

Roadside Assistance



Duke law students investigate breath test rights

A LANGUAGE BARRIER that may be preventing Durham police from informing some Hispanic drivers of their right to refuse breath-alcohol testing has led a group of Duke law students to team with the Durham County Public Defender's Office in a new public interest initiative.

Through the Hispanic Intoxilyzer Rights Project, 2Ls Jennifer McGinnis, Jennifer Avery, and Aaron Wright are investigating a public defender's assertion that Hispanics arrested for drunk driving do not consistently receive their rights in Spanish or fully understand the rights police are required to give verbally or in writing before administering breath tests.

Durham County law does not require the rights to be translated, though Spanish-language cards and a DVD outlining those rights are available to DWI suspects prior to testing. The students and Project supervisor Professor Neil Vidmar hope their work will encourage police to use these tools more consistently, as they are elsewhere in the state.

"The reason we have Miranda rights and other rights is to put the onus on the police to follow rules. It may not make any difference in the conviction rate, but it sets a principle for the police beyond which they should not go," says Vidmar, Russell M. Robinson II Professor of Law and Psychology.

"Part of the whole issue of American justice is that everything keeps everything else in check," adds McGinnis. "You've got to keep the police in check, and you have to make sure these rights are equally applied."

A sample of Durham County case records involving defendants with identifiable Hispanic first and last names revealed that

60 percent of the individuals charged with drunk-driving are Hispanic, an alarmingly high number, says Vidmar; Hispanics make up only 10 percent of Durham's population. "If we only had three Hispanics arrested per year on these charges, we wouldn't be doing this project, but we are dealing with a much higher number, and the consequences are really quite serious for the people involved."

With the aid of Vidmar's expertise in empirical research, Project students hope to create a comprehensive picture of the levels of literacy and English comprehension among Hispanics in Durham County. It is research that could render information that is helpful on appeal, says McGinnis, adding that appeals of DWI convictions are likely to be more frequent when new legislation goes into effect in January. "While some judges have thrown out the breath test results if the individual's primary language is Spanish and his rights weren't provided in Spanish, it is inconsistent." The new legislation will take cases beyond district court and allow defense attorneys to appeal to superior court for fresh review, she says. "We want to be able to have these statistics built into the record so that when a case comes up on appeal they can say, 'this is a problem, it needs to be addressed.'"

McGinnis and Wright are examining case law to determine how other counties and states address the issue. Avery, who is fluent in Spanish, is visiting the local Hispanic community center to determine demographics for the area and speak with individuals completing their DWI community service about their arrest experiences.

An initial review of existing case law revealed that in neighboring Wake County, police must provide the rights for the breath-alcohol test in Spanish if the individual's first language is Spanish, says McGinnis. In some instances, the translation requirement has been extended to include Miranda rights, depending on the number of Hispanic individuals in the district.

McGinnis acknowledges that it can be a "slippery slope" to require translations for some groups and not others. "If we have a large community of Mandarin speakers, do they also need to receive their rights in Mandarin? I suppose that will have to be determined on a case by case basis and on a community level. In Durham specifically, because such a large and fast-growing community is affected, it just makes sense to provide rights in Spanish. This project might not help the person whose case we take to the court of appeals, but hopefully it will bring some justice and appropriate process to the people who come after."

Their work on the project has already given the students some exposure to how the court system and the public defender's office works, says McGinnis. "It's eye opening getting to see the type of things they have to deal with and the short amount of time they have to do it in," she says. "It's easy as a law student to think that there is all this time to come up with relevant case law, but there really isn't. Being able to get in there and see the real world procedure for these issues has been enlightening." ♡ — T.H.

A DECADE-AND-A-HALF OF PRO BONO AT DUKE

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN:

Public interest programming has expanded exponentially to become a fundamental and transformative part of the Duke Law School experience.



IT HAS BEEN JUST OVER 15 YEARS since the faculty voted to start a Pro Bono Project at Duke Law School. During that time, public interest programming has expanded exponentially to become a fundamental and transformative part of the Duke Law School experience. Today, students can choose from many individual or group pro bono projects, create one of their own, take one of the many clinics, count on funding for a summer public interest job, go on an overnight retreat to explore public service values, attend a faculty lecture series on public service, choose among several exciting speakers over most lunch periods, and receive advice from several public interest counselors.

In these 15 years, it has been my privilege to work with some of the brightest, most committed future lawyers in the world. Students have shown initiative in so many ways – through their leadership of various student-initiated pro bono group projects, in their planning and organizing of the Public Interest Retreat and various public interest and pro bono activities and events, and their enormous contributions to the community. In 2002, we created the Public Interest and Pro Bono Board, a formal structure that works with the Office of Public Interest and Pro Bono to institutionalize Duke’s long-standing commitment to student leadership and service. The 2006–2007 board has 50 members, twice as many as in 2002, all of whom assume leadership of a pro bono project or public interest activity, support each other on projects, and generally advise the work of the Office of Public Interest and Pro Bono.

Public interest programming at Duke Law is now supported by an associate dean, a director, and a coordinator. In addition, the Career and Professional Development Center includes among its staff a director of public interest and J.D. advising; the Financial Aid Office administers a generous loan assistance repayment program; and the Office of Student Affairs works with the Duke Bar Association Community Service Board to sponsor Dedicated to Durham and many other service projects throughout the year. Alumni and friends of Duke Law contribute funds for summer fellowships, and student members of the Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) top themselves every successive year in raising higher and higher amounts of funds so that students have the option of doing summer public interest work.

Many of you have been involved in the development of these programs. As we send out this first edition of the Public Interest and Pro Bono newsletter, we hope that this and future editions will help alumni continue the feeling of camaraderie they enjoyed while being involved in the large public interest community at Duke. We thank all alumni, friends, donors, supervisors, bar leaders, and public interest advocates who have supported this work. And we welcome future students who will be part of building the program to new heights in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Carol Spruill
Associate Dean for Public Interest & Pro Bono
and Senior Lecturing Fellow

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**DEAN BARTLETT RECEIVES
EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS AWARD**

Duke Law School Dean Katharine T. Bartlett was presented with Equal Justice Works' Dean John R. Kramer Award at the organization's 2006 Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 19. The award honors Bartlett's dedication to nurturing an outstanding spirit of public service at Duke Law School.

Associate Dean for Public Interest and Pro Bono Carol Spruill nominated Bartlett for the Kramer award, praising, among many other initiatives,



Bartlett's enhancement and support of Duke's clinical programs and tireless promotion of public interest and pro bono work as a central aspect of professional development for law students. The "Duke Blueprint for Lawyer Education and Development," a set of principles focusing on leadership, ethics, integrity, and commitment to community is a cornerstone of the Law School's approach to student and institutional activities.

"I am delighted that Equal Justice Works has seen fit to honor Kate Bartlett," said Spruill. "While Kate has been vocal in her support of the public service contributions of others, she has been quiet about her own extensive personal service and financial support." While dean, Bartlett also served on the Durham County Board of Social Services (1999-2005) serving as chair in 2004-2005, Spruill noted. Spruill also lauded Bartlett's support of Duke Law School's loan repayment assistance programs (LRAP) – one of the most generous in the country – for law students interested in pursuing public interest careers, and her commitment, along with Charles S. Murphy Professor of Law and Public Policy Studies Christopher Schroeder, of \$100,000 to begin an endowment for support of LRAP.

"The entire student body at Duke Law was deeply touched by this tremendous demonstration of personal and institutional dedication," Duke Bar Association President Brettny Hardy '07 wrote to the awards committee.

Equal Justice Works was founded in 1986 by law students dedicated to working for equal justice on behalf of underserved communities and causes. – *F.P.*

CAROL SPRUILL WINS DUKE'S DIVERSITY AWARD

Associate Dean for Public Interest and Pro Bono and Senior Lecturing Fellow Carol Spruill was presented with Duke University's 2006 Blue Ribbon Diversity Award on Nov. 1, which recognizes a demonstrated commitment to the spirit of diversity, leadership through positive interaction between persons of different cultural backgrounds, and a respect and value for differing values and points of view within the University.

"In my time at Duke Law, she has been supportive and encouraging of my search for personal fulfillment and professional development through pro bono work," said Sonja Ralston Elder JD/MPP '09. "Beyond the identifying characteristics of race, gender, status, and background, Dean Spruill seeks to unlock the potential of every individual, and it is that potential that holds more power than any demographic."

"When I was a law student, Carol Spruill was a constant support to me in pursuing a job in the poverty law field ... and also helped those who were going to go on to private practice," said John Coburn '95, an attorney with Health & Disability Advocates in Chicago. – *F.P.*

**Graduation
Awards for
Community
Service**

Each year the Duke law faculty members recognize the commitment to pro bono and community service and leadership among members of the graduating class. The 2006 recipients were:

- **Zachary McNish** and **Teresa A. Sakash:**
Law School Community Award
- **Zia K. Cromer:**
Pro Bono Service Award
- **Regina Lennox** and **Wyley Sayre Proctor:**
Public Service Award

Southern Justice Mission Trip

TWENTY-ONE DUKE LAW STUDENTS spent their 2006 spring break working on public interest and pro bono projects throughout the South – the largest contingent ever to participate in the Office of Public Interest and Pro Bono’s Southern Justice Spring Break Mission Trip.

Thirteen students did hurricane-related work in Fort Worth, Texas, New Orleans, and Jackson, Mississippi, helping to file FEMA claims, research aspects of New Orleans’ juvenile detention system, and gut houses destroyed by the storm – saving low-income home owners thousands of dollars and months of waiting, as well as giving them a chance to rebuild and live again on their own property. Others spent their break at the Southern Human Rights Center in Atlanta, where they worked on a lawsuit addressing substandard Alabama prison conditions for prisoners with AIDS, and the Mississippi Center for Justice, where they examined the inadequacies of child care for poor single parents resulting from new hurricane-related problems with the State’s child care subsidization system. Three students worked in Prestonberg, Kentucky, on general Legal Aid projects and mine health and safety issues, while another three traveled to Hawaii where they assisted



Honolulu’s public defender and had the opportunity to serve as second chairs during a sexual assault trial.

The annual Mission Trip is an opportunity for students to give back to the larger community, says Amy Curry ’07, who organized the field placement along with classmate Mike Murphy. “We give up our spring breaks but we get so much in return from the experience and opportunities that these communities provide. The growth of our program and the response to Hurricane Katrina really speaks to the robust public interest community at Duke.”

Participating students received a stipend from the Law School, but largely financed their own travel; they were grateful for the hospitality of alumni in Atlanta and Honolulu who welcomed them in their homes, says Carol Spruill, associate dean for Public Interest and Pro Bono.

“I am so proud of the students for giving up their much needed break from studies to help in this way, and I am especially pleased with the student leadership that has developed this program over the last four years.” ♡

Listen to student impressions of the Southern Justice Mission Trip at <http://www.law.duke.edu/publicinterest/photoVideo.html>



Hurricane Relief Project

LAST MARCH, Lauren Mandell ’07 spent his spring break working with Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Fort Worth, Texas, drafting FEMA appeal letters at Fort Worth Legal Aid and conducting legal research concerning FEMA’s apportionment of rental assistance. That experience led him to start Duke’s Hurricane Relief Project, a new program dedicated to providing legal assistance to those still living in the storm’s aftermath.

“There is often this feeling that the only time to help is a month-and-a-half after an event happens, and then it’s time

to flip to the next catastrophe,” Mandell says. “Things in New Orleans are arguably worse now than a year ago for a lot of reasons. I want to fight the tendency to become complacent in these situations, and say, ‘we have to contribute now as well.’”

One of the Hurricane Relief Project’s primary initiatives is mobilizing students to assist attorneys in the field – the program recently partnered with Legal Aid of North Carolina to assist with ongoing Katrina case work. “The idea is to identify legal organizations and firms who are doing this kind of work and say, ‘we have a group of ambitious students who are willing to work on legal issues relating to health care, social services, administrative law – anything you have – so please use us.’”

Through the nationwide program Matchmakers for Justice, sponsored by the Student Hurricane Network, students involved in the Relief Project will be paired with displaced residents of the Gulf Coast to assist them in navigating government systems, gaining access to quality jobs, education, health care, and housing.

In addition, the Relief Project is raising funds for future spring and winter break trips to the Gulf Coast. “Last year I found that a lot of students had an interest in going to New Orleans or Texas, but simply couldn’t afford to,” Mandell says. “My hope is that by identifying opportunities for funding, we might encourage more students to participate. Unfortunately these things happen, and we as law students need to know how to contribute and help,” says Mandell. ♡ – T.H.

Guardian Ad Litem Litigation Project

DUKE LAW SCHOOL'S GUARDIAN AD LITEM (GAL) Program now has a litigation component, offering students a unique opportunity to practice in the juvenile justice system while also helping Durham County's abused and neglected children. Started last year by Wyley Proctor '06 following an externship she did for Associate Dean Carol Spruill's poverty law class, the project allows eligible students who have served as voluntary GALs and are certified under North Carolina's student practice rule to conduct hearings and try cases under the supervision of Durham County GAL attorney Wendy Sotolongo as part of Spruill's class, a pro bono program, or the School's new "domestic externship."

"It's one thing to go out and investigate a child's case and write a report, it's another thing to sit in court every week and see how cases progress through the system," says April Hathcock '07, a GAL and current project leader.

Having joined the project in its first year, Hathcock compares the experience – writing briefs and participating in hearings – to a litigation clinic and says the program adds a different component to the GAL role. "You don't necessarily have to have a legal background to be a GAL and to benefit from the program, but the litigation project helps tie it back to law school and our legal careers. It is experience that you can take with you into practice."

Hathcock credits her experience as a GAL, as well as Sotolongo's mentoring, with guiding her advocacy when she presented in court. "In my second semester with the program I conducted a non-secure custody hearing. Having watched Wendy in court, and learned from her, it was easier for me to stand up in court and present the case effectively."

Hathcock says she hopes that students will appreciate the impact of the project. "It is nice to be able to do something where you can see the law actually working in people's lives." ♡



Annual Public Interest Retreat

Keynote speaker John Rosenberg, director emeritus of the Appalachian Research and Defense Fund (APPALRED), takes a walk through the woods with students during a break at Duke Law School's annual Public Interest Retreat. Rosenberg fled Nazi Germany as a child and during the 1960s he fought segregation as chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. At the Retreat, he exhorted students to make public service a lifetime commitment and spoke of the joy that his work has brought him throughout his career and into "retirement."

ONGOING PRO BONO PLACEMENTS

GROUP PROJECTS

Guardian Ad Litem Program: Students represent abused and neglected children in the Durham County court system.

Refugee Asylum Support Project (RASP): Participating students assist attorneys in asylum work.

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Advocacy Project: Working with domestic violence attorneys, students assist with ongoing casework.

Innocence Project: Students investigate claims of actual innocence on behalf of North Carolina inmates.

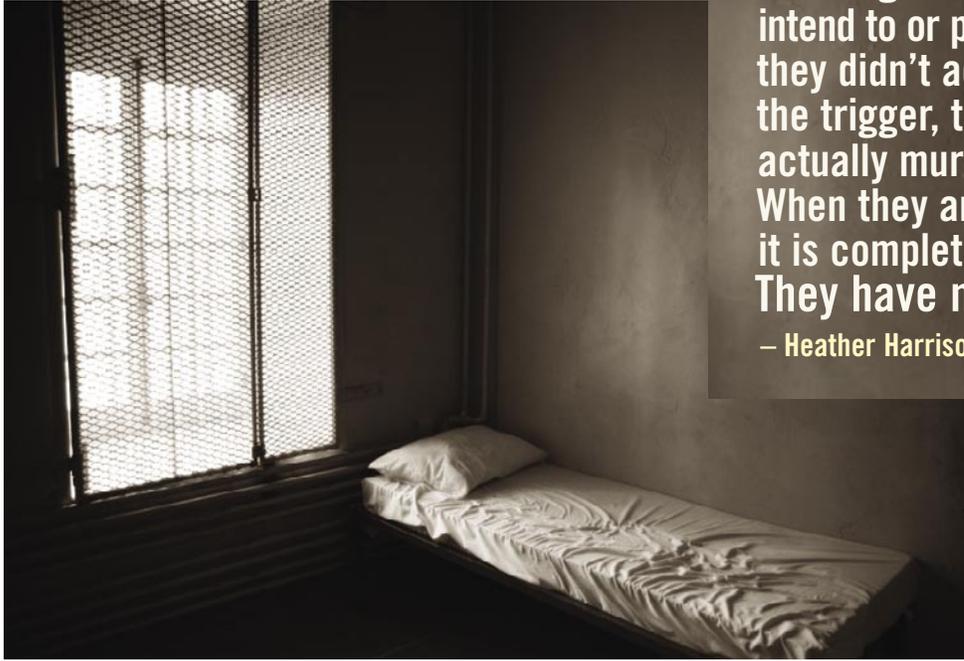
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA): VITA students prepare tax returns for low-income taxpayers.

Street Law: The program places students in local high schools to teach criminal and constitutional law.

INDIVIDUAL PLACEMENTS

Students may also choose from a wide array of placements with individual community agencies and organizations, including:

- ▶ District Attorneys' Offices
- ▶ North Carolina Attorney General's Office
- ▶ Durham County Attorney's Office
- ▶ North Carolina Justice Center
- ▶ Immigrants Legal Assistance Project
- ▶ American Civil Liberties Union
- ▶ National Health Law Project
- ▶ North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Attorneys' Institute for Equal Rights
- ▶ North Carolina Public Interest Research Group (PIRG)
- ▶ Carolina Legal Assistance for those with mental disabilities
- ▶ Private attorneys working in the areas of labor, employment discrimination, immigration, and criminal defense to assist low-income people



“Here we’re dealing with people who are convicted for things that they didn’t intend to or physically do – they didn’t actually pull the trigger, they didn’t actually murder anyone. When they are convicted, it is completely by law. They have no recourse.”

– Heather Harrison ’08

Students Advocating Felony Reform

HEATHER HARRISON ’08 was an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill when she first heard of Janet Danahey. Danahey is serving a life sentence for felony murder – four people died after she set fire to her ex-boyfriend’s futon as part of a misguided “prank” in 2002. Years later, still intrigued by the case’s outcome and more familiar with felony murder law, Harrison started Students Advocating Felony Murder Reform, hoping to reform North Carolina’s felony murder rule.

North Carolina’s felony murder law requires no proof of intent, motive, or direct involvement if a death occurs in the commission of a separate felony, and calls for life imprisonment without parole or the death penalty. It is a rule that Harrison says sounds good in theory, if only for its deterrent effect, but has the potential to produce “bizarre results.”

“Unlike the Innocence Project, which deals with actual innocence, and wrongful convictions, where human error has intervened,” says Harrison, “here we’re dealing with people who are convicted for things that they didn’t intend to or physically do – they didn’t actually pull the trigger, they didn’t actually

murder anyone. When they are convicted, it is completely by law. They have no recourse.”

Students involved in the project are working with a local attorney on felony murder cases in the post-review stage, helping to draft appeals, motions for appropriate relief, and petitions for certiorari. One case involves a challenge to the felony murder rule on the grounds that it constitutes cruel and unusual punishment. Another initiative involves students in researching felony murder law in other states, in order to provide a state-by-state comparison to see whether North Carolina’s law is unusually punitive.

Coordinating their efforts with North Carolina Citizens for Felony Murder Rule Change, the students also plan to engage in some lobbying and public education regarding the felony murder rule.

“We are trying to raise awareness, as well as challenge the law, because no one really talks about this issue. It’s not as controversial as the death penalty or abortion to really get talked about in a manner that would bring about change,” says Harrison. “At the very least, even if nothing happens while we’re in school, people will know it exists.” ♡ – T.H.

Also New in Pro Bono:

Consumer Rights Project: Started by 2Ls Benni Chang and John Niles, the project involves students in working with the assistant attorneys general of the North Carolina Department of Justice Consumer Protection Division on a variety of tasks, including interviewing consumers, drafting affidavits, investigation, and research.

Immigration Education Project: Started by Amanda McRae ’09, the project provides immigration education to students in ESL classes and other venues.

Death Penalty Litigation Project: Led by Margarita Clarens ’08, participating students work with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation to challenge death penalty convictions.

Legal Assistance for Non-English Speakers (LANES): Started by Sonja Ralston Elder ’08, LANES recruits many of the J.D. and LL.M. students who speak a wide variety of languages to serve as interpreters in legal cases.

Duke Organizing: Headed by Michael Oswald ’07, the project looks at issues of employee fairness at Duke.

Alumni Profile

Maya Horton '99

Tackling *Abbott v. Burke*, a modern-day *Brown v. Board of Education*

GROWING UP in East Orange, New Jersey, Maya Horton '99 experienced a school system clearly divided into the “haves” and “have-nots.” “I can remember being in public school in East Orange and meeting people from more affluent districts who were getting access to educational opportunities that I didn’t have access to, and being frustrated by it,” she says.

After graduating from law school, Horton seized the opportunity to do something about it. Backed by an Equal Justice Works post-graduate fellowship, she returned to New Jersey, taking a job with Passaic County Legal Aid where she worked to enforce the mandates of *Abbott v. Burke*, a case she first learned of in her education law class. A modern day *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Abbott*, brought on behalf of students in Horton’s former school district of East Orange, sought to achieve the same quality of education for students in low-income school districts as their counterparts in wealthier ones.

Of *Abbott*’s many components, Horton focused on its early-education piece, which mandated that the state pay for the education of 3- and 4-year-olds in New Jersey’s 30 poorest districts. “The idea was to make sure the children would be ready for kindergarten, ready to learn, ready to read, and able to perform on par with students in the more affluent districts,” Horton says. Hoping to influence the courts to rule in a manner consistent with that goal, Horton wrote briefs for those aspects of the case still in litigation and helped to implement court orders already handed down in the case.

At the end of her two-year fellowship, Horton had the opportunity to continue work relating to *Abbott v. Burke* at the Education Law Center, the Newark firm that initially filed suit against the state more than 25 years ago. There she worked with stakeholders – parents, schools, community leaders, and local non-profit organizations – to ensure they understood their rights as they pertained to the new education laws. In 2002, she accepted a policy position with the New Jersey School Construction Corporation, working to



“It was just something that was always there in every aspect of my life growing up, so I knew that whatever I did, service would be an important part of my life’s work.”

– Maya Horton '99

keep these stakeholders involved in the implementation of school construction programs developed to improve school facilities in New Jersey’s poorer districts, as also mandated by *Abbott*.

Horton says she views the fight for equal education as only one way to make a difference. “For me it always goes back to the quality of life. I never wanted to focus on just one issue because I felt like the quality of life, especially in a lot of the African-American communities where I grew up, wasn’t what it should be. I knew adequate education and criminal justice were key areas that needed to be addressed to impact equal opportunity for African-Americans, so that was my focus. But I also knew that there were a lot of different ways for me to make an impact. Education was just one of many.”

While she sees law as a tool “with the power to impact countless lives on countless issues,” Horton says she knows it has its limits, recalling her experiences as a student in Duke’s AIDS Legal Project. “You come at these cases as a lawyer – you want to solve the legal problem, and your clients want the legal problem solved. But there are so many other issues that clients are also dealing with that can make

that difficult, whether it be a fear of death or just not having the money to come to a client meeting. A lot of people who want to do public interest want to save the world, but when you see these cases, you not only see that not everybody is ready to be saved, but that you can’t save everybody.”

Now a staff attorney for the Council on Foundations in Washington, D.C., a non-profit membership organization serving private foundations and public charities, Horton continues to fold public interest work into her professional and personal life, serving as a resource for non-profits and the general public who have legal questions about the tax code, philanthropy or charitable giving, and in her spare time, volunteering with non-profit organizations targeting women and single mothers and doing ministry work through her church.

Recalling her grandmother’s directive, “To whom much is given, much is required,” Horton says public service is something she would have done even if she didn’t go to law school. “It was just something that was always there in every aspect of my life growing up, so I knew that whatever I did, service would be an important part of my life’s work.” ♡ – T.H.

Student Profile

Matt Wolfe '08

Passionate about public service



Matt Wolfe '08, third from left, in Malawi.

MATT WOLFE'S RESUME puts his commitment to public service in plain sight. A series of undertakings that include a trip to Malawi, Africa, to assist with "permaculture" training, a two-year stint with Teach For America, and a spring break mission trip to New Orleans suggest that public service not only represents a significant part of what he does, but also who he is.

But ask Wolfe '08 what motivates him to take on any of these commitments and his answer is rather simple: "Because I can."

"I have been bestowed a lot of gifts in life in terms of family support and opportunities had – a lot of things that I certainly didn't deserve any more than anyone else. So I feel compelled to help people who are in more challenging situations. I don't do that by walking in and saying 'I know exactly how to fix your problems.' But I learn a lot from serving people in a way that considers their attributes and their assets rather than looking at a situation as a clump of needs that I need to provide for."

That's exactly what he did, first as an undergraduate at the University of Rochester, volunteering for a mission trip to Malawi, where he trained people to create sustainable gardens for long-term economic growth, and again on two college service programs. One took Wolfe to Baltimore, where he examined urban decline, the other to Detroit, where he worked as a "peace educator" for Save Our Sons and Daughters, an organization focused on teaching young people alternatives to violence. After graduating in 2003, he went to New Orleans with Teach For America and became tied to the city in a special way.

"I gained a tremendous amount of wisdom from working with my

students in New Orleans and with their families and my colleagues. For me those were very formative years – I married my wife, we had our son there, and so, even though I was only there for a few years, I consider myself a citizen of New Orleans."

Wolfe returned to New Orleans on the 2006 Southern Justice Mission Trip. Working with the New Orleans Juvenile Court, he researched gender specific approaches to juvenile justice as part of a grant proposal to establish a girls' court in the city.

"Girls tend to enter the juvenile system for different reasons than boys, usually for status offenses such as truancy. In some ways the current system can be detrimental to their development, failing to adequately address their needs. Programs like the girls' court will give Juvenile

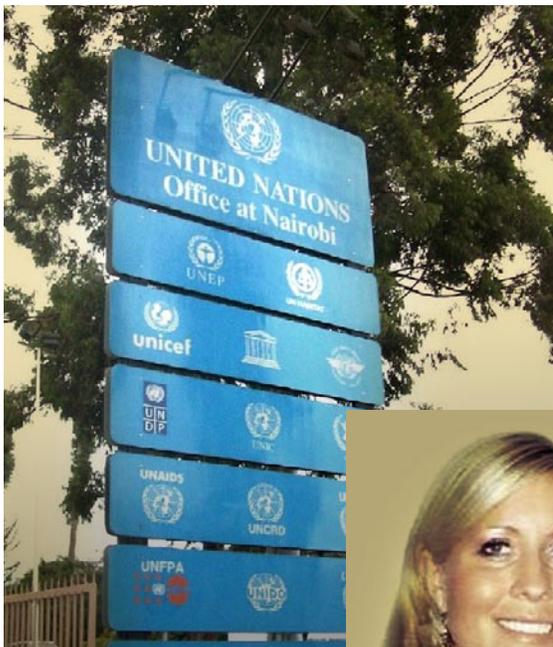
Court judges the ability to determine appropriate remedies for the youth that come before them."

Encountering some of his former students through his work with the Juvenile Court, Wolfe says he appreciated being able to serve them in a new way as a law student.

"The silver lining for New Orleans in the aftermath of Katrina is the opportunity to improve some problems that were pervasive prior to the natural disaster. In education, I think we're already seeing that there are some improvements. The courts are trying to do the same thing – allow some "fresh air" in, and really reexamine the way they approach juvenile justice or criminal justice in New Orleans. It was great to be a small part of that."

Wolfe speaks fondly of his varied public interest experiences, calling them "energizers" that help remind him why he came to law school. "You can get caught up in the work load and focusing on getting good grades, and forget why you are actually trying to amass this knowledge. It's not just so you can spew it out in a few hours during exams, it's so the knowledge and skills you gain can actually be put to use."

He did that this summer while working as a research assistant for Professor Doriane Coleman, examining conflicting bioethics and legal standards in therapeutic pediatric research and sibling donor transplants, and assisting Carolina Legal Assistance with an amicus brief supporting a "sound, basic education" mandated and defined in *Leandro v. State of North Carolina* for students with special needs. Also pursuing a degree in public policy, Wolfe says his goal is to use what he learns at Duke to "improve people's lives and create systemic change where appropriate." ♡ – T.H.



“Waking up every morning knowing that you are working for poverty reduction and human rights is highly life-affirming, and personally inspiring.”

– Kristina Johnson '08

Student Profile

Kristina Johnson '08

Summer Fellowship in Kenya offers international legal perspective

WORKING WITH the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the UN’s African headquarters in Kenya over her summer break, Kristina Johnson says she learned both the value of international development work and the challenges that accompany it.

“Waking up every morning knowing that you are working for poverty reduction and human rights is highly life-affirming, and personally inspiring,” Johnson says, “but it does pose practical challenges that one needs to be realistic about, such as personal safety concerns, and being far away from family and friends.”

Having entered law school to pursue a career in international human rights and development law, Johnson says she welcomed the opportunity to work at UNDP, which helps developing countries build and share solutions to such global and national challenges as democratic governance and poverty reduction. Funded by a Duke Law fellowship, Johnson split her time between two major projects, one on donor harmonization efforts and the other examining land title fraud, both of which reaffirmed her interest in development work, Johnson says.

With the donor harmonization project, she worked with a team of lawyers and UN representatives to conduct a survey of Kenya’s major donors, which include various Western nations, UN agencies, and the World Bank, to create a more streamlined and efficient strategy for aid disbursement.

“It was exciting interacting with the various diplomats, lawyers, and World Bank officials, sharing development strategies, and learning

from some of the greatest development experts in Africa,” she says.

Johnson counts her second project, land title reform, as perhaps one of the most important goals for Kenya, and says that creating a system of legitimate land title and secure tenure is essential to getting people out of poverty in Africa. “In the past 20 years, thousands of acres of Kenyan land have been illegally transferred to government officials and private individuals. Land once allocated for public facilities such as hospitals and schools is now being used for private estates and religious purposes, or sold at high prices to private companies. Reform is certainly an uphill battle, but the local leaders in the land reform movement in Kenya are willing to risk their own personal safety and well-being to stand up for what they know is best for their country.”

In addition to her work with the UNDP, Johnson joined in weekend volunteer expeditions to Kibera and Mathare, two of Africa’s largest slums, where more than 1.5 million people live with no running water, toilets, or electricity. Working with the UN’s World Food Program, she helped develop lesson plans for the Program’s schoolhouse classrooms, which offer students two meals a day, five days a week. Johnson says that while the school construction itself was progress, the conditions of the classrooms – overcrowded, with dirt floors, and no books or school materials – were lacking. Yet, she says, “amazingly the students still enjoyed coming and being a part of the lessons.”

Johnson says working with “these excited, hopeful kids,” reaffirmed what her work was all about. “It reminds me of a sign I saw on someone’s door at the UN, which read, ‘No one is so poor they have nothing to give, and no one is so rich they have nothing to receive.’ It is sometimes easy to overlook the virtues of simplicity, grace, and humility. I hope to keep these lessons from Kenya with me, and to find ways to incorporate these ideals into my life and career.” ♡ – T.H.

Public Interest Abroad

Kristina Johnson was one of three students to receive Duke Law’s International Development Fellowship supporting summer work in a developing country.

Muriel Moody '08 worked with the Fulbright Economics Teaching Program in Ho Chi Ming City, Vietnam on cross-border marriages and human trafficking.

Stephen Fairchild '08 worked with the International Justice Mission in Southeast Asia on forced labor and bonded slavery.

Duke Law School Public Interest Fellowships

SUMMER 2006

Civil Rights & Legal Aid

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law	Washington, D.C.
Duke Children's Education Law Clinic	Durham, NC
Legal Aid of NC – Durham	Durham, NC
Legal Aid of NC – Raleigh	Raleigh, NC
Legal Aid of West Virginia	Beckley, WV
Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont	Charlotte, NC
National Housing Law Project	Oakland, CA
Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights	Washington, D.C.

Criminal Law

California Appellate Project	San Francisco, CA
DC Public Defender's Office	Washington, D.C.
Wake County District Attorney's Office	Raleigh, NC
Fair Trial Initiative	Durham, NC
Federal Defender's Office	Boston, MA
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office	Boston, MA
Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office	Noblesville, IN
Orange County Public Defender	Orange Co., CA
NC Center for Death Penalty Litigation	Durham, NC

Environmental Law

Appalachian Voices	Asheville, NC
Natural Resources Defense Council	New York, NY
Natural Resources Defense Council	Washington, D.C.
NC Coastal Federation	Beaufort, NC
NC PIRG	Raleigh, NC
Wild Law	Asheville, NC
Wild Law	Montgomery, AL

Federal Government Agencies

Federal Trade Commission (Atlanta Regional Office)	Atlanta, GA
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State Attorney General and County Attorney's Offices

Florida Attorney General's Office	Orlando, FL
NC Attorney General's Office	Raleigh, NC
NC Attorney General's Office, Consumer Protection Division	Raleigh, NC

U.S. Attorney's Office and Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of NC	Raleigh, NC
U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of PA	Philadelphia, PA
U.S. Attorney, Western District of MO	Kansas City, MO
U.S. Attorney, Southern District of CA	San Diego, CA
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division	Washington, D.C.
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch	Washington, D.C.
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, Torts Branch	Washington, D.C.

International

Fulbright Economics Teaching Program	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
International Justice Mission	South Asia
United Nations Development Programme	Nairobi, Kenya

Public Interest Law Foundation Needs Your Help

Greetings from PILF! We are hard at work raising money to support PILF grants for the summer of 2007 and developing exciting new grant programs to support public interest work at Duke Law School. Alumni support is the only way we can fulfill our mission.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- **Attend the Auction & Gala on February 24, 2007!** Enjoy an elegant evening at Duke's Nasher Museum of Art, and bring your checkbooks to take advantage of the spectacular offerings.
- **Attend PILF's Alumni Weekend Silent Auction!** Held over Alumni Weekend in April, this event gives you an opportunity to bid on some of our premium donated items.
- **Encourage your law firm to raise its visibility in the Duke law community** by sponsoring the auction, donating auction items, participating in PILF's CAPITAL Program during recruitment season, or matching the pledges of summer associates and attorneys!
- **Buy Duke Law School clothing!** Check out our wide array of sweatshirts, t-shirts, mugs, and hats. They make the perfect gift. Order online at: http://dukelaw.promoshop.com/featuredproduct/index.aspx?DPSV_Id=35657
- **Consider donating items for the PILF auction, or make a cash contribution!** Remember, PILF is a 501(c)(3) organization, so your donations are tax-deductible, and many firms will match attorney contributions.

