

New Death Penalty Clinic Serves Vital Role

Racheal Turner '02 is working on an *amicus* brief in support of a client facing capital punishment who argues that the jury that convicted him was chosen by prosecutors in a racially discriminatory manner. In another death penalty case, Maria Lin '02 is helping write a brief in support of Texas lawyers who are fighting for the right to be compensated when they seek clemency. Jee Park '03 and Shannon Dyer '02 are part of a legal team representing a death row inmate in the South.

Four longtime public interest attorneys going about their daily work? No, law students getting invaluable real-life experience in Boalt's Death Penalty Clinic, which opened its doors this past fall.

Park, who enrolled in Boalt after working for a nonprofit organization that represents condemned prisoners, "jumped at the chance" to join the clinic. "Here was an opportunity," she says, "for me to do the exact type of work that motivated me to come to law school in the first place."

Lin says the clinic "provides much-needed legal assistance to defendants" who are "highly underrepresented." She hopes participating in the clinic will encourage more grads to go into criminal law, "which desperately needs talented and committed people."

Before coming to Boalt, Dyer was pretty sure she had an interest in the death penalty area. "Now, thanks to the clinic, I know I do," she says. Dyer realized after her first visit to death row that "no classroom experience could ever teach me what a prison smells like or sounds like."

With its hands-on emphasis, "the clinic

provides a different kind of legal education," explains Turner, "where we can put what we have learned in the classroom into action and make a significant difference to a very needy population."

According to Professor Elisabeth Semel, the director of the newest arm of Boalt's Center for Clinical Education, the clinic's objectives include teaching students how to work on complex, challenging and vitally important cases, and instilling in them the desire to use their skills to improve the quality of justice.

"Our students make a contribution by working as part of a legal team representing individuals who face the ultimate punishment," says Semel, a nationally recognized capital punishment litigator who formerly served as director of the ABA Death Penalty Representation Project. "Inevitably, students in the clinic will grapple with some of the troubling, systemic questions about the administration of the death penalty.

"Students gain experience that will make them assets to the legal profession, no matter what area of practice they choose," adds Semel.

By merging academia with the real world, the clinic successfully accomplishes dual goals: to teach and to provide critical legal services. As Professor Charles Weisselberg, the clinic's other faculty supervisor and the director of Boalt's Center for Clinical Education, says, "Many students and faculty members are finding the clinic a terrific way to learn about both law and practice—with cases that really matter."

CROSSING CULTURES

Legal Scholars and Jurists Examine Reforms to Japanese Judicial System

One of the most hotly debated issues in Japanese legal circles recently has been a set of proposed reforms to Japan's judicial system. This past summer Boalt Hall's Sho Sato Program in Japanese and U.S. Law joined the Japanese Association for the Sociology of Law in sponsoring an international symposium focused on these contested reforms.

Held in Tokyo, The Role of the Judiciary in Changing Societies symposium featured papers by Boalt Professor Harry Scheiber, director of the Sho Sato Program, and Kathleen Vanden Heuvel '86, deputy director of the law school's library. Using judicial reform in California as a case study, Scheiber's presentation focused on comparative legal change while Vanden Heuvel's discussion addressed technological innovations and the judicial system.

The event took place at Gakushuin University—one of Japan's top private institutions—and included lectures by Professor Takao Tanase of Kyoto University and Setsuo Miyazawa of Waseda University, both of whom have served as visiting Sho Sato professors. One of the co-directors, Professor Masayuki Murayama '79 of Chiba University, graduated with a Ph.D. from Boalt's Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program.

The conference also featured leading jurists from Japan, China and Europe (including a chief judge of China's supreme court for civil cases and a senior chief judge of a German state court), as well as legal academics from several countries. For more information about the conference, please visit www.soc.nii.ac.jp/hosha/english/eindex.htm.



Leigh Steinberg '73, a leading figure in sports management and marketing, spoke this past October at Boalt Hall about how sports representation has evolved and where it's headed today. Steinberg also covered such issues as how athletes can serve as role models, the keys to negotiating well and the effect of ancillary revenue sources on the sports management business.