

CENTER FOR ETHICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT, 2018-2019

MISSION

Founded in 1996, the Center for Ethics and Public Service is a law school-housed experiential education, skills training, and community engagement program devoted to the values of ethical judgment, professional responsibility, and public service in law and society. The Center's mission is to educate law students to serve their communities as *citizen lawyers*.¹

HISTORY

For 24 years, the Center has served as an incubator and an accelerator for numerous public service initiatives at the law school. They include *clinics* (Children and Youth Law Clinic, Community Economic Development & Design Clinic, Community Lawyering Clinic, Health Law Clinic, and Social Enterprise Clinic), *programs* (Dartmouth College Ethics Institute Internship Program, Professional Responsibility and Ethics Program, Street Law Program, and Joint College of Arts & Sciences Program on Law, Public Policy, and Ethics), *summer colloquia* (UM Environmental Justice, Policy, & Science Consortium), and *documentary films* (Oral History & Documentary Film Project).²

FACULTY AND STAFF

The Center's faculty and staff include Professor Anthony Alfieri, Environmental Justice Clinic Director Natalie Barefoot, Mysun Foundation Fellow Daniela Tagtachian, Senior Fellow Edith Georgi, Faculty Assistant Ebonie Carter, and Senior Program Manager Lauren Madigan.³

PROJECTS

The Center operates four projects: *Community Equity, Innovation, and Resource Lab, Environmental Justice Clinic, Historic Black Church Program,* and

¹ In April 2016, the University of Miami Faculty Senate unanimously approved the five-year continuance of the Center.

² The *Oral History & Documentary Film Project* compiles oral history archives and produces film documentaries to preserve the cultural and social history of low- and moderate-income communities of color in South Florida. Since 2010, the project has produced five films documenting the history of Coconut Grove Village West, public school segregation in Miami-Dade County, and environmental injustice in the City of Miami.

³ The Center occupies four offices (G277, G257, G259, & D234) and a student workroom (G262) on the second floor of the law school library.

Legal Profession Roundtable Program. Project faculty, staff, and students collaborate with schools across the University of Miami⁴ as well as the Florida bar and bench, anti-poverty, civil rights, and environmental organizations, faith-based groups, nonprofit corporations, and civic and neighborhood associations.

Community Equity, Innovation, and Resource Lab

Founded in 2018 to address the urgent needs of socioeconomically impoverished and politically disenfranchised inner-city communities of color, the *Community Equity, Innovation, and Resource Lab* integrates anti-poverty and civil rights advocacy and grassroots organizing strategies with university-wide, interdisciplinary resources to advance social justice initiatives at the neighborhood intersection of race and inequality in education, employment, health, housing, social services, and the natural and built environment. Collaboratively launched with frontline institutions (civic associations, faith-based groups and church congregations, tenant and homeowner organizations) in co-investigative partnerships centered on neighborhood-wide, common entry point issues (displacement, environmental justice, fair and affordable housing, and segregation), Lab initiatives seek to: (1) challenge the exclusion of disenfranchised groups from political, economic, and social systems to ensure equal access, equality of opportunity, and the fair distribution of public goods and services; (2) increase civic participation and democratic inclusion at local, state, and national levels to make government more representative and responsive; (3) strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of existing community-based organizations and promote innovative institution-building projects sustainable across private, public, and nonprofits sectors; (4) foster leadership development and professional training programs to counter entrenched cultural narratives of powerlessness; and (5) rebuild neighborhood civic infrastructures and link civic engagement constituencies to broader anti-poverty and civil rights advocacy and organizing networks locally, regionally, and nationally.

Environmental Justice Clinic

The *Environmental Justice Clinic* advocates for and empowers marginalized communities and seeks to bring about structural change by curbing practices stemming from systemic inequality and promoting policy solutions that further social justice. The Clinic provides rights education, interdisciplinary research, policy resources, and advocacy and transactional assistance to underserved low-and-moderate-income communities in the contexts of the built and natural environment

⁴ University partners include: Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy, College of Arts and Sciences Department of Geography and Regional Studies, Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science, School of Communication, School of Education & Human Development, and the School of Medicine's Department of Public Health Sciences.

across the fields of civil rights, environmental protection, poverty law, and public health. Clinic highlights include advancing state and federal class action lawsuits in, respectively, *Styles v. City of Miami* (“Old Smokey”) and *Miller v. City of Fort Myers* to clean up and address the health effects of toxic dump sites in low-income communities of color in Miami and Fort Meyers. The Clinic also investigates the social equity implications of municipal zoning codes (Miami21 and Urban Center Districts in unincorporated Miami-Dade County), particularly the disproportionate displacement suffered by low-income communities of color.⁵ Currently, the Clinic is proposing policy recommendations to address the displacement of low-income communities in Miami-Dade County and legislative initiatives to ensure the health and well-being of low-income communities as South Florida experiences the effects of climate change.

Historic Black Church Program

The *Historic Black Church Program* is a community outreach and rights education project operated in partnership with more than 60 inner-city, faith-based groups, nonprofit corporations, and civic and neighborhood associations in South Florida.⁶ Program highlights include community-based advocacy and organizing in support of the *West Grove Trolley Garage Campaign*, which halted the discriminatory placement of a City of Coral Gables municipal bus depot in the historically segregated neighborhood of Coconut Grove Village West, the *East Gables Trolley Access Campaign*, which won municipal trolley service for residents of the historically segregated MacFarlane Homestead Subdivision and the Golden Gates District of East Coral Gables, and the *Coconut Grove Village West Housing and Community Development Task Force Campaign*, a fair-and-affordable housing coalition of more than a dozen civic associations, black church congregations, and tenant and homeowner organizations seeking not only to halt the mass eviction, displacement, and resegregation of vulnerable black tenants and homeowners, but also to negotiate urban development-specific community benefits agreements and, at the same time, to reform municipal zoning policies that imperil at-risk tenants and homeowners.

⁵ During the 2018-2019, academic year, the Clinic developed a community benefits agreement template and a community benefits resource toolkit to assist neighborhood groups in their negotiation with developers, and also conducted a county-wide environmental health assessment.

⁶ Program partners include the Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance of Black Churches, Coconut Grove Village West Housing and Community Development Task Force, Collective Empowerment Group (a tri-county consortium of 40 churches), Goulds Coalition of Ministers and Laypeople, Grove Rights and Community Equity, Inc. (GRACE), Grove United Environmental Health Coalition, Housing For All, Coconut Grove Homeowners and Tenants Association (West Grove), Lola B. Walker Homeowners Association (East Gables), St. Paul Community Development Corporation, and South Miami Concerned Clergy and Citizens Coalition.

Legal Profession Roundtable Program

The *Legal Profession Roundtable Program* includes both CLE-oriented practice seminars and student-centered leadership workshops in cooperation with Florida bar associations, federal and state courts, law firms, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. Program highlights include the Fourth Annual Legal Malpractice and Professional Liability Roundtable (Apr. 26, 2019), the Lawyers in Leadership Award luncheon honoring the long-standing civil rights work of the Florida Justice Institute, the Hoeveler Award luncheon honoring the environmental journalists Patricia Borns and Jenny Staletovich, and Leadership Roundtable lunches with leading members of the South Florida bar.

INTERNAL AWARDS

The Center confers three leadership awards: the *William M. Hoeveler Award*, *Lawyers in Leadership Award*, and *Friends of the Center Award*. The *William M. Hoeveler Award* honors extraordinary members of the bar and bench as well as organizations distinguished by their historical dedication to ethics and public service. The *Lawyers in Leadership Award* honors outstanding members of the bar and bench as well as organizations distinguished by their dedication to ethics and civic leadership. The *Friends of the Center Award* honors civic-minded members of the South Florida community distinguished by their contribution to the mission of the Center for Ethics & Public Service. *See Appendix A.*

EXTERNAL AWARDS

The Center has won numerous local, state, and national awards, including two American Bar Association awards, three Association of American Law School awards, and both Florida Bar and Florida Supreme Court awards. *See Appendix B.*

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Since 1996, the Center has trained over 1,297 fellows and interns, and served more than 47,000 members of the Florida community, including university undergraduate and graduate students, government agencies, high schools and middle schools, homeowners and tenants, lawyers and judges, nonprofit organizations and neighborhood associations, and civic leaders. In addition, the Center's faculty has been widely cited in law journals and in the media.

APPENDIX A: AWARDS CONFERRED

WILLIAM M. HOEVELER AWARD, 2002-2018

Patricia Borns & Jenny Staletovich, 2018
Friends of the Everglades, 2017
The Honorable Marcia G. Cooke, 2016
George Knox, 2015
The Honorable Barbara J. Pariente, 2014
The Honorable Jay Cristol, 2013
The Honorable Justice R. Fred Lewis, 2012
Katherine Fernandez Rundle, 2011
The Honorable Joseph W. Hatchett, 2010
The Honorable Donald L. Graham, 2009
The Honorable Mario P. Goderich, 2008
The Honorable Peter T. Fay, 2007
Janet Reno, 2006
The Honorable Rosemary Barkett, 2005
Walter H. Beckham, Jr., 2004
The Honorable Daniel S. Pearson, 2003
The Honorable William M. Hoeveler, 2002

LAWYERS IN LEADERSHIP AWARD, 2000-2018

Florida Justice Institute, 2018
Monica Vignes-Pitan, 2017
Charles E. Elsesser, Jr., 2016
The Honorable Darrin P. Gayles, 2015
Elizabeth Schwartz, 2014
Patricia Redmond, 2013
Carlos J. Martinez, 2012
Joseph Centorino, 2011
Marcia K. Cypen, 2010
Kathleen Williams, 2009
Cheryl Little, 2008
The Honorable Peter R. Palermo & Edna Shalala, 2007
M. Minnette Massey, 2006
Jeannette F. Hausler & The Honorable Patricia A. Seitz, 2005
H. T. Smith, 2003
Carlos M. de la Cruz, The Honorable Joan A. Lenard, & Richard C. Milstein, 2002
Ellen Catsman Freidin, Joseph P. Klock, & The Honorable Henry Latimer, 2001
President Emeritus Edward T. Foote II, 2000

FRIENDS OF THE CENTER AWARD, 2001-2016

Cynthia McKenzie & Jan Jacobowitz, 2016
Ralf Brookes, Philip Freidin, Lowell J. Kuvin, & Joel S. Perwin, 2014
Cristina Favretto, Laverne Pinkney, & Beatrice Colastin Skokan, 2013
Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance & Donald A. Cramp, Jr., 2012
Karen Throckmorton, 2011
JoNel Newman, Bernard P. Perlmutter, & Kele Stewart Williams, 2010
John M. Barkett, 2009
Neal R. Sonnett, 2008
Dennis O. Lynch & Jessi Tamayo, 2007
Sandford L. Bohrer & Charles E. Elsesser, Jr., 2006
Arturo Brito, M.D., Lawrence Friedman, M.D., & JoNell Efantis-Potter, R.N., Ph.D.,
Hy Shapiro, & Gwen Wurm, M.D., 2005
Louis J. Chiavacci, Dr. Susan Mullane, & Samina Quraeshi, 2004
Ed Asper, Juan C. Enjamio, Adrian J. Parry, & Laura C. Walker, 2003
Steven E. Chaykin & Holly R. Skolnick, 2002
Elinor Catsman, 2001

APPENDIX B: AWARDS RECEIVED

CENTER AWARDS

2014 Miami People, Miami New Times
2014 Community Recognition Award, G.W. Carver High School Alumni Association
2012 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award, American Bar Association
2012 Public Interest Innovative Service Award, UM School of Law
2011 Appreciation Award, Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, Inc.
2009 Innovative Service in the Public Interest Award, UM School of Law
2007 Innovative Service in the Public Interest Award, UM School of Law
2007 William Pincus Award, AALS Section on Clinical Education
2007 Father Robert Drinan Award, AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service
2004-2005 Gary Bellow Scholar, AALS Section on Clinical Education
2002 UM Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society
2001 *Arete* Award, Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
2000 Seventh Annual Professionalism Award, The Florida Bar
1999 Faculty Professionalism Award, Florida Supreme Court
1998 E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award, American Bar Association