



Forum

Spring 2014

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT:

Child and Family Advocacy Clinic of Rutgers School of Law-Camden

Through funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Bar Foundation offers fellowships for attorneys in positions that relate to public education about the law, legal aid to the poor and improvement in the administration of justice. They are called Bar Fellows.

The Bar Fellows teach law students alternative dispute resolution, pre-trial and trial skills, legal practice skills, legal research and writing and professional responsibility, as well as the substantive and procedural law in each clinic's focus area.

Each Bar Fellow also directly represents clients and supervises the law student's representation of clients to the clinic. These programs provide a broad range of legal services on behalf of indigent children and families that include trainings, development of educational and resource materials and coordination of other social services to the clients.

In partnership with the three New Jersey law schools, the NJSBF fellowships support clinical programs focused on serving the legal needs of inner-city residents. One such partner is the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic of Rutgers University School of Law-Camden. Below, a Q&A with its director, Bar Fellow

Meredith L. Schalick, Clinical Associate Professor of Law.



Nina James, Nicole Ojo-Ohikuare and Jacob Bellarotto in the Foundation's moot court room practicing for an upcoming hearing

Grantee Spotlight continued on page six

Contents

- Mock Trial
- Regional Winners 2
- Law and Disability Issues Conference 3
- Landlord-Tenant Rights 3
- Questions and Answers with Education Conference Keynote Speaker Prof. Paula Franzese 4
- Public Education Seminars..... 5
- Meeting the Needs of the Community..... 7
- Training Dates 8
- Mock Trial Photos 8

Law-Related Education Conference to Feature Noted Law Professor

Nationally renowned legal educator is keynote speaker at the free March 28 event

Attention educators: Registration is open for the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's 23rd Annual Law-Related Education Conference to be held on Friday, March 28, 8 a.m.– 2 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center off Ryders Lane near the East Brunswick-New Brunswick border. New Jersey teachers who attend the day will earn professional development credits.

This year, the always popular, full-day conference gets off to a lively start

with a stimulating presentation by Paula A. Franzese, the Peter Rodino Professor of Law at Seton Hall University School of Law. A former Special Ethics Counsel to New Jersey Gov. Richard Codey,



Paula Franzese

Law-Related Education Conference
continued on page five

Forum

A publication of the
New Jersey State Bar Foundation
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
1-800 FREE LAW
www.njsbf.org

Ellen Dweck
Editor

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This publication and all
New Jersey State Bar Foundation
programs and publications are
made possible through funding
from the IOLTA Fund of the
Bar of New Jersey.

Three to Get Ready...for the High School Mock Trial Competition Finals

Chief Justice Rabner, Judge Clark to Once Again Preside Over Finals March 24

Two siblings went out for a drive. Sadly, only one returned alive. But who was to blame for the fatal accident that occurred along Devon Road's infamous "dead man's curve"?

In the fictitious mock trial case that is the focus of the 32nd annual Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition, a car with Sid and Cathy Sawyer crashes into a tree, resulting in Cathy's death. But who was driving? The question of vehicular homicide and related charges are the substance of the *State v. Sid Sawyer*.

The state has charged Sid Sawyer with vehicular homicide, endangering an injured victim by leaving the scene of the accident, and operating a motor vehicle recklessly with a suspended license resulting in a death. The accident survivor denies all allegations, including even being at the wheel. And so the dramatic case unfolds....

The polar vortex may have been in full-freeze mode, but the students competing in the state's award-winning mock trial contest in February at the New Jersey Law Center were fired up, anxious to proceed to the next big round following their county victories.

On February 4 and 6, high schools from around the state that had won county titles competed for regional championships in round two of the exciting statewide competition. After those rigorous contests, two schools from each of the state's three geographic regions prevailed:

- For South Jersey, Middle Township High School, Cape May County; and Cherry Hill West High School, Camden County.
- For North Jersey, Newark Academy, Essex County; and West Morris Mendham High School, Morris County.

- For Central Jersey, Mount St. Mary Academy, Somerset County; and Noor-UI-Iman School, Middlesex County.

And Then There Were Three

When the dust settled after the regional finals on February 26, three semi-finalists, one from each region, remained in contention:

- South Jersey: Middle Township High School
- North Jersey: West Morris Mendham High School
- Central Jersey: Noor-UI-Iman School

Those teams will face off in the state semi-finals at the New Jersey Law Center on March 19. The two schools still standing after that vigorous competition will then go head to head at the big state finals on March 24. Presiding once again over the finals will be New Jersey State Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner and Judge Marilyn Clark, Superior Court, Passaic County. Over the years, both have generously given of their time and energy to volunteer at the Foundation's mock trial programs.

The state champion will go on to represent New Jersey in the national competition in Madison, Wisconsin, in May.

The annual Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition is sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the educational and philanthropic arm of the New Jersey State Bar Association, in cooperation with New Jersey's county bar associations. For more information about the Foundation's mock trial programs for grades 3-12, please contact Sheila Boro, Director of Mock Trial Programs, at 732-937-7519 or at sboro@njsbf.org. ■

Mock Trial Photos see page eight

Law and Disability Issues Conference

Register now for FREE May 1 Conference

In the wake of Superstorm Sandy's devastation, many areas of the Jersey Shore are being rebuilt. What efforts are being made to ensure fully accessible design and barrier-free access? How can you help assure that the entry to the beach, amusements and commercial establishments at the Shore are properly designed and constructed to offer accessibility?

Everyone is invited to attend the Bar Foundation's annual Law and Disabilities Issues Conference on **Thursday, May 1, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.** at the New Jersey Law Center off Ryders Lane, New Brunswick.

Admission is free but reservations are required. Morning refreshments will be provided.

The plenary session will address the unique opportunity that rebuilding and reconstruction of the Jersey Shore affords to make our coastline communities more secure against future storms as well as to make the amenities of the shore communities accessible to residents and visitors of all abilities. The moderator is David P. Lazarus, Director of Litigation for the Community Health Law Project, primary sponsor of the conference.

Following that session will be three successive presentations. The first, "Training on Accessibility Requirements," is conducted by Jennifer L. Perry, Compliance Specialist, Accessibility Services, United Spinal

Association. It will deal with requirements for walking surfaces, ramps, accessible parking and the like as well as accessibility in areas that serve beaches, tourist areas and accommodations.

Afterwards, Thomas G. Dallessio, Director, Center for Resilient Design, College of Architecture and Design, New Jersey Institute of Technology, will present "Evaluating Accessible Construction and Reconstruction." Students and staff of NJIT will report on the school's assessment of municipalities that are centers of entertainment, beach access and recreation with regard to accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Finally, "Legal Aspects of Barrier-Free Accessibility and Construction Code Requirements" will be examined by Edward A. Kopelson, Esq. His practice specializes in barrier-free access issues including design requirements, construction codes and state and federal agencies charged with assuring compliance.

A question-and-answer session closes out the informative day.

For a registration form, call 1-800-FREE LAW or go to: <http://www.njsbf.org/images/content/1/1/11540.pdf>. Contact Florence Nathan, fnathan@njsbf.org, with any questions. ■

Landlord-Tenant Rights to Be Explored at Free Seminar

What are your rights and responsibilities as a landlord or tenant? Find out how the law affects you at a free Foundation seminar on **Tuesday, March 18, 7–9 p.m.** at the New Jersey Law Center.

Speakers are Michael Gildenberg, a senior staff attorney with Central Jersey's Legal Services (CJLS) and George Barrood, a landlord-tenant attorney based in New Brunswick. They will discuss moving-related issues, the New Jersey Anti-Eviction Act, security deposits, protected tenancies and the purchase and sale of rental property. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentations. Mr. Barrood accepts questions in advance. They may be submitted to George Barrood, Esq., 52 Paterson Street, P.O. Box 1995, New Brunswick 08903-1995; phone 732-249-2000; fax 732-249-2001; or email George@LandlordLandlady.com.

Admission to the seminar is free, but reservations are required. To register or for more information on Foundation seminars, programs and publications, visit the Foundation online at www.njsbf.org or call 1-800-FREE-LAW. The Foundation's seminar series is made possible by funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey. ■

Questions and Answers with Education Conference Keynote Speaker Prof. Paula Franzese

Q. What did you find in the law that made you want to pursue it as a career?

A. Education is the great equalizer and knowledge is power. The study of law is the study of justice. As such, it presents a most enduring foundation on which to build a life of significance. Without justice, there is no hope. As lawyers, we are uniquely situated to be givers of hope.

Q. What do you find are most peoples' misconceptions about the law? What do you want New Jersey residents to know about the law?

A. Contrary to some popular stereotypes, the law is a most noble profession. Think about the great paradigm-shifters throughout the course of history — Sir Thomas More, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, Barbara Jordan, Sandra Day O'Connor and Nelson Mandela to name a few. All were lawyers. A good lawyer defies the push of the crowds and takes a stand for the underdog. A conversancy with the legal method allows one to be a game-changer for social justice and a defender against the tyranny of the majority.

Q. What kind of law did you practice before becoming a professor of the law? Why that particular field?

A. My parents were among the ranks of the working poor, who struggled mightily so that their four children could have the opportunities that a good education provides. As a child, I remember the heartache occasioned when we weren't sure if my parents would be able to afford the monthly rent, and I know the despair of substandard housing. So much of my work in the law as a new lawyer and still today is committed to making real the promise of affordable housing. The cause of human dignity is hurt each and every time someone finds themselves without a place to live.

Q. Why is it important that schoolteachers introduce their pupils to how the law works?

A. Teachers share a sacred trust with their students. We never forget the imprint left by the teachers who are able to fortify our minds and raise our spirits – the ones who believe in us and who demonstrate that no act of kindness is ever wasted. Good teachers implicitly inculcate the moral and legal referent in all that they teach when they inspire their students to close the gap between what is and what ought to be. A

baseline understanding of the rule of law equips students to promote the rule of reason, fairness and equal access to justice.

Q. How is the law relevant to our everyday lives?

A. The study of law is the study of justice. As such, it presents a most enduring foundation on which to build a life of significance. We are a society of laws. When people are in trouble, most often it is trouble with the law. With law-related knowledge one becomes vested with an imprimatur of expertise and authority that can bring hope to bleak contexts and the rule of reason to seeming chaos.

Q. Why did you volunteer to address the teachers of New Jersey? What do you want them to take away from the conference?

A. Our teachers matter most. From kindergarten through law school I have admired and respected each and every one of my teachers. The generosity that I have observed from my best teachers is with me every time I encourage my classes to commit to service. The exemplars in my life are front-mind when I teach that wisdom and compassion are indivisible—one cannot be sustained without the other. The integrity that my teachers demonstrated is there when I remember that while kindness will sometimes be misunderstood as weakness, it can be expected only from the secure. Cruelty comes from fragility. My finest teachers expected great things from me, even when their estimations of my promise exceeded my own. I rose to meet them because I could not bear to let them down. I am forever indebted to all of my teachers, and as a parent now, I see in my children's development the positive effects of their many superb teachers. I am grateful for the opportunity to proclaim the immense virtue and talent of our state's teachers.

A professor at Seton Hall University School of Law, Paula Franzese is one of the country's leading experts in property law and government ethics and has written numerous books and articles on those areas. Nationally renowned for her excellence in law teaching, a new book names Professor Franzese one of only 26 "best law teachers in the United States." The book, What the Best Law Teachers Do (Harvard University Press 2013), profiles in detail the pedagogical approach that renders

Law-Related Education Conference *continued from page one*

she was appointed chair of the State Ethics Commission by Gov. Jon Corzine. In 2010 Ms. Franzese was named one of the best law teachers in the country by the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning. (See *Q&A with Prof. Franzese, p. 4.*)

Afterwards, you can choose two stimulating and informative workshops on some of the hot-button issues of the day relevant to educators and students. Topics include:

- Special Education Law: Key Participation of Educators
- The Surveillance State—helping students understand the debate about privacy and security
- The Teen Brain: Emotional, Behavioral, Academic and Legal issues
- New Jersey: 350 Years Old and Counting
- School Desegregation Before Brown: A View from New Jersey
- Teaching Common Core Standards with Storybooks

The aim of the day is to explore teaching strategies that can make the law come alive for your students and transform them into informed young citizens eager to participate in the judicial system.

Teachers in New Jersey schools who attend the full day will earn professional development credits. A complimentary continental breakfast and sandwich luncheon will be served.

Usually attended by close to 250 educators, the conference fills up fast. Find the link to a printable registration form at <http://www.njsbf.org/educators-and-students/events/879.html>. Although the conference is free, a **refundable \$20 security deposit** must be included with your mailed-in registration form. Deposit checks will be returned to conference attendees. Please direct any questions to Florence Nathan, Director of Special Programs, at 732-937-7518 or fnathan@njsbf.org ■

Questions and Answers *continued from page four*

her a “dazzlingly effective model of rigor, hard work, creativity and humility.” Professor Franzese is the unprecedented ten-time recipient of the Student Bar Association’s Professor of the Year Award, has been named “Exemplary Teacher” by the American Association of Higher Education and was ranked the Top Law Professor in New Jersey by the New Jersey Law Journal. She has demonstrated and deconstructed her pedagogical expertise on teaching as both art and science at workshops and colloquia across the country.

She is also the author of the newly published *A Short and Happy Guide to Being a College Student* and *A Short and Happy Guide to Being a Law Student*. Both contain messages of hope and guidance for school, work, the practice of law and life. All royalties from the sale of these books go to public interest law fellowships. ■

FREE Law-Related Public Seminars

All Bar Foundation programs listed below are held at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. Please note that only registered participants will be notified if an event is canceled. For more information, visit the Foundation’s website at www.njsbf.org or call 1-800-FREE LAW.

Landlord-Tenant Issues Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 7–9 p.m.

Medicare-Medicaid Maze Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 1–3 p.m.

Condominium Law Wednesday, April 23, 2014, 7–9 p.m.

Law and Disability Conference Thursday, May 1, 2014, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. *Call 1-800-FREE LAW for registration form*

Senior Citizens’ Law Day Conference Wednesday, May 7, 2014, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wills and Estate Planning Wednesday, June 26, 2014, 7–9 p.m.

The public education seminar series is made possible with funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.

Grantee Spotlight *continued from page one*

Q: What is the Camden Child and Family Advocacy Clinic?

A: The Child and Family Advocacy Clinic (CFAC) enrolls third-year law students at Rutgers School of Law-Camden to represent children in child abuse and neglect cases in family court in Camden. Students also represent minors throughout southern New Jersey in administrative hearings and proceedings regarding public benefits, education, immigration and mental health issues. Through advocacy in court and other venues, students help ensure that the child welfare, public school and social service systems are sufficiently addressing the needs of child-clients in terms of their safety and long-term well-being.

The ultimate goal is to help make sure each child has a loving, safe and permanent home and is receiving needed services, treatments and financial support to become a productive and engaged member of society.

Q. What is your role as the Bar Fellow?

A. As the Bar Fellow, I serve as the director of CFAC, which involves teaching the clinic seminar, supervising the activity of the law students, managing the caseload, participating in various community and advocacy groups and preparing reports and other administrative duties.

Q. What is the role of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation in the program?

A. The New Jersey State Bar Foundation is the primary funding source for the CFAC and has been since 2008. That funding is crucial.

Q. What highlights of the CFAC-NJSBF relationship come to mind? What has it accomplished?

A. With Foundation support, the CFAC has been able to help prepare law students for the real practice of law as well as provide high-quality legal representation to children and families all over South Jersey. For example, clinic students and alumni regularly report that clinic was the best part of their law school education, and helped them feel confident in beginning their legal careers.

Q. How would you characterize the program, both for the clients served and the law students?

A. As a win-win, definitely. Besides serving our clients, clinic alumni also report that their time in CFAC helped them discern the type of law

they want to practice. In addition to legal careers in numerous practice areas in private firms, former CFAC students are working in the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, various county prosecutors and legal services organizations.



Jacqueline Cooper and Nina James reviewing documents in their child abuse case. All the students are third-year law students and will be graduating in May 2014.

Q. What is your take on the longstanding partnership between CFAC and the Foundation?

A. Simply put, without the support we receive from NJSBF, the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic would not exist. This partnership enables hundreds of children and families in southern New Jersey to seek justice with the assistance of trained, dedicated and zealous legal representation. We are extremely grateful.

The other three initiatives supported by NJSBF at Rutgers University School of Law-Camden are the Civil Practice Law Clinic, Children's Justice Clinic and the Street Law *Pro Bono* Project. The Foundation also funds fellowships at Rutgers University School of Law-Newark, Seton Hall University School of Law, NJ LEEP Inc. and Covenant House NJ; a law school scholarship program; and cosponsors numerous worthy law-related initiatives with organizations throughout the state.

For more information about fellowships and it co-sponsorship programs offered through NJSBF, please go to <https://www.njsbf.org/foundation/funding-opportunities.html>.

Meeting the Needs of the Community

Since you are reading this newsletter, it's a pretty safe bet you already know that the mission of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation is to serve as a major statewide resource for law-related education for the public, enable lawyers to serve the public through programs and generally enhance the profession of law. But how are those worthy goals realized in practical terms of how the Foundation serves the public? One way is through cosponsorships.

Although grants for fiscal year 2013–2014 are fewer and significantly reduced due to economic conditions, the New Jersey State Bar Foundation has managed to continue its longstanding tradition of helping to fund worthwhile law-related education programs sponsored by other nonprofit organizations. This year the Foundation is supporting the following stellar organizations and programs:

ARC of New Jersey—The Bar Foundation is underwriting the 2014 conference on **Equal Justice for Victims, Witnesses and Defendants with Developmental Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System**, which focuses on practical information for community health professionals.

Community Health Law Project—Through a Foundation grant, the Community Health Law Project is holding its 2014 **Law and Disability Conference** on legal issues affecting the disabled, elder care and people with AIDS (see p. 3).

George Street Playhouse Character Development Touring Theater “Character Development Initiative”—The playhouse maintains a touring company that visits schools as well as parent and community groups throughout the state to perform dynamic commissioned plays variously addressing the themes of tolerance, respect, cyber-bullying, conflict resolution, health and wellness, self-esteem and peer pressure. Each show includes a post-performance workshop that provides an excellent starting point for classroom discussion. Foundation funding provides playbills for the youthful audiences and study guides for teachers to enhance those discussions as well as partial subsidies for schools and groups that cannot afford the entire performance fee and full scholarships for those that cannot afford any fee.

Planned Lifetime Assistance Network of New Jersey Inc. (PLAN/NJ)—The Foundation supports PLAN's initiative, **The Need for Legal and Estate Planning for the Future Care of People with Developmental or Psychiatric Disabilities**, which educates people with disabilities and their families as well as parents of school-age children with disabilities regarding guardianship laws, legal and estate planning, and providing for special needs when caregivers can no longer advocate on their charges' behalf. Seminars, brochures and website updates are among the resources offered.

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey Inc. (SPAN)'s Special Education Rights of Youth Involved in DYFS and Juvenile Justice 2013-2014 Training Series—SPAN furnishes training and information to parents of children with disabilities through a basic rights manual, parent advocacy training, and special education workshops on the rights of children involved in DYFS and the Juvenile Justice system. The Foundation supports SPAN's training workshops.

Women in Transition Family Law Workshops and Newsletters—Women in Transition assists displaced homemakers who have lost financial support by providing counseling, social services, training and other educational programs.

Rutgers Law School–Newark Due Process Television Programming—*Due Process* is the Emmy award-winning weekly series on law and justice issues seen on New Jersey public television. Now in its 18th season, it has thus far earned 22 Emmy Awards. ■

Save the Date:

Medal of Honor Awards Dinner Reception

Wednesday, June 11, 6 p.m. Open to everyone.

The Hon. Helen E. Hoens, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey (ret.); and Raymond S. Londa, Esq., are this year's recipients of the Medal of Honor, the highest accolade conferred by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. For more information on the celebratory evening, please contact Florence Nathan at 732-937-7518 or at fnathan@njsbf.org.

Summer 2014 Open Training Dates

Slots often fill quickly. Check the New Jersey State Bar Foundation's home page www.njsbf.org periodically for updates.

Conflict Resolution, Peer Mediation and Character Education

All trainings are held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Elementary School Educators (grades K-5)

(Training dates for elementary educators are to be determined. For updates, please periodically check www.njsbf.org.)

Middle/High School Educators (grades 6-12)

Conflict Resolution

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

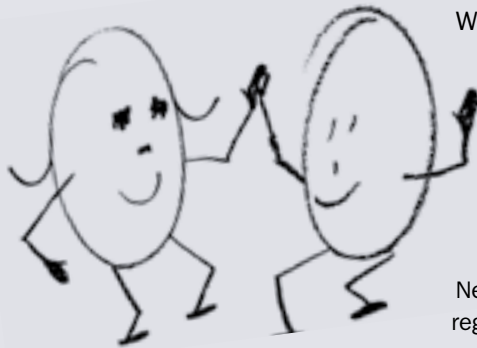
Peer Mediation*

Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Character Education

Thursday, July 31, 2014

*To attend Peer Mediation training, your school must have an active Conflict Resolution program.



Teasing and Bullying

Important: Registration is by **teams only**. Before registering for Teasing and Bullying training, find full information at <http://www.njsbf.org/educators-and-students/programs/teasing-bullying-dates.html>.

An Introduction to Teasing and Bullying Training for School Safety and Climate Teams

All trainings are held from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Thursday, August 7, 2014

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

All trainings are held at the New Jersey Law Center off Ryders Lane in New Brunswick. Space is limited. To register for any of the trainings, call 732-937-7528 to request a registration form, leaving your **email address** (preferable) or your fax number. Please note that although the trainings are free, a refundable \$20 security deposit check for each training is required. Checks should be payable to the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and must accompany each registration. Find full details at www.njsbf.org.

Mock Trial *continued from page two*

