Oregon Law Launches Interdisciplinary Nonprofit Clinic

The University of Oregon School of Law’s Nonprofit Clinic is an interdisciplinary program that offers students an opportunity to obtain experience in a burgeoning field while providing valuable assistance to Oregon nonprofits. Graduate students from Law, Conflict and Dispute Resolution, and Nonprofit Management work together in teams under the guidance of seasoned practitioners to conduct organizational assessments through surveys, document review, and facilitated dialogue. The goal of the assessment is to help the nonprofit organizations capitalize on strengths and assets, and to identify opportunities to address challenges or to integrate best practices in a particular area. The clinic offers services free of charge.

Prior to the start of the clinic term, students participate in an intensive two-day training to learn about nonprofit legal structures, financial controls, board governance, conflict management systems, organizational life cycles, the role of the consultant, and other topics.

“The students are front and center, and that makes for a very rich learning experience,” says Clinic Director Carrie Heltzel. Students review documents, facilitate site visits, conduct interviews, draft and present reports, and develop tailored resource guides for follow-through services. It is also the students’ responsibility to establish rapport, credibility, and trust in their working relationships with client organizations.

Oregon Law’s Nonprofit Clinic is the nation’s first interdisciplinary nonprofit clinic housed within a law school, and that interdisciplinary experience, says Oregon Law Professor Susan Gary, is what makes it such a valuable learning opportunity. “Though some students may not work directly with nonprofits in the future, the work they do in the clinic—both with the client organizations and with their peers from other disciplines—will improve their ability to engage effectively as board members or volunteers in the nonprofit sector.” Gary, who teaches Law of Nonprofit Organizations and whose research interests include regulation of charities, developed the clinic concept in partnership with Associate Professor Renee Irvin, who directs the Graduate Program in Nonprofit Management in the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management.

The 2012 clinic roster includes human rights, environmental, and community organizations, as well as those serving women, children, and minority populations. To learn more about clinic opportunities, visit law.uoregon.edu/academics/clinics/.

“Because of our unique disciplines, we bring different lenses through which to view and resolve issues within the nonprofit organizations. This opportunity to learn new vantage points from my nonlaw colleagues has been invaluable to my learning and future career.”

–Zac Harris, third-year law student
For several years, the ADR Center has been developing the foundation for an interdisciplinary project related to the prevention of genocide and mass atrocities. The center’s new initiative, **Genocide and Mass Atrocities: Responsibility to Prevent**, strives to harness the rich scholarship and experience of academics, policymakers, and advocates around the world to establish a movement toward lasting change in both international and domestic contexts.

The initiative was inspired by the work of **Paul Slovic**, a UO professor of psychology and an internationally renowned scholar in the areas of decision research, psychic numbing, and apathy to genocide. By understanding why “The More Who Die, the Less We Care,” as one of Slovic’s titles proclaims, many scholars and policymakers believe ordinary citizens have the ability to affect lasting change in this critical area.

This April, **Gregory Stanton**, founder of Genocide Watch, visited Oregon Law to deliver a public address, “How We Can Prevent Genocide,” which served as the formal launch of this initiative. Stanton, currently serving as a research professor in genocide studies and prevention at the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution of George Mason University, previously served with the U.S. State Department. During his tenure there, he drafted the United Nations Security Council resolutions that led to the creation of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Burundi Commission of Inquiry, and the Central African Arms Flow Commission.

While at Oregon Law, Stanton discussed the opportunities and institutional barriers encountered in foreign policy decision-making. He also visited classes and met with UO faculty members to discuss ways to integrate genocide prevention studies in curriculum across disciplines. The initiative will involve future events with several visiting experts over the coming years.

This year marks the five-year anniversary of ADR Center Director **Jane Gordon’s** appointment as president of the **Northwest Institute for Conflict Resolution (NICR)**, a partnership between the University of Oregon, Portland State University, and community organizations. Through NICR’s “Future Peacemakers” fellowships and support for the Public Policy Collaboration Program with the National Policy Consensus Center, NICR has provided financial and programmatic support to more than forty students engaged in dispute resolution internship work, both international and domestic, since 2010.
The Oregon Law ADR Center is dedicated to engaging students, scholars, and community members in meaningful dialogue on cutting-edge issues in the field of dispute resolution. A selection of this year’s lectures and events are described below.

We are delighted to announce that Elizabeth Tippett will join the Oregon Law faculty as an assistant professor in fall 2012. Tippett is currently working as an employment law attorney with the New York firm Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where she represents technology companies in federal and state court. She also counsels start-up companies on compliance with applicable employment laws and advises on employment aspects of large mergers and acquisitions.

Prior to graduating from Harvard Law School, Tippett served as a longtime research associate with the Harvard Negotiation Project. She also taught courses for the Harvard Program on Negotiation, served as the outside training director for the Harvard Mediation Program, and was an articles editor for the *Harvard Negotiation Law Review*.

“We are very fortunate that Liz will be joining us at Oregon Law,” says Jane Gordon, ADR Center director. “Her research is fresh and innovative, and she brings a unique combination of expertise in both ADR and employment law.”

Tippett’s most recent research has examined the ways that unconventional approaches to employer regulation encourage employers to adopt better internal practices. She received a Hewlett Negotiation Research Fellowship for her empirical research on online bidding practices at heavy equipment auctions. “Our students, faculty, and staff are eager to have Liz join us here at Oregon,” says Dean Michael Moffitt. “She will be a tremendous asset to this critically important part of our law school.”

“I couldn’t be more excited to join the ADR community at Oregon,” says Tippett. “ADR theory and practice have a lot to offer in the employment context—not just for resolving disputes once they reach a court, but also to help employers adopt better internal practices that address employee concerns and improve compliance with applicable laws.”

 Welcoming New Faculty Member Elizabeth Tippett

Will Davis, director of the United Nations Information Center, discussed “The UN’s Role in International Conflict Resolution.”

Bernie Mayer, PhD, professor, Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution at Creighton University, spoke on “Staying With Conflict: The Challenge of Engagement in the Face of Enduring Disputes.”

Timothy Hedeen, PhD, professor, Kennesaw State University, taught mediation workshops for community dispute resolution practitioners and students on “Ethics and Ethical Dilemmas” and “Competency and Capacity Issues.”

“So many of the initiatives at the ADR Center are cutting edge. The probate mediation program, for example, is truly groundbreaking. I expect it to be increasingly popular among both litigants and their attorneys, and to inspire similar programs across the country.”

—Elizabeth Tippett, practicing attorney and incoming assistant professor at Oregon Law
Mercy Corps Practitioners to Take Up Residence at Oregon Law

As students grow increasingly interested in international work, the ADR Center and its conflict and dispute resolution master’s program continue to develop new opportunities for students to gain knowledge and experience in the international arena, both at home and abroad. The Mercy Corps Practitioner-in-Residence Fellowship program is one such new development on the Oregon campus.

Designed in partnership with Mercy Corps and Portland State University, the program will bring Mercy Corps practitioners from around the world to work with students, conduct research, and document their experiences between posts in the field. It links practice with research and theory-building, providing an opportunity for students to learn about international dispute resolution efforts from practitioners who have current firsthand experience working in complex situations around the globe.

“This is a remarkable opportunity for everyone involved,” says Tim Hicks, director of the conflict and dispute resolution master’s degree program. “Students will gain direct access to humanitarian aid professionals who work in hot spots around the world; practitioners will step back from their fieldwork for reflection, research, and writing; faculty members will engage with both ex-pat and in-country practitioners; and the greater community will learn firsthand about the difficult work taking place throughout the world.”

The project was made possible through generous grants from the Jubitz Family Foundation and the Northwest Institute for Conflict Resolution.

“The Mercy Corps Practitioner-in-Residence program arose out of a desire to find new ways to cross the lines between practitioner and academic. We seek to use the most interesting global research and thinking to drive fieldwork, and to educate students and scholars about the most important problems we face through experience on the ground.”

–Nick MacDonald, Mercy Corps director of performance analytics and learning and Conflict and Dispute Resolution program faculty member.

Please visit our new website at adr.uoregon.edu.
Katie Dwyer, a second-year student of Oregon Law’s graduate program in conflict and dispute resolution, has been named among the twelve 2012 recipients of the prestigious Mitchell Award. The scholarship, sponsored by the U.S.-Ireland Alliance, is named for Senator George J. Mitchell, chair of the Northern Ireland peace talks. Scholars receive tuition, accommodations, living stipend, and travel stipend to facilitate one year of postgraduate study at any institution of higher education in Ireland or Northern Ireland.

The award is particularly meaningful to Dwyer, who maintains a “passion for social justice work,” because it enables her to pursue a master’s in international human rights law in a region so recently affected by the Troubles. This seems appropriate for Dwyer, whose varied academic, volunteer,

From Oregon to Oxford

Master’s program professor Cheyney Ryan (above right) continues to build the relationship between Oregon Law and Oxford University during his second year in residence at Merton College’s Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict. U.S. Representative Peter DeFazio (left) of Oregon visited the Oxford campus this March, where he delivered a public lecture on the topic of contemporary American politics. The event was cosponsored by the University of Oregon and Oxford University’s Global Directions program at Merton College.

and internship work over the past years has maintained a common theme: borders and divisions.

In preparation for the coming academic year, Dwyer is currently enrolled in Negotiating Northern Ireland, a graduate course that prepares Oregon students for work in the region by providing contextual knowledge about the history of conflict and of the transition into present times. “I’m excited to see how I’ll apply that knowledge and how my perspective might change once I’m there,” said Dwyer. “I’m eager to use the skills I’ve learned through the conflict and dispute resolution master’s program in a globally focused way while looking at international issues of human rights.”

Fouls, Flags, Fans, Fights: Teaching Conflict Management Through Sports

The ADR Center’s Competition Not Conflict program (CNC) is offering increasing numbers of Oregon students the opportunity to train and gain hands-on experience in sports conflict resolution.

The CNC Sports Conflict Management Certificate is the nation’s only program of its kind and, according to CNC Director Joshua Gordon, it is long overdue. “Sports conflict is everywhere, and it has largely been ignored. The professional leagues are probably about twenty years behind most industries in embracing conflict management theory.”

Undergraduate students pursuing the certificate complete an introductory course on sports conflict that explores nine conflict resolution models using sports-specific case studies. Students must also successfully complete one theory-based course, such as History and Culture of American Sports Conflict or Sports, Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in Sports; and one skills-based course, such as Sports Mediation or Sports Negotiation. Upon completion of these three courses, CNC faculty members work with students to develop projects related to their specific areas of interest.

“On-field sports conflict is different than conflict in just about any other industry,” says Gordon. “We need to build a feeder system of people who have competencies in this area.” CNC is well on its way to doing just that. While the certificate program was only launched this past fall, Gordon estimates that approximately fifty students are currently en route to completion.

“People who would normally have very little interest in conflict resolution are signing up for sports conflict classes. They think, ‘Hey, sports sound like fun,’ and then they end up learning a whole lot about conflict resolution,” says Gordon. Due to high demand, CNC is also in the process of developing an area of concentration for graduate-level study.

CNC currently offers thirteen unique classes on sports conflict for law, graduate, and undergraduate students. To learn more about CNC or the sports conflict management certificate program, please visit adr.uoregon.edu/cnc.
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Cover art: Details from Just the Shaping of Letters, Betsy Wolfston, on display in the John E. Jaqua Law Library.

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