EVENTS

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The Historic Black Church Program (HBCP) provides resources and training to churches in the under-served, predominantly low-income West Grove residents through a partnership with the Coconut Grove Historical Alliance (CGHA), a non-profit association of historic black churches, as well as other non-profit organizations and university-affiliated programs. The program focuses on the history of the founding of the West Grove churches, working closely with Ransom High School students and the congregations of the historical alliances, the team researched and interviewed founding members of both of the West Grove churches. The communications team of the Oral History Project prepared the first installment of the Oral History Film Project, the Church History Documentary Film Project has been disseminated among the West Grove churches and non-profit organizations and is posted at the HBCP website.

HBCP’s Pro Bono Project provides free education seminars, capacity building workshops, and community-based research support to the churches of the CGHA and to local non-profit organizations. In an effort to strengthen ties with the West Grove community, students interacted with congregants at Sunday services and visited the many churches involved in the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance. The Pro Bono team also initiated the Communications Task Force, which is a collaboration of West Grove non-profit and church leaders, the goal of the Communications Task Force is to convey vital information to the broader community about public services offered in the West Grove, such as family and child health centers, food banks, parenting programs and tutoring programs. The Communications Task Force held a “Consequences Seminar” held in the Coconut Grove and Liberty City, informed children, teens and their parents about the serious consequences of any involvement with the criminal justice system.

Throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, the students conducted research and prepared seminars and working papers on the following topics: low-income homeowner property tax reduction strategies; community action against drug houses; community benefits agreements; 501(c)(3) property tax reduction strategies; community action against nuisance abatement, and met with representatives of non-profit organizations in the West Grove to discuss the pending hearing of the case.

The students organized several capacity-building workshops in collaboration with the Miami-Dade County Public Defender’s Office and the Thelma Gibson Health Initiative. These workshops provided training and support to churches and non-profit organizations and are posted on the CEPS website.

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Empowering Teens Through Legal Education

By Director Karen Whitcomb

As we enter our fifth year of legal education by law students in Miami-Dade High Schools, we reflect on the over 13,000 middle and high school students who have engaged in this program. It is the heart of the 175 street lawyers and 200 law school mentors who have come together to teach law students in a variety of interesting formats for teaching, and taught law week by week on top of all their classes. The impact of our service to teens in 1996, Street Lawyers currently teach law weekly in eight high schools. In this year’s Spring semester, law students taught the law in the community and taught over 400 students. Cases and statutes in constitutional law, criminal law, torts, immigration and landlord/tenant law are taught which require Street Lawyers to learn the law more thoroughly and hone their skills as public speaking and legal analysis.

Here are just a few examples of the hundreds of legal clinics done the year. During the fall, Peter R. Palermo, Fellow at Street Lawyer, took a series on the electoral college. Fellow Rob Collins coached a team of high school students in the voting rights clinic, which taught over 400 attorneys. A highlight of the program this year was the mock trial clinic that was co-sponsored by firms for Miami Dade County. The winning team from Miami High School was coached by Street Lawyer William M. Hoeveler Fellow Annalisa Daniels. Following the Mock Trial Clinic, Jeff Daniels continued his intense teaching at a residential legal education program. Jeff considers the mock trial at Bay Point an educational highlight which he will never forget.

Some of the other presentations involved organizations that were also new venues. Fellow Matipa Nyamangwanda, Intern Lindsay Weiner and Intern Sashini Velmurugan worked together with Downtown Miami Associates and similarly, Fellows Brandon Spivack and Ben Carter along with Interns, Kelly Martignetti and Candice Stephenson and Intern Jan Williams developed a training on top of a full class load in law school since the inception of the program. The Public Defender. Additionally, the PREP blog for the spring semester will be a great tool for the Miami Bar. This year was a masterful job of organizing a PREP technology team to create chat rooms, online discussions, research about confidentiality issues arising from cloud computing and social media.

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By Director Jane Jacobs

The Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program (PREP) continued to thrive this year. PREP regularly offers over 150 CLEs for lawyers, law students, and others interested in the topic. The Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program (PREP) was established in 1996 by the Association of American Law Schools to create a network of law schools that would develop a new generation of lawyers committed to the highest ethics standards. The program is designed to provide a forum for discussion about the social networking site Facebook.

The Caribbean Bar Association for the Miami Lakes Bar Association was invited to speak to the Miami Law School. This is the first time the CLBA has presented a program at Miami Law School. The CLBA program is a great success and the presentation was very well received.

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# Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program (PREP)

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