Dear Friend,

Formed in 1999, the Domestic Violence Clinic provides civil legal services to low-income victims of domestic abuse, stalking, and sexual assault while preparing University of Oregon law students for work in the law.

The University of Oregon School of Law partners with Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center, Womenspace, and Sexual Assault Support Services in administering the Stop Violence Against Women Clinic Project (SVAWCP), of which the Domestic Violence Clinic is an integral part.

Clinic Alumni Continue Assisting Those in Need After Graduation

The Clinic is proud of its recent alumni who have found a way to continue their public service after graduation. Danielle Smith, Mike Quillin, Brett Landis, and Lisa Kim are just some of the Clinic's alumni who have gone on to continue their public service by working with Legal Aid after graduation.

Danielle Smith is at Legal Aid Services of Oregon in Pendleton, primarily working on family law matters and helping many victims of domestic violence. Danielle participated in the Clinic throughout her entire 3L year, finding affirmation for her decision to attend law school through the opportunity to work with clients. Danielle found the most rewarding part of the Clinic was preparing for her hearings and the representation of her clients. Beyond the courtroom, the Clinic prepared her to understand clients’ needs, how to better serve them, and that she truly wanted to help those with family law disputes. Danielle graduated in 2008.

Mike Quillin, also a 2008 graduate, was not focused on domestic violence or public interest work when he entered law school. Instead, he had an interest in intellectual property, but after taking some related coursework he entered the Domestic Violence Clinic and it marked a turning

Contact
Domestic Violence Clinic
c/o University of Oregon
School of Law
1515 Agate Street
Eugene, OR 97403

Services:
(541) 485-1017

Information:
(541) 346-3857

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point for him. Mike not only got the preparation and litigation experience that are expected from a clinic, but he decided to follow a career path in public interest work. After clerking for two years in the Lane County Juvenile Court following graduation, Mike joined the SVAWCP as its staff attorney.

Brett Landis graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law in 2007, and at first went to work with a bankruptcy attorney. When the opportunity arose to work for Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) in Klamath Falls, Brett was ready to return to assisting those in need, including victims of domestic violence. Brett's work with LASO is partly funded through an Office of Violence Against Women grant for rural victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Brett has felt prepared for the work she is doing in Klamath Falls because of her experience in the DV Clinic.

Lisa Lam is another Clinic alum who participated throughout her entire 3L year in the DV Clinic. After clerking for a year following graduation, she joined the Oregon Law Center in Hillsboro. Her time working for the DV Clinic taught her that her clients' legal matters are often only a small part of the day-to-day struggles they face and an advocate must exhibit patience. Since joining the Oregon Law Center, Lisa has handled primarily administrative law matters. Lisa is a 2008 graduate.

We applaud those alumni who continue to pursue public service after graduation and wish these recent graduates continued success helping those in need.

**Changes on the Horizon for Clinic's State Funding**

The Domestic Violence Clinic will undergo a major change in its future funding as the result of a recent Oregon legislative initiative. In the future, the Clinic may receive a major portion of its funding from the General Fund. The new approach will replace the system of dedicated filing fees that has funded the Clinic, and similar clinics, since 2008.

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature, at our urging, enacted legislation to create the Domestic Violence Clinic Education Account. Twenty-three representatives and five senators, both Democrats and Republicans, sponsored the legislation. The
began with overwhelming bi-partisan support. The vote was 52 to 3 in the House and 28 to 1 in the Senate. It became effective January 1, 2008.

Codified at ORS §21.111(4) and §352.655, the law imposed a one-time $10 fee on petitioners and respondents in marital dissolution actions throughout the state. The collected money was put into a Domestic Violence Clinic Education Account and administered by the Oregon University System. The funds could only be used for “funding clinical legal education programs at accredited institutions of higher education that provide civil legal services to victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault.”

The filing fee money supports 90% of the Clinic Director’s position, 50% of a secretary’s position, and also helps with the rent, utilities, equipment, building maintenance, and continuing legal education. Most importantly, the money makes the Clinic less vulnerable to the dramatic fluctuations that occur from being primarily grant dependent or subject to ongoing requests for appropriations in a political process. The fees provide enough stability so that students can plan their schedules with the expectation that they can enroll in the Clinic their second or third year of law school. Clinic staff also know that an abrupt elimination of a position will not occur, which certainly helps retain excellent staff.

In 2010, the Joint Interim Committee on State Justice System Revenue looked into eliminating all dedicated filing fees. Reform was sought as part of a package to provide more stable funding for the courts and to give the legislature more control over the collection and distribution of fees.

We asked that the filing fee for the Domestic Violence Clinic Legal Education Account be maintained, but in the alternative that the Account continue to exist and become the recipient of a mandatory appropriation from the General Fund equal to the amount it now receives.

The bill proposed by the Joint Interim Committee, House Bill 2710, took the second approach. It had a statutory allocation so that the Account would be assured to receive the same amount in the future as it historically received - $330,000. Such a system would have eliminated the need to go before the legislature every other year to request funds and compete with other worthy programs for money. Such competition obviously creates instability and drains our resources.

On June 24th 2011, as the session was nearing its end, the Legislative Fiscal office convinced legislators that the legislature should eliminate dedicated fees altogether as well as mandatory appropriations. That same day, the Ways and Means committee adopted HB 2710B. Under the bill, the Domestic Violence Clinic Legal Education Account would receive $330,000 for the 2011-2013 biennium, the amount historically received from fees, but, thereafter, the legislature would allocate an amount to the account as part of its regular budgeting process. Consequently, there is no guarantee the Account will receive an appropriation, although legislators from both parties say that no one wants to cut the program.

On June 29th, the bill passed the Senate, and on June 30th, the bill passed the House. There was never a public hearing on the changes made in June. Consequently starting in 2013, any state funding the Clinic receives will come out of the General Fund. Legal Aid, initially in the same situation as we were, managed to have its funds taken out of this process to avoid the prospect of politicizing its work. We had hoped for the same, but unfortunately the Account’s funding was not treated similarly.

We are currently in the process of assessing how an application for funding

We would love to hear from you!

You Can Help

The Clinic depends on generous contributions from people like you. Please consider making a tax deductible donation either online or via mail.

Online:
Make your deduction online at the University of Oregon Foundation website

Select "School of Law" from the drop down menu and put "Domestic Violence Clinic" in the comment box.

Via Mail:
Make checks payable to "UO Foundation" and put "Domestic Violence Clinic" on the memo line.

University of Oregon Foundation
1720 E. 13th Ave.
Suite 410
Eugene, OR 97403-1905
will work in 2013. The ongoing changes in the higher education administrative structure leave many questions unanswered.

**SVAWCP's Fifth Year of Interfaith Training Demonstrates Importance of Collaboration**

The SVAWCP recently brought a faith-based training effort to Eugene through its collaboration with the Eugene Faith Center, Womespace, SASS, and Christians as Family Advocates (CAFA).

The collaborative effort brought together social service providers and members of the faith-based communities. Participants attended workshops on how to address domestic violence.

The purpose was to help those who deal directly with domestic violence better serve those victims. Leaders of faith communities may have trouble accepting allegations of domestic violence because of the effect it can have on the community. Those in the social service community can be unaware of how to work with those in the faith community.

CAFA brought critical information to the collaborative effort while members of the Eugene Faith Center mobilized the faith community for the event. The event was spearheaded by Sido Surkis, conference coordinator, with support from the collaborators.

Naomi Tucker, from Oakland/San Francisco Shalom Bayit, Dr. Ron Clark, from Agape Church of Christ, and Carolyn Rexius, from CAFA, all spoke during the day.

Tucker instructed leaders in faith communities on how to recognize signs of domestic violence and address victims' needs through resources and referrals. Clark's presentation, titled "Am I Sleeping With the Enemy?," explained how the Christian idea of relationships might influence men's responses to domestic violence. Rexius's presentation, "Making a Safer Place for Children," discussed the healing of trauma victims' brains, a recent topic of research for Rexius.

Ninety-five people attended the event, half were clergy. Surkis reported that attendees learned much about domestic violence and appreciated the opportunity to network throughout the community.

**Weiner's Work on Hague Convention Starts to Pay Off for Victims**

Since 2000, Professor Merle Weiner has worked to improve the operation of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspect of International Child Abduction for domestic violence victims who flee transnationally with their children for safety.

Her work continued this last year. In December 2010, she participated in a unique Continuing
Legal Education course for lawyers held at The Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The CLE was simultaneously broadcast live worldwide over the Internet. Several actresses from The Guthrie Theatre read excerpts from a qualitative study conducted by Professors Jeff Edleson and Taryn Lindhorst, and funded by the National Institute of Justice, about women who have fled with their children to the U.S. from other countries for safety. Professor Weiner remained on stage during the entire three-hour performance to answer legal questions between readings. Questions came from the 400 people in attendance and the 1000 watching on-line who emailed questions to a facilitator.

Professor Weiner also made a presentation earlier in the year on "The Importance of NIJ-funded research on the Hague Convention and Domestic Violence," at University of Washington School of Social Work, in Seattle, Washington.

In the last six months, Professor Weiner has also made a presentation to the U.S. State Department's Office of the Assistant Legal Advisor for Private International Law regarding the United States' response to a potential protocol to the Hague Convention. She has also briefed Lynn Rosenthal, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, and Ambassador Susan Jacobs, Special Advisor for Children's Issues.

Weiner's efforts, along with the efforts of others, have finally started to show results. The U.S. recently changed its position on domestic violence in Convention cases. In a submission to the Hague Conference, the State Department said, "We recognize that domestic violence may be present in child abduction cases. Where this is the case, we believe that it raises significant issues related to the safety of the child and the accompanying parent. There may be substantial harm done to children who witness domestic violence. We believe that a new Part to the Guide to Good Practice focused on domestic violence could provide detailed and specific guidance to States Parties on many of the issues raised...."

At the Hague's Special Commission meeting held in June, the Special Commission recognized that protection of children requires a consideration of the "impact on a child of violence committed by one parent against the other." Three proposals will be considered at its upcoming meeting in January, including the adoption of a Guide to Good Practice on the implementation of Article 13(1) (b), the main defense used by domestic violence victims who flee internationally with their children.

**FAPA Amendment: It's for the Dogs!**

The 2011 Oregon legislative session brought various changes to the law governing FAPAs. Senate Bill 616, sponsored by the Human Society of the United States, makes it clear that courts can order relief to "prevent the neglect and protect the safety of any service or therapy animal or any animal kept for personal protection or companionship." This bill amends ORS 107.718.

Other changes to the FAPA law are embodied in HB 2693, HB 2928, HB 3433, and SB 396.
The Stop Violence Against Women Clinic Project (SVAWCP) is registered in the eScrip program. Each time you use a registered credit or debit card when shopping, a percentage of purchases made are donated to the SVAWCP by our merchant partners, including Market of Choice. There is no cost to you. We encourage you to register at eScrip.com to help the Project. The group number is 500023697. In addition, there are opportunities to contribute through dining and the online mall. From September 19 - October 13, the SVAWCP will receive 10% of your Safeway purchases if you send us your redemption codes from your receipts. You can email them to aciaston@lclac.org.

To be clear, any money raised from eScrip in this manner is not directly controlled by the UO Law School. While there is no guarantee that funds raised will benefit students directly, it will support access to justice for SVAWCP's clients. These are cost free and effortless ways to help the SVAWCP help survivors of domestic violence. We appreciate your help.

If you'd like to make a direct contribution to the University of Oregon School of Law for the benefit of the DV Clinic, please see the directions in the right-hand column. Thanks for your support.

**Partners**

*Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center (LCLAAC)*
376 East 11th Avenue, Eugene, OR 97401. Phone (541) 342-6056

*Womenspace*
1577 Pearl Street, Suite 400, Eugene, OR 97401. Business Phone (541) 485-8232
Support Line (541) 485-6513

*Sexual Assault Support Services*
591 W. 19th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401. Business Phone (541) 484-9791
Support Line (541) 343-7277

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