsletter late issuance.

- The United Nations Human Rights System: Transitioning from the Commission on Human Rights to the Human Rights Council.  
Dates: 12 February-5 May 2007;  
For further details: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/10E.html>
- Human Rights Litigation  
Dates: 14 February-7 May 2007  
For further details: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/13E.html>
- Einführung in die Menschenrechtsbildung  
Dates: 19. Februar-27. Mai 2007]  
For further details: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/8D.html>
- Incidencia Polística para Avanzar los Derechos Humanos  
Dates: 21 de febrero-12 de junio de 2007  
For further details: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/2C.html>
- Human Rights Advocacy

Dates: 7 March-19 June 2007  
For further details: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/2E.html>

- Research and Evaluation in the NGO Sector  
Dates: 12 March-3 June 2007.  
For further details: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/1E.html>
- Rights-Based Programming  
Dates: 21 March-12 June 2007  
For further details: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/5E.html>

**Event: Conference on pedagogy of legal writing**

*Dates:* March 15-17, 2007

*Venue:* Nairobi, Kenya

*Details:* The conference is sponsored by Seattle University, the Legal Writing Institute, and the Association of Legal Writing Directors. The conference is held against the backdrop of the fact that the ability to communicate clearly, effectively, and persuasively is one of an attorney's greatest tools and as such law students must learn this vital skill. The conference will provide academics in Africa an opportunity to learn about the legal writing programs that have been developed in the United States. It will also give academics from the United States an opportunity to learn about how these skills are taught in African institutions.

*Further information:* Although the conference is full people interested in its proceedings may contact Professor Mimi Samuel [msamuel@seattleu.edu](mailto:msamuel@seattleu.edu). See [www.law.seattleu.edu/legalwriting/conference](http://www.law.seattleu.edu/legalwriting/conference)

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**3. Disclaimer**

*The material in this newsletter is simply a collation of material submitted for distribution to GAJE members. The inclusion of any material in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement of it by GAJE ([www.gaje.org](http://www.gaje.org)).*