

GAJE Newsletter: Volume No. 4 Issue No. 2 (April 2008)

Para el día 10 de abril de 2008, GAJE pondrá en su sitio web una traducción al español del boletín. Visite <http://www.gaje.org/E-Newsletter.htm>

Contents

- 1. GAJE News**
- 2. Other news, events and courses**
- 3. Disclaimer**

1. GAJE News

News: Report of the November/December 2007 GAJE Steering Committee Meeting

Details: The GAJE Steering Committee (SC) met by email from November 15 -December 18, 2007. The Report of the Meeting is now posted on the GAJE web site. Among the decisions made at the meeting were the following:

- Reappointed Frank Bloch (USA) and Ved Kumari (India) to serve as co-chairs of the Communication Committee for another one year term. The co-chairs have appointed Raven Lidman (USA) as the new newsletter editor for the first six months of 2008 (replacing Ved Kumari who served as editor for all of 2007).
- Approved a request from the South Asian Forum of Clinical Law Teachers to create a section of the GAJE web site for the South Asia region on which materials could be posted that were developed for a series of 5 regional workshops on "Clinical Teaching Methods for Justice Education" throughout India in 2007.
- Approved formation of the Strategic Development Working Group whose members are Chair Colin James (Australia), Michael Perlin (USA) Joanne Coysh (Netherlands), M.R,K Prasad (India), and Mary Anne Noone (Australia). George Mukundi and Clark Cunningham are ex officio members. The Working Group has proposed strategic initiatives to enhance the capacity of the organization to promote socially relevant legal education worldwide which are being discussed at the current SC meeting.
- Thulisile Mhlungu (South Africa) citing personal and professional commitments tendered her resignation to the SC. The current meeting of the SC will consider recommendations for her replacement by the nominations committee for the remainder of her term through 2008. The members of this nominations committee are the chair Stephen Levett (UK), Catherine Klein (USA) and David McQuoid-Mason (South Africa).

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is taking place from March 21 - April 21, 2008.

Correspondence can be sent to the Steering Committee through its Executive Committee at:

gaje.ec@gmail.com .

More information: To view the most recent and past meeting reports of the GAJE Steering Committee, visit the GAJE web site at www.gaje.org and select "Organization".

News: The GAJE Steering Committee has approved the appointment of George Mukundi (Kenya) as the first General Secretary, for an initial period of seven months beginning 10 November 2007.

Details; George Mukundi studied law at the University of Nairobi from 1998-2002, and Certified Public Accounting at Strathmore University in Kenya. While a law student he served as chairperson and coordinator of the Students Association for Legal Aid and Research, a student run legal aid clinic at the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law. He attended the 2001 GAJE conference in South Africa as a law student representative. He also attended the 2004 GAJE conference in Poland, when he was elected to the Steering Committee as one of the two representatives from Africa. In 2006 he served as the second editor of the GAJE newsletter and was the Reporter for the 2006 GAJE Conference. Since February 2007 he has served as one of five members of the GAJE Executive Committee. He is currently working on a LLD/PhD at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, having received an LLM from the same university in 2003. He received the Nelson Mandela Prize for best overall academic performance, and the Keba M'Baye prize for best dissertation in the 2003 LLM program in Human Rights and Democratization at the University of Pretoria. He is presently a doctoral research fellow at the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights & International Law and a Consultant to the Centre for

Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, working on a project for the promotion of indigenous peoples' rights. He has previously worked with the Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Cairo, Egypt, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in the Gambia, and the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission.

Event: GAJE members participated at the International Conference on the Future of Legal Education at the Georgia State University College of Law, Atlanta, Georgia USA

Date: February 20 - 23, 2008

Details: The conference was co-sponsored by GAJE and about 25 GAJE members participated, drawn from the USA, Russia, Kenya, United Kingdom, South Africa, Argentina, Nigeria, Spain, India, Canada and Australia. Participants at the Conference critically engaged the topic of the future of legal education that responds to the needs of students, clients and the public the law is supposed to serve. The discussions were based on a recent report by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching: Educating Lawyers. The conference challenged law teachers to inculcate civic professionalism among students through innovative legal education methodologies.

The complete program, speaker biographies, abstracts and papers are currently available on the conference web site: <http://law.gsu.edu/FutureOfLegalEducationConference/> This web site will also soon include copies of powerpoint presentations made at the conference and a webcast of the plenary sessions.

Some of the presentations by GAJE members included:

Clark D. Cunningham (USA and conference chair) - *Can the Carnegie Report Spark Fundamental Reforms of Legal Education?*

Martin Bohmer (Argentina) - *A New Kind of Law School for Argentina*

M.R.K Prasad (India) and Frank Bloch (USA) - *Legal Education in India: Past Present & Future*

Stephen Levett (UK) - *Replacing Lectures with I-Tutorials at Europe's Largest Postgraduate Law School*

Peggy Maisel (USA) - *The Paradox of Tradition and Change in Creating a New Public Law School: Florida International University College of Law - The First Five Years*

Jeff Giddings (Australia) - *Transforming Legal Education in Australia: Implementing Systematic Curriculum Renewal*

David McQuoid-Mason (South Africa) and Edward O'Brien (USA) - *Transforming Legal Education for a Transformed Society: the Case of South Africa*

Peter Joy (USA) - *Challenging Assumptions about Legal Education: Best Practices*

Diego Blázquez-Martín (Spain) - *What is a Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?: Description and Reflection at the Beginning of a Legal Clinic at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*

George Mukundi (Kenya) and Edward Santow (Australia) - *Future of Legal Education: Fostering Civic Professionalism*

Martin Geer (USA) & Catherine Klein (USA) - *Justice Education and the Evaluation Process: Crossing Borders*

Arkady Gutnikov (Russia) - *Improving Legal Education through Cross-National Collaboration*

GAJE participants at the conference also took the opportunity to brainstorm and strategize on the forthcoming Philippines conference, and strategic development initiatives for the organization. The outcome of the discussions and proposals are currently being discussed by the Steering Committee.

2. Other news, events and courses

News: The Graduate School of Law at the University of the Ryukyus in Japan is opening an innovative Amerasian law clinic.

Details: This new clinic will address the unique and complex legal needs of non-U.S. citizens and their Amerasian children in Japan. Typically, the mother of the child is a citizen of Japan, Korea, Thailand or the Philippines and the father is a U.S. citizen active-duty military or civilian government worker assigned to a U.S. base on Okinawa. Legal needs of clients often involve intertwined issues of Japanese and U.S. law. Available legal service providers are not equipped to untangle issues involving Japanese and U.S. immigration, U.S. military benefits, child support, housing and employment rights that this population faces. The Amerasian Law Clinic will provide legal education, counseling and referral for low-income and disadvantaged clients and their Amerasian children. Clinical advisors are all practicing bilingual attorneys

with both U.S. and Japanese law certifications. Second year law students will have the opportunity to advise clients and learn about how the laws of the U.S. and Japan intersect and affect this population. To our knowledge, this is the first law clinic of its kind in the world. And, it is desperately needed to ensure that Amerasian children in Okinawa may exercise their legal rights and have equal access to justice.

More Information: Contact: Tetsumi Takara, Dean (Japanese, English) at tetsumit@ll.u-ryukyu.ac.jp or Vera Fry, Lecturer (English) at verafry@fuji-law.com, University of the Ryukyus Graduate School of Law, 1 Senbaru, Nishihara, Okinawa Japan 903-02131

Event: Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education, American Association of Law Schools, Clinical Law Section at Tuscon, Arizona.

Date: May 4-7, 2008

Theme: This conference will provide an opportunity for clinical law teachers to reflect on their work and mistakes, to learn through experience and influence choices to be made in the future. When teaching students techniques for engaging in reflection, teachers sometimes neglect to follow these lessons in regard to their own activities. The conference will reflect on how errors in planning, in memory or in execution of ideas have caused divergence among intentions, actions and consequences. Speakers will discuss risks taken, missteps made and opportunities encountered in classroom teaching and supervision. The conference will also reflect on struggles in moving clinical legal education forward within the legal academy.

More Information: www.aals.org/documents/2008clinical/2008clinicalbrochure.pdf

Event: 3rd International Legal Ethics Conference, Gold Coast, Australia

Date: July 13-16, 2008

Theme: Integrity in Legal Practice. The conference will build on the foundations set by the 2004 and 2006 conference focusing on achievements and failings in the international legal ethics project to date; exploring current questions about lawyers' ethical responsibilities and future challenges. The conference is designed for both scholars and practitioners.

More Information: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/legal-ethics-2008>

Event: Regional Conference on Lawyering for Social Justice and Human Rights, Manila, Philippines

Date: 26 March 2008 until 28 March 2008

Theme: This regional conference, organized by the Alternative LawGroups, a coalition of nineteen (19) legal resource non-governmental organizations in the Philippines, highlighted human rights-based and social justice-oriented legal programs of civil society organizations as an integral component of governance and justice reforms. There were more than 100 participant lawyers and advocates from legal resource NGOs, legal aid centers, school-based human rights offices and other similar organizations with programs in East Asia, South Asia, and South East Asia. They discussed various social justice and human rights legal service programs and initiatives in the region; identified common concerns and challenges; and explored possible cooperative actions that can be taken to advance legal service programs for the promotion of social justice and human rights in the region. Justice education through the law schools and through community-based education programs was among the topics discussed. The work of Alternative LawGroups will be featured at the 5th Worldwide GAJE Conference, which is taking place in the Philippines December 7 -13, 2008.

More information: Contact Marlon J. Manuel, Coordinator of the Alternative Law Groups (ALG) at secretariat@alternativelawgroups.org or mjmanuel19@yahoo.com The web site of the Alternative Law Groups is <http://alternativelawgroups.org/>

News: The Public Interest Legal Clinic of Cordoba, Argentina obtains a court order authorizing prison workers and police to engage in union activism and to form trade unions

Details: The Public Interest Legal Clinic of Cordoba, succeeded in obtaining on February 11 an order from Judge Aldo Novak of the Argentine Civil Court at Cordoba Province authorizing prison workers and police to engage in union activism and to form trade unions to defend their labor interests as guaranteed by Argentine Constitution and International human rights law. The clinic represented female prison workers who claimed that their situation of long-lasting abuses and mistreatments suffered at the hands of their superiors violated their most elemental rights as workers. The order declared the unconstitutionality

of a law dating from the dictatorship period, which is still in force in the rest country. This is a leading case in Argentina. It coincides with the latest declaration of the National Institute Against Discrimination (INADI), which states that proscribing trade unions constitutes discrimination against the security system public servants. The workers and the Clinic are hopeful that the sentence will open the possibility of discussing, under a strengthened position, a new democratic institutionalism for the Prison Service of Cordoba, and to extend that success to other provinces as well.

More Information: Contact clinicajuridicacba@gmail.com

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).