

GAJE Newsletter: Volume 3 Issue 3 (June 2007)

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1. News, events and courses

News: New Foundation Established in Estonia

Details A new institution has been created in Estonia to promote legal reform through professional education – The Legal Advocacy Foundation (LAF). LAF is committed to the process of “*Learning by Doing*”, and the belief that best practices evolve by sharing knowledge and experience: between people, within institutions, between institutions, and across borders. Its goal is to empower networks of legal experts and institutions by helping to structure web based dialogue that leads to better projects and follow up. LAF is interested in both legal institution building and substantive law issues and will work to tear down geographic and institutional barriers to better learning.

More information: Visit the LAF website at www.laf.minuweb.com or email Michael Gallagher at michael@lc.ee

News: Sustainable Reform in Higher Legal Education Project

Details: The Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) held the first Annual Project Planning Meeting on May 8-9, 2007 in Budapest for a 3-year project to promote sustainable reform in higher legal education with the financial support of Higher Education Support Program (HESP). This project aims to promote a practice-oriented approach to legal education in view of clinical legal education methods that have been successfully introduced into law school curricula in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Six partner law schools have been identified: the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine; Donetsk National University, Ukraine; Yerevan State University, Armenia; Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia; the State University of Moldova, Moldova; and the American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan. Project activities include a number of curriculum development workshops and policy roundtables, clinical internships for the teachers from partner law schools, clinical fellowship opportunity at the Columbia Law School and series of publications about reforms. The team of resource persons involved in the project include Michiel van De Kasteelen (Utrecht University), Frederyk Zoll (Jagiellonian University), Barbara Schatz (Columbia University School of Law); Stacy Caplow (Brooklyn Law School), Catherine Klein and Leah Wortham (The Catholic University of America), Richard Wilson (American University), and Marcia Levy (Hofstra Law School).

More information: Contact Lusine, Program Director, Public Interest Law Institute, Paulay Ede 50, 1061 Budapest. Tel. +361 461 5700 (ext.709) Email: www.pili.org

News: The Polish Legal Clinics Foundation creates Pro Bono Center

Details: The Polish Legal Clinics Foundation is involved in a variety of activities related to the promotion of the pro bono culture in Poland. In May this year the Polish Legal Clinics Foundation launched a new project aimed at setting up a clearinghouse called the Pro Bono Center in Poland. This project is a cooperation of three Polish NGOs – Legal Clinics Foundation, Ashoka and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and is financed by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation. The main goal of this project is to set up a Pro Bono Center - a brand new institution that will coordinate a cooperation between big international legal law firms willing to provide free of charge legal services and NGOs that need professional legal aid, especially in such areas as corporate law, tax law, labor and administrative law.

More information: Contact Filip Czernicki at prezes@fupp.org.pl

News: SE Asian CLE Teacher Training workshop, Manila, Philippines

Date: 29 January - 03 February 2007

Theme: The training by Open Society Justice Initiative and Ateneo Human Rights Center/Ateneo de Manila Law School focused on legal clinics methodology, operational set up, management, and curriculum development and had a focus on community education programs focused using Street Law methodology. Participants came from universities in Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. The workshop resulted in increased commitment and interest among participants in using and working with clinical legal education methodology and programs.

More information: Visit www.justiceinitiative.org or e-mail Mariana Berbec-Rostas at mberbec@osi.hu

News: Lebanon CLE Conference and Workshop

Date: March 22 - 24, 2007

Theme: The one-day conference organized by Open Society Justice Initiative and PINACLE Public Interest Law Center/Beirut focused on introducing the issues of clinical legal education - values and benefits of establishing and running clinical programs at law faculties in Lebanon and also on presenting the pilot clinical project jointly implemented by the PINACLE and the Justice Initiative. Participants came from faculty and administration of the 2 law faculties in Beirut - Universite Lebanese (UL) and Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

The following 2-day training workshop focused on teaching methodology and supervision issues when establishing a legal clinic jointly with an NGO. Participants comprised law teachers from both universities and lawyers from PINACLE.

More information: Visit www.justiceinitiative.org or e-mail Mariana Berbec-Rostas at mberbec@osi.hu

Event: Roundtable Meeting of national legal clinics organizations in Warsaw, Poland

Date: 14 June 2007 until 16 June 2007

Theme: The meeting will bring together representatives of legal clinics umbrella organizations (LCO) from China, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and the United States. The objectives of the meeting are to survey the activities and missions of existing LCO, to exchange experiences in organizing and standardizing/institutionalizing university based legal clinics and to explore possible international networking and capacity-building initiatives.

More information: Contact Filip Czernicki (Legal Clinics Foundation, Poland) at filip.czernicki@gmail.com

Event: Clinical Education Conference in Sunshine Coast, near Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

Date: 26-28 September 2007

Theme: Professionalism in Clinical Legal Education:

- links to the practicing profession
- ethics – in practice & research
- quality issues – including supervision & assessment
- learning from & working with other professions

More information: Contact Professor Jeff Giddings, Deputy Dean (Learning & Teaching), Griffith Law School, Nathan, Queensland 4111, AUSTRALIA Email: J.Giddings@griffith.edu.au Tel +61 7 3735 6479 Fax +61 7 3735 5599

Event: 12th Annual LatCrit Conference [*Latina & Latino Critical Legal Theory, Inc.*] at Alexander Hotel, Miami Beach, Florida, U.S.A.

Date: October 4-6, 2007

Theme: Critical Localities: Epistemic Communities, Rooted Cosmopolitans, New Hegemonies, and Knowledge Processes. The conference will look at how power and process dynamics change as a result of migrations, coalitions, histories, and perceptions and how these processes impact people of color and other subordinated communities.

More Information: LatCrit Website: www.latcrit.org [see LatCrit XII Call for Papers], or email Charles Pouncy at pouncyc@fiu.edu

Event: 17th Annual Human Rights and People's Diplomacy Training for Human Rights Defenders from the Asia/Pacific Region and Indigenous Australia

Date: 29 October- 16 November 2007

Wellington, New Zealand

Theme: This annual comprehensive human rights and advocacy training course is the oldest established program in the region. It provides participants with a solid foundation of knowledge of the international human rights framework and the UN system. There are intensive sessions on advocacy and media skills and internet research and advocacy as well as exploration of some of the human rights challenges associated with globalization.

It is particularly for people from Asia/Pacific countries who work for NGOs and community based organizations.

More information: Visit DTP website www.dtp.unsw.edu.au or by emailing dtp@unsw.edu.au

Event: Conference on the Global Politics of Food in Mexico City, Mexico

Date: 1 May 2008 until 3 May 2008

Theme: The conference will cover issues relating to the way that trade, consumer regulation and migration regimes affect food security, quality and availability, and the rights of agricultural workers and people who work in related industries.

More information: Contact Professor Beth Lyon at lyon@law.villanova.edu (English, Spanish or French)

Course: Courses on Mental Disability themes

Dates: Summer and Fall 2007 Semester

Details: During the summer 2007 semester, New York Law School (NYLS) will be offering a course in its online, distance learning mental disability law program: *Survey of Mental Disability Law*.

During the fall 2007 semester, it will be offering three courses: *Survey of Mental Disability Law*; *Sex Offenders* (for the first time), and *Mental Health Issues in Jails and Prisons*. Registration of students for all courses is open now and anyone interested should contact Liane Bass, esq., Senior Administrator (lbass@nyls.edu).

The courses are appropriate for law students, practicing lawyers, mental health professionals, international human rights activists, and mental health activists and advocates.

More information: Visit the website: www.nyls.edu/mdl or write to Prof. Michael L. Perlin, mperlin@nyls.edu, Director, Online Mental Disability Law Program, New York Law School

Course: Human Rights Education Association (HREA) HREA announces its final call for applications for its fall 2007 distance learning courses

Date: Application deadline is 1 June 2007 (can be slightly extended)

Details: "Human Rights Monitoring" (5 September -27 November 2007)

"Project Development and Management in the NGO Sector" (19 September - 11 December 2007)

"Introduction to Human Rights Education" (12 September - 4 December 2007)

"Einführung in das Europäische System des Schutzes und der Forderung von Menschenrechten" (5 September - 27 November 2007)

"Programmation basée sur les droits humains" (19 septembre -11 décembre 2007)

More Information: To learn more about these courses and to download an application: <http://www.hrea.org/courses/>.

2. Resources for Justice Education

Resource: Working Paper no. 1869 of 2006 - "A Review of Procedural and Jurisdictional Challenges in Enforcing International Human Rights Law under the African Charter Regime"

Details: Authored by Mbondenyi k. Morris & Sifuna W. Nixon this paper highlights the procedural and jurisdictional challenges faced by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and proposes ways in which they can be surmounted. It proceeds on the premise that contrary to the usual and indeed mistaken presumption that the flaws in Africa's regional human rights regime are irreparable, certain reforms could still be initiated and compromises made as a way of surmounting some of these challenges.

More information: Download from <http://law.bepress.com/expresso/eps/1869>

Resource: The Clinical Research Institute ("CRI"), an online journal

Details: The CRI is a valuable means for disseminating clinical scholarship and invites posting of the same. There are several benefits of posting on the CRI. It does not hold the copyright to the work, welcomes submissions already published in a traditional law review (provided their

permission has been procured) and encourage the publication of works in progress. The paper is easily accessible to a wide audience, including readers not connected with law schools.

The CRI invites you to subscribe by going to <http://www.ssrn.com> and following the instructions. If you do not wish to subscribe to SSRN but wish to have access to the CRI's papers, you can view and download them by going to the CRI's URL, <http://www.ssrn.com/link/Clinical-Research-Institute.html>

More Information: Please contact Richard Marsico, New York Law School, rmarsico@nyls.edu if you are interested in posting a piece of your own with the CRI or if you have any difficulties subscribing to the CRI or downloading any of its papers.

Resource: Collection of Reading Materials for Law, Justice and Jurisprudence Workshop

Details: Law Centre-I, Delhi University, India, held a two day workshop on the above theme which was conducted by Prof. Upendra Baxi. His collection of reading materials for the workshop covers understanding the concept of justice, various contemporary issues that need to be incorporated in the classroom teaching of various fields of law to promote justice.

More information: The reading materials can be downloaded from <http://lawcentreone.googlepages.com/jurisworkshop>

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)