



# Center Briefings

## In This Issue

Interdisciplinary by Nature.....	1
Director's Message .....	2
Nims Rooker Accepts New Position ...	2
<b>Students</b>	
Making the Law While Studying It.....	3
CDC Offers Opportunities .....	4
First Health Law Award .....	6
HeLP Clinic Award .....	6
Law-Making at State Capitol .....	7
<b>Faculty</b>	
Promotion & Tenure .....	8
Lombardo Elected to ALI .....	9
Todres Speaks on Children's Rights.....	9
<b>HeLP Legal Services Clinic</b>	
Students Win Disability Appeal.....	10
Student Collaboration Benefits Teenager.....	10
HeLP Annual Retreat .....	11
<b>Community Engagement</b>	
Interdisciplinary Journal Club .....	12
Health Care Reform Debate.....	13
Chronic Disability through Film.....	13
<b>Faculty Highlights</b> .....	14
Faculty Positions .....	16

## Interdisciplinary by Nature

Yaniv Heled is the first law professor to be hired in the College of Law under the University's new interdisciplinary Second Century Initiative (2CI). The 2CI program is designed to build on existing strengths across the Georgia State campus and to accelerate collaborative faculty research.

"Yaniv's interdisciplinary work in intellectual property and emerging biotechnologies is an ideal fit for the College of Law and the 2CI program," says Dean Steven Kaminshine. "We are delighted to welcome him to our law faculty."

Heled studied biology and law at Tel Aviv University and worked as a clerk and teaching assistant before coming to the U.S. to pursue advanced legal studies at Columbia Law School. Before moving to Atlanta, he practiced intellectual property law with Goodwin Proctor LLP in New York City while completing his JSD at Columbia. His doctoral dissertation focused on the regulation of novel biomedical technologies.

This year Heled will teach an intellectual property survey course, a course on patent law, and a seminar on law and emerging technologies. He is already anticipating future teaching and research collaborations with other departments.

"My area of interest is interdisciplinary by nature – no pun intended," Heled says. "My approach to law is through the area of biology, and I like to think of it like

parachuting into a legal landscape: I find an interesting issue or topic that involves a development in biology or biomedical sciences – that's the parachute – and then I let it carry me into the legal landscape. Wherever I land is the legal area I need to look further into."

*Continued on page 8*



### Assistant Professor Yaniv Heled

JSD, Columbia Law School, 2011  
 LLM, Columbia Law School, 2004 (Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar)  
 LLB, Tel Aviv University, 2000  
 Undergraduate Diploma in Biology, Tel Aviv University, 2000 (magna cum laude)



## Director's Message

In addition to giving the news about our faculty and staff, this issue of our newsletter highlights the activities and accomplishments of our law students. They are engaged with our community both by holding legislative office and by working with community non-profits on proposed legislation. They take advantage of local employment and externship opportunities with government agencies such as the CDC. They successfully represent low-income clients through the HeLP Legal Services Clinic. Their awards reflect their many commitments, talents, and energy. The Center is proud to share their stories with you.

Best wishes,

*Charity Scott*

*Director, Center for Law, Health & Society*

## Jerri Nims Rooker Accepts New Position



Jerri Nims Rooker (JD '03) has accepted a new position with the Georgia Family Council (GFC). Ms. Nims Rooker will serve as GFC's Director of the Center for an Educated Georgia and Senior Advisor on Health Law and Policy. In these leadership roles, she will develop and lead initiatives to improve education and health policy for Georgians.

Ms. Nims Rooker joined the Center when it was created in 2004, serving first as Assistant Director and then as Associate Director since 2008. "The Center would not be what it is today but for her many talents, contributions, and energy," said Charity Scott, the Center's Director. "Jerri will be very much missed by our law school community, but we are also delighted for her that she has been given this tremendous and well-deserved opportunity to continue her upward career trajectory."

Over her years with the Center, Ms. Nims Rooker was responsible for designing the administrative systems for the Center's public relations, public

events, and project management. She also worked on grants and fund-raising efforts, coordinated special projects and community outreach programs, and counseled law students about the health law program and established the Carver High School mentor program.

Ms. Nims Rooker also has extensive experience in the non-profit sector, focusing on the health and education of women, youth, and children. Upon graduating in 2003 from Georgia State Law, she received the National Association of Women Lawyer's "Outstanding Graduate Award." While at the Center, she researched and lectured on human justice issues such as human trafficking.

Ms. Nims Rooker assured her Georgia State colleagues that she will not be far, and she promised to stop in when she is at the Capitol during the legislative session. The College of Law will look forward to seeing her at law school events as she is President-Elect of Law Alumni Council and at Center events as a graduate member of the Graduate Health Law Network.



JERRI NIMS ROOKER (ABOVE); FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR JERRI NIMS ROOKER

## Making the Law While Studying It

The life of a Georgia State law student can be hectic enough between classes, clubs, and other academic commitments. Imagine adding a family, a full-time job, and a seat in the Georgia General Assembly into the mix.

For Brian Thomas, a third-year law student in the part-time program, it is all in a day's work. Thomas (D - Lilburn) is the Minority Caucus Chairman in the Georgia House of Representatives and represents House District 100 in Gwinnett County. He serves on four committees: Natural Resources and Environment, Education, Ethics, and Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Thomas brings professional experience and personal passion to his work in the House. "I'm an archeologist by training," he said. "My interest in environmental issues grew out of my archeology background." Earning a PhD in Anthropology from SUNY Binghamton in 1995, his dissertation research examined African-American slave sites at former President Andrew Jackson's plantation near Nashville.

Thomas works full time managing the cultural resources practice for a national environmental services company, TRC Environmental Corporation. He is a leader in historic preservation in Georgia, having served as past president of the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists, a Board member of the American Cultural Resources Association, and Editor of the newsletter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology.

Thomas was motivated to attend law school to gain a deeper understanding of environmental law. "My work with the General Assembly making laws made me want to understand the legal system more broadly and the larger policy concerns behind legislation," he said.

Thomas also hoped that law school would enhance his understanding of his role as a state legislator. "So far, law school has given me a whole new set of eyes in my day-to-day work at the Capitol," he said.

Born in Patterson, New Jersey, Thomas grew up in Miami as the middle child in a family with four sisters. After college he served as an officer in the U.S. Army for four years, and then spent several years in the Reserves. He has held various research and teaching positions.

Thomas also focuses his legislative attention on education. "Education is the most important thing that state government does," he said. "There are no easy answers, but we're trying to protect the things that are important to Georgians, including the natural environment and quality education for Georgia's children."

"Being in politics helps to expand the world for me," reflected Thomas. "I think it's the same for all of us attending law school - ultimately it expands the world we can influence and improve."



"My view of life is really pretty simple. I think we should try to influence the part of the world that we can touch and try to make it just a little better."

-Rep. Brian Thomas (D-Lilburn), part-time 3L student



“I love the overall mission of public health at the CDC and belonging to an organization that promotes health on a global scale.”

– Donald Prather, part-time 3L student

LEFT TO RIGHT: RAYMOND LINDHOLM (JD '11), ABIGAIL FERRELL (JD '11), DONALD PRATHER, PART-TIME 3L, DANNY VINCENT, 3L. NOT PICTURED: JENNY SEWELL (JD '11), CAROLINE LAGOY SIRHAL (JD '11)

## CDC Offers a Healthy Dose of

Six Georgia State law students worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this past year. Their backgrounds, the work they did, and the paths they took to get to the CDC varied widely: one has a journalism background, another is a concert violinist, three hold master's degrees, and one has a PhD in genetics.

For three of the students, the connections they made through Georgia State Law were critical to their landing their positions at the CDC.

Jane “Danny” Vincent, 3L, worked in the CDC branch of the HHS Office of the General Counsel through the law school’s externship program. “Getting into the CDC is tough,” said Vincent. “I’ve been around public health people for seven years, and most of them started at the CDC as contractors. The College of Law has a great relationship with the CDC’s general counsel’s office through the externship program.”

As an extern, Vincent worked directly with other attorneys. Her work was

typical of a general law office practice. “I assisted with interviewing witnesses, reading depositions, and reviewing reports. I was also involved in research projects looking at state laws,” she said.

Abigail Ferrell (JD '11), began working with the CDC’s Public Health Law Program in the summer of 2010, after Georgia State graduate Rebecca Polinsky (JD '07) got to know her through the HeLP Legal Services Clinic and encouraged her to apply. After the summer internship, Ferrell was invited to remain in the program as an ORISE Research Fellow during her third year of law school. With a journalism background, she was the principal researcher and writer for the CDC’s *Public Health Law News*, a Web-based publication with over 35,000 subscribers.

“One of the first news issues I worked on involved a story about the contact lenses that Lady Gaga wore to make her pupils look larger,” said Ferrell. “The lenses are illegal in the U.S., but a lot of teenage girls buy

the lenses from internet suppliers to emulate Lady Gaga. Before working with the CDC I never would have recognized illegal contact lenses or a Lady Gaga video as a potential public health law concern.”

A professional violinist before coming to law school, Raymond Lindholm (JD '11) was encouraged to apply for a 2010 summer internship with the CDC by Lindsay Culp (JD '10) who had been a fellow classmate in the law school’s Health Legislation & Advocacy class and who is now a full-time CDC employee working in the Public Health Law Program. Lindholm was asked to continue as an ORISE Research Fellow through his last year of law school.

Undertaking a comprehensive 50-state survey of state drug laws, Lindholm investigated state responses to the recent sharp rise in prescription drug poisoning and overdose rates. “I helped author an article on seven strategic approaches to prescription drug abuses which will be submitted for publication this year,” he said.

While these three students found their way to the CDC through connections made at Georgia State Law, the other law students were already full-time employees at the CDC before enrolling in law school.

Jenny Sewell (JD '11) is a full-time Public Health Analyst in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention who has been with the CDC since 2005. She analyzes policy and program approaches to inform decision-making and resource allocation. She also monitors and analyzes state and federal legislative and administrative actions affecting public health issues.

Sewell uses both her background in public administration (MPA, University of Kentucky) and the legal skills she has learned while earning her JD degree. "Classes like administrative law, where we studied the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Freedom of Information Act, are very relevant to the work I do. I also use the non-legal skills I learned in getting my master's, such as strategic planning and organizational

theory, and my knowledge of public health learned while at the CDC."

Donald Prather, part-time 3L, is a full-time Scientific Marketing Specialist and one of two intellectual property licensing associates at the CDC. Prather holds a PhD in genetics

**"I encourage law students to go into public health work. The people at the CDC are great – they are dedicated and work hard. They are also collegial and very interested in helping young law students."**

*– Danny Vincent, 3L student*

from Harvard University. He says the most important part of his job is business and sales - the marketing of intellectual property.

"I consider my job to be one-third law, one-third business, and one-third science," Prather said. "While it is not

the classic 'public health law' side of CDC, it is definitely the practice of intellectual property law within the federal government."

Caroline Lagoy Sirhal (JD '11), is also a Public Health Analyst, having received a Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology from the University of Michigan in 2004. She works full time in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Legislation in the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

As a policy analyst, Sirhal gets to see her work play out on the real-world stage. "I get a kick out of hearing about things that I have worked on in the news," she said. "For example, I was in the Office of the Chief of Staff working on flu in 2009 during the H1N1 pandemic. It was all flu, all the time. My husband and I traveled to Ireland for Christmas, and we saw CDC flyers and brochures in the airports and public areas in Europe. It made me realize that CDC truly has a global impact."

# Opportunities for Law Students

## Fellowship Opportunities

Law students who want to work with the CDC or other federal agencies after graduation should consider applying for one of the federal government's leadership-development fellowship programs.

Caroline Lagoy Sirhal (JD '11) joined the CDC as a Presidential Management Fellow. "PMF is one of the easiest ways to be hired into the government," Sirhal said "The CDC has a very strong network of PMF alumni from which to draw advice and opportunities for growth and advancement."

Jenny Sewell (JD '11) initially joined the Department of Health and Human Services through the Emerging Leader Program, another two-year fellowship program. "In my first year with HHS, I rotated through a number of offices to learn about the Department as well as gain communication and leadership skills," said Sewell. "When my rotations ended, I started full time with the CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health."

For more information about the Presidential Management Fellowship program, see <http://www.pmf.gov/>.

For more information about the HHS Emerging Leader program, see <http://hhsu.learning.hhs.gov/elp/>.



RAYMOND LINDHOLM (JD '11)

## First Health Law Award

Raymond J. Lindholm (JD '11) received the first Health Law Award given by the College of Law during Honors Day celebrations this past spring. This generous monetary award was made possible by the Health Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia, which inaugurated the award this year for the law schools at Georgia State University and Emory University. The award is given to the law student who demonstrates outstanding achievement in the area of health law.

Lindholm's involvement with health law spanned his course work, extracurricular activities, independent research, and work experience. In addition to numerous health law classes, he undertook an independent study project which culminated in a paper on combatting childhood obesity through laws affecting the built environments of low-income and minority children. The paper is slated for publication this year in the international scientific journal *Reviews on Environmental Health*.

As a 3L student, Lindholm coached two law school teams competing in the National Health Law Moot Court competition, coordinating their practice rounds and securing health law attorneys to help judge them.

For most of his third year, Lindholm worked part-time with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (see story on page 4). Lindholm's research was highlighted at the CDC's Public Health Grand Rounds during its program "Prescription Drug Overdoses: An American Epidemic," which was simulcast around the globe.

Lindholm has been pursuing a Master of Science in Health Administration at the Robinson College of Business since his graduation in May. "I am very honored by this award, and deeply appreciate all the support shown me by the College of Law and the Health Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia."

## HeLP Clinic Award Recipient Reflects on Public Interest Law in Action

Jena Jolissaint, 3L, wrote the following reflections upon learning that she would receive the 2011 HeLP Legal Services Clinic award for outstanding achievement.

"Working with the HeLP Legal Services Clinic has been the most profound experience that I have had in law school. I came into the Clinic with a highly theoretical idea of how to practice law, and I am now a better legal researcher, writer, and advocate.

I was fortunate to have two of my Supplemental Security Income (SSI) appeal cases go to hearing. My partners and I researched and wrote letter briefs that were submitted to an Administrative Law Judge in support of these appeals. I also wrote fact memos, letters, and case analyses, all of which were thoroughly commented upon by my supervising attorneys. I interviewed and counseled real clients and did fact investigation. I learned how

to prepare opening and closing statements, do a direct examination, cross a medical expert, and compile a trial notebook, all before ever stepping foot in a Litigation class. I worked closely with medical professionals to understand complex medical issues and come up with creative legal arguments. We were ultimately successful at both SSI hearings.

Making a concrete difference in the lives of two medically fragile children reminded me of why I came to law school in the first place: to address social problems such as poverty and health disparities by using the law to help underserved and marginalized individuals. The opportunity to work side-by-side with experienced attorneys who are equally committed to the client and my clinical education have undoubtedly made me a better student and have helped me develop skills that I will take with me when I graduate."



ASSOCIATE DEAN ROY SOBELSON AND JENA JOLISSAINT, 3L



HEALTH LEGISLATION & ADVOCACY CLASS AT THE CAPITOL. LEFT TO RIGHT: PROFESSOR SYLVIA CALEY; JAMES LEE (JD '11); AMBER HUTCHERSON (3L, VISITING STUDENT); MELISSA HABERLEN (JD '11); SHANNON PRESH A (3L); JENA JOLISSAINT (3L); PAUL MELLO (STUDENT, MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE); NOVELLA TASCOE (3L); BETH BACHMAN (3L).

## Students Learn First-Hand About Law-Making at the State Capitol

Professor Sylvia B. Caley, Associate Clinical Professor and co-Director of the HeLP Legal Services Clinic, offers law students a unique opportunity to research and draft legislation for real clients to help them solve real problems. If the students are lucky, they even get to see these bills become the law of Georgia.

In Caley's two-semester Health Legislation and Advocacy course, law and other graduate students are paired with non-profit organizations in the community who are grappling with problems they have determined might be good candidates for legislative solutions.

"My goal in offering this course is to introduce students to the role of the legislature in developing law and social policy in Georgia," said Caley.

Students meet with their not-for-profit community partners in the fall semester for an initial consultation meeting. Students then conduct research and draft a client memo explaining the legal context of the client's problem and possible legislative solutions. If the clients approve the work, they can decide to introduce the students' final product as a bill during the legislative session the following spring.

In the spring semester, the students spend most of their time at the Capitol. This time may be spent supporting community partners in their meetings with state legislators about sponsorship of the bills, observing subcommittee meetings, or observing general legislative sessions.

This past year, the students' work with community partner Children's Healthcare of Atlanta resulted in passage of a bill that raised the age from six to eight years when children can stop using booster seats in cars in Georgia. Other community partners included the Georgia Advocacy Office, a non-profit disability organization which was seeking to amend the appeals process for Medicaid patients, and Georgians for a Healthy Future, which sought to address the implementation of health care reform in Georgia.

"The students' assistance in the legislative process was invaluable," said Cindy Zeldin, Executive Director of Georgians for a Healthy Future. "As students they do not lobby for these bills, but they really support our efforts to make better laws for a healthier Georgia."

"Working with my community partner was both challenging and rewarding, as well as different from any other experience in law school. While clinics teach you to counsel and advise clients, working with our community partner was instead a collaborative effort with other professionals, each bringing different skills to the table."

— Ryan Hussey (JD '10)

## Heled Joins Law Faculty

*Continued from page 1*

"Yaniv is joining the new 2CI cluster of law and business faculty whose research interests focus on law, policy, and ethics in the regulation of health care and life sciences industries," notes Charity Scott, Director of the Center for Law, Health & Society, who collaborated on the 2CI proposal that created this three-faculty cluster with Institute of Health Administration in the Robinson College of Business.

In addition to having the 2CI support, Heled says coming to Atlanta and GSU was his first choice for other reasons as well: not only does he have family here, he's also happy to return to warmer weather - Atlanta is on about the same latitude as his hometown of Tel Aviv.

"This was always my long-term goal, to make it to academia," Heled says. "I feel very fortunate to have made it, especially to Georgia State."



## Faculty Approved for Promotion and Tenure

Georgia State University President Mark Becker approved the College of Law's promotion and tenure recommendations for Professors Bliss, Caley, Hensel, and Wolf. By the President's approval, these actions became final and took effect July 1.



LISA R. BLISS

**Professors Lisa R. Bliss and Sylvia B. Caley** have been promoted to the rank of Associate Clinical Professor. They were also awarded presumptively renewable long-term contracts under the law school's policies involving clinical faculty. These contracts are analogous to tenure in providing job security for clinical faculty. Bliss and Caley have also been promoted administratively to co-Directors of the HeLP Legal Services Clinic.



SYLVIA B. CALEY

**Professors Wendy F. Hensel and Leslie E. Wolf** have been promoted to the rank of Professor. Wolf was simultaneously recommended for the award of tenure. Hensel had been awarded tenure previously.



WENDY F. HENSEL

In extending well-deserved congratulations to these faculty members, Dean Steven Kaminshine said, "We are incredibly fortunate to have such talented professors on our faculty. They all contribute enormously the law school's strong reputation for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and professional engagement."



LESLIE E. WOLF

"These faculty members represent a broad range of health law interests at the College of Law," said Professor Charity Scott, Director of the Center for Law, Health & Society. "They reflect nationally recognized depth of expertise and experience in the fields of health and social justice, public health law, law and medicine, bioethics, and disability law."

Kaminshine also thanked the law school's Promotion and Tenure Co-Chairs, Professors Andi Curcio and Anne Emanuel, for all of their hard work in coordinating this year's P&T process.



PROFESSOR PAUL A. LOMBARDO

## Lombardo Elected to ALI Membership

Professor Paul A. Lombardo has been elected to membership in the prestigious American Law Institute. ALI was founded in 1923 with the mission of clarifying and improving the law.

“I am honored to join the American Law Institute,” said Lombardo. “The Institute’s membership has included many prominent leaders of the profession, and it is humbling to be chosen to work within such an illustrious group in efforts to improve the law.”

Among the most well-known projects of ALI are the *Restatements of the Law* that have been written and updated by the nation’s leading lawyers and legal academics over the years, including in the fields of agency, conflicts of law, contracts, judgments, property, restitution, torts, and trusts.

Lombardo was elected along with 42 other new members from across the country. “I am sure our newest members will find their involvement in our work to be both professionally and personally rewarding,” said ALI President Roberta Cooper Ramo. “I look forward to the new enthusiasm and perspectives they will bring to our activities.”

Dean Steven Kaminshine said Lombardo’s election to ALI membership reflects his prolific legal scholarship and national reputation as a leading expert in health law and bioethics. “We are delighted that Paul will be contributing to the important work of ALI. This honor is exceptionally well deserved.”

## Todres Speaks on Children’s Rights in Post-Disaster Settings

Professor Jonathan Todres has been invited to speak on children’s rights in post-disaster settings at numerous recent conferences across the country.

“In post-disaster settings, nearly all rights children have are in jeopardy. Protecting children under these circumstances, when infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, is particularly challenging,” Todres explained. “But this is precisely when human rights law has the greatest potential value. It’s meant to ensure rights and well-being of children when they most need protection.”

In his talks, Todres focused on health and education rights as well as the right to a safe and secure environment. He explained that although reconstruction efforts can take years in the best-case scenarios, even short interruptions in access to health care and

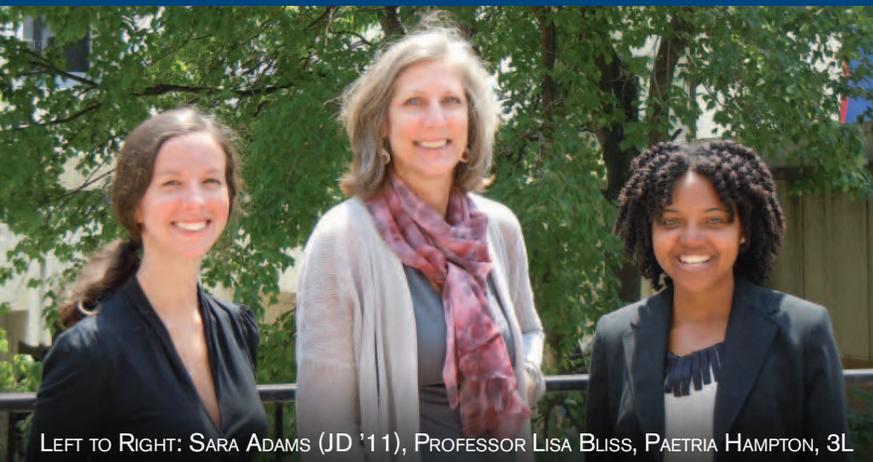
education can have lifelong consequences. “The time-sensitive nature of children’s rights requires that they be given much greater priority,” said Todres.

He also highlighted the security issues in camps for internally displaced persons, noting that girls in particular are at heightened risk of sexual violence even in their day-to-day activities, such as when walking to latrines or simply staying in their tents to care for younger siblings.

“Government entities, researchers, and practitioners need to partner with one another,” said Todres. “A comprehensive response that draws on everyone’s skills and expertise is the only way we will successfully tackle such extraordinary challenges.”



PROFESSOR JONATHAN TODRES



LEFT TO RIGHT: SARA ADAMS (JD '11), PROFESSOR LISA BLISS, PAETRIA HAMPTON, 3L

## Collaboration Between Law and Medical Students Benefits Teenager with a Disability

Law students Rachel Ashe, 3L and Caitlin Herndon, 3L, learned how important a partnership between the medical and legal professions can be as they worked on a HeLP Legal Services Clinic case recently.

Their client was a high school student with cerebral palsy. They were seeking to have the teenager's school district reevaluate his Individualized Education Plan (IEP). An IEP is a written document that identifies the strengths and weaknesses of students with disabilities, contains goals for them to work towards, and outlines any services they need in school.

The teenager had not made progress on his IEP goals in nearly two years and did not have sufficient services in his IEP to help him progress. "Our client had lost the ability to count to 25 and to write his name," said Herndon.

Ashe and Herndon and two fourth-year medical students from Morehouse School of Medicine, Curtis Jamison and Tiffany Gartrell, prepared to advocate for a plan that would meet the student's needs. During the IEP meeting with the school district, Jamison explained how people with cerebral palsy lose motor skills more quickly than people without it. While they can recover some lost skills, it takes them longer to do so than people without cerebral palsy.

Jamison's specialized medical knowledge and advocacy proved crucial to obtaining academic goals directed at helping the student relearn these skills. "As a result of this interdisciplinary meeting, the teenager has more realistic, specific, and measurable goals on his IEP than he has had in years," said Emily F. Suski, the Clinical Supervising Attorney who supervised the students.

**"In the HeLP Clinic, law and medical students get to see how, by working together in an interdisciplinary team, they can benefit their clients and patients in ways they would not have been able to do as successfully had they worked on the case with only the skills from their own professional background."**

*– Emily F. Suski, HeLP Clinical Supervising Attorney*

## HeLP Clinic Students Win Disability Appeal After Five Years

In 2006 the Social Security Administration (SSA) denied a young boy's application for disability benefits despite his struggles with epilepsy, asthma, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, failure to thrive, and bipolar disorder. This past spring, HeLP Clinic students secured for him both back benefits worth almost \$38,000 as well as ongoing monthly benefits.

The mother had sought disability benefits in 2006 for her son under

case in the 2010-2011 academic year and worked on it with Sara Adams, (JD '11). "An unfavorable decision in 2008 was very disappointing, but the HeLP Clinic didn't give up," said Hampton.

On later appeal, the SSA Appeals Council found that relevant evidence had not been addressed in the judge's 2008 decision and remanded the case for a new hearing, which was scheduled for spring 2011.

**"Sometimes administrative appeals take a long time. Student teamwork across successive Clinic classes is crucial to ensuring successful outcomes. All who worked on this case deserve kudos for hanging in there and never losing focus or faith in the case."**

*– Lisa R. Bliss, Associate Clinical Professor and Co-Director of the HeLP Clinic*

the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which is a federal needs-based assistance program for the aged, blind, and permanently disabled. When her initial application was denied, the mother enlisted the HeLP Legal Services Clinic for assistance.

The case suffered many set-backs as it wound its way through the SSA administrative process. "Previous HeLP Clinic students had dedicated countless hours to developing the case and preparing for a hearing in 2008," said Paetria Hampton, 3L who picked up the

The challenge in this case was proving that the boy met the SSI definition of disability. "Though the boy had a number of diagnoses, none quite fit into the legal definitions of disability established by SSA," said Adams. The students argued that his combined conditions functionally equaled the legal definition for disability.

After reviewing supplemental materials prepared by the students, the SSA recently rendered a fully favorable decision based on the record alone without the need for another hearing.



LEFT TO RIGHT: SHAMECIA POWERS (HeLP LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC, STAFF); EMILY F. SUSKI (HeLP LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC, FACULTY); LISA R. BLISS (HeLP LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC, FACULTY); DR. ROBERT PETTIGNANO (MEDICAL DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE OF ATLANTA AT HUGHES SPALDING); PAYAL KAPOOR (HeLP ATTORNEY); SYLVIA B. CALEY (HeLP LEGAL SERVICES CLINIC, FACULTY); TINA SARKAR (HeLP ATTORNEY); JESSICA BRAUNSTEIN (CHILDREN'S LEGAL COUNSEL); ALLISON STILES (HeLP ATTORNEY); CHARITY SCOTT (CENTER FOR LAW, HEALTH & SOCIETY); JENNIFER MALINOVSKY (NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH LLP; HeLP ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR); SUSAN McLAREN (INDEPENDENT HEALTH SERVICES CONSULTANT); AMANDA STYLES (ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, STAFF); STEVE GOTTLIEB (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ATLANTA LEGAL AID SOCIETY)

## HeLP Holds Successful Annual Retreat

The sixth annual day-long retreat of the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) offered HeLP's partner representatives, staff, and the Advisory Council Chair an opportunity to review the successes and activities of the previous year and to discuss the challenges and priorities for the upcoming year.

"There is always a packed agenda with a lot to review and discuss," said Sylvia B. Caley, HeLP's Director and Associate Clinical Professor. "These retreats are highly productive ways to ensure that we are staying on track with our mission and goals, to identify priority areas for development for the next year, and to engage in strategic planning."

HeLP's three partnering organizations are Georgia State University's College Law, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, which operates three tertiary care children's hospitals in Atlanta. HeLP provides public health legal services to low-income children and their families who are patients at Children's hospitals.

Through the HeLP Legal Services Clinic at Georgia State Law, which is co-directed by Caley and Professor Lisa R. Bliss, law students work with medical students and residents from Emory and Morehouse medical schools and other health-related

graduate and professional students in nursing, public health, and social work.

In addition to its legal services and educational programs, HeLP has an advocacy component and a research and evaluation component. "Given the interdisciplinary and multi-faceted nature of HeLP, it's a complex partnership that requires a high degree of cooperation and collaboration among the partners," said Bliss.

Susan A. McLaren, MPH, FACHE, is a health services researcher who is the independent evaluator for HeLP and prepares its annual report. "HeLP accomplished a lot in this past year. They handled a record number of client cases (614 active cases) and expanded significantly the educational opportunities for interdisciplinary graduate and professional students in the metro area," said McLaren.

A strategic action plan was developed for next year as an outgrowth of the annual retreat and McLaren's report. The plan includes priorities for continuing to diversify the Advisory Council, improving data collection, securing adequate funding to sustain operations, supporting the health and well-being of all those who work at HeLP, identifying research and scholarship opportunities, and promoting program awareness among leadership groups at Children's and with the public.

The HeLP office at Children's at Hughes Spalding hospital was honored recently as a "Best Practice" by The Joint Commission, which accredits hospitals nationally.

The Health Law Partnership (HeLP) is an interdisciplinary community collaboration between health care providers and lawyers to address the multiple social and economic conditions that affect low-income children's health. One of HeLP's core components is interdisciplinary education of graduate professional students through the HeLP Legal Services Clinic at the College of Law.

# Community Engagement

LEFT TO RIGHT: ELISABETH BURGESS, DIRECTOR, GERONTOLOGY INSTITUTE; CHRIS PARKER, ASSOCIATE PROJECT DIRECTOR, GEORGIA HEALTH POLICY CENTER; HOLLY AVEY, SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, GEORGIA HEALTH POLICY CENTER; DANIEL CRIMMINS, PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES; JONATHAN TODRES, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COLLEGE OF LAW; WILLIAM CUSTER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, INSTITUTE OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, J. MACK ROBINSON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS; KYMBERLE STERLING, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH; NAIMA WONG, SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, GEORGIA HEALTH POLICY CENTER; CHARITY SCOTT, PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR LAW, HEALTH & SOCIETY; RANDALL HUGHES, FACULTY FELLOW, COLLEGE OF LAW



## Health Equity Journal Club Generates Interdisciplinary Dialogue

“With time and resource constraints of busy faculty, it’s often challenging to get out of our disciplinary silos. Our meetings provide a refreshing and stimulating opportunity to learn from and get to know our faculty peers across campus.”

– Charity Scott, Director, Center for Law, Health & Society

Across the Georgia State campus, faculty from a broad range of disciplines have been meeting monthly to discuss new research publications and to share their perspectives on addressing the problem of health disparities. Research has shown that people from lower socio-economic and racial and ethnic minority backgrounds have poorer health and less access to quality health care than others.

“The Health Equity Journal Club grew out of a desire to connect faculty across different fields who shared common research interests in reducing health disparities and achieving health equity,” said Professor Charity Scott, Director of the Center for Law, Health & Society, who initially organized the journal club in January 2010.

There are currently over 30 members in the journal club, with faculty from many different Colleges and disciplines, including law, health policy, sociology, public health, psychology, disability, health administration, and gerontology.

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) has been a catalyst for health disparities research at Georgia State. IPH is building a new Center for Excellence in Health Disparities Research under a five-year, \$6.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. IPH faculty members Richard Rothenberg and Michael Eriksen also led a successful Second Century Initiative proposal to build capacity in health justice research, resulting in a three-faculty cluster for IPH and the College of Law.



LEFT TO RIGHT: MEGAN DAUGHERTY (3L), STEVEN SCHAFER, RANDALL HUGHES, WILLIAM CUSTER, JASON BRING (JD '98)

## Law Students Host Experts on Health Reform

The Student Health Law Association (SHLA) hosted three prominent speakers during Law Week 2011 on “The Impact of Health Care Reform on Employers.” The program was co-sponsored by the Labor and Employment Law Society, the Public Interest Law Association, and the Business and Law Society.

Randall L. Hughes, Faculty Fellow with the Center for Law, Health & Society, moderated the discussion about the 2010 health care reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Currently, the large majority of insured Americans purchase health insurance through their employer. According to William Custer, PhD, a health economist and associate professor with Georgia State's Institute of Health Administration, “this system of employer-sponsored coverage is eroding.” Custer said that the biggest change for employers under PPACA would be the creation of health insurance exchanges, which will allow consumers to shop for a plan that meets certain cost and benefit standards from a variety of insurers through an online portal.

Jason E. Bring, a Georgia State Law graduate (JD '98) and partner with Arnall Golden Gregory LLP, said that the central change under PPACA is the individual mandate requiring that all Americans above a certain financial threshold have health insurance or pay a tax penalty.

“If the mandate is successfully challenged in court, the entire health reform legislation may fail,” said Bring.

Steven G. Schaffer, a partner with Bryan Cave LLP, said that the primary issue for employers under PPACA is the pay-or-play mandate requiring large employers to offer health insurance to their employees or pay a tax penalty. Employers face a financial penalty if they do not provide minimum essential health coverage and an employee eligible for government assistance must sign up on the health insurance exchange.

“This fascinating panel offered a wonderful conclusion to SHLA's activities this year,” said Megan Daugherty, a third-year law student and SHLA Past President who made the arrangements for the program.

## Speakers Explore Chronic Disability Through Film

The Student Health Law Association co-sponsored two speaker programs with the Center for Law, Health & Society as part of its annual *Bioethics at the Movies* noontime film festival during the spring semester.

The first film, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, depicted the story of a Frenchman who suffered from “locked-in syndrome,” which left him completely paralyzed except for movement in one eye. By blinking his one good eye to spell out alphabet letters, he dictated a book about his experiences on which the film was based.

Melody Moore Jackson, PhD, an Associate Professor in the College of Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology, led the discussion of locked-in syndrome and new technologies that allow patients

to communicate with others despite their physical limitations.

“One audience member described going from feeling despair over the catastrophic consequences of this condition as depicted in the film to feeling optimistic about how much can be done to promote these patients' quality of life after listening to Dr. Jackson,” said Charity Scott, Director of the Center for Law, Health & Society, who moderated both programs.

The second program showed excerpts from the HBO documentary, *Wartorn 1861 - 2010*, which examined the lingering and often devastating psychological effects of combat on war veterans.

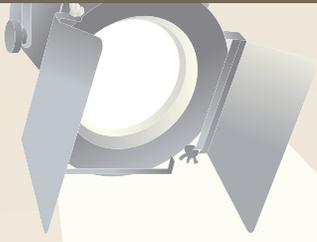
Diane M. Janulis, JD, MSN, an attorney

with King & Spalding in Atlanta, led the discussion of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among war veterans and how the legal community can help U.S. vets suffering from this condition get access to treatment and services. She offers pro bono legal services to U.S. veterans in Georgia suffering from PTSD.

“A law student in the audience, whose brother currently serves in the military and who she fears is not getting adequate mental health treatment, cried tears of relief after hearing Ms. Janulis speak about the resources that are available to help veterans and military personnel,” said Scott.

*The videos of these speakers' presentations are available at <http://law.gsu.edu/6176.html>.*

# Faculty Highlights



## Center for Law, Health & Society

### Center Faculty



#### Yaniv Heled

Professor Heled was awarded a Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD) degree from Columbia University School of Law. He presented his forthcoming paper “Patents vs. Statutory Exclusivities in Generic Biological Pharmaceuticals—Do We Really Need Both?” at conferences at Loyola University Chicago and DePaul University. He is currently developing courses in the areas of law and technology and intellectual property and is continuing his research on new types of intellectual property rights.



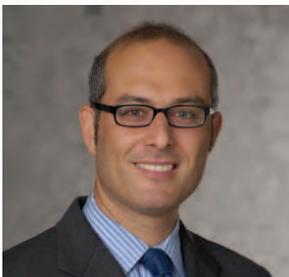
#### Paul A. Lombardo

Professor Lombardo visited Guatemala in May for the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues to investigate controversial studies on sexually transmitted infections carried out there by the U.S. Public Health Service in the 1940s. He spoke at several Universities, including Southern Illinois, Harvard, California at Davis and Texas Tech. He was interviewed by USA Today, the BBC, the Associated Press, NPR and the CBS Evening News.



#### Charity Scott

Professor Scott has been promoting the use of ADR in health care settings and the teaching of ADR in law schools. On the ABA’s health law section Governing Council, she has initiated a collaborative project between the ABA health law and dispute resolution sections to develop interdisciplinary educational programming. She spoke on using improvisation comedy training in ADR classes in law schools at the ABA dispute resolution section’s annual meeting.



#### Jonathan Todres

Professor Todres published “At the Crossroads: Children’s Rights and the U.S. Government” (*Human Rights in the United States: Beyond Exceptionalism*, S. Hertel & K. Libal eds., Cambridge Univ. Press, 2011), and “A Child Rights-Based Approach to Reconstruction in Haiti” (*Intercultural Human Rights Law Review* 2011). He presented papers recently at the University of Michigan Law School, SMU School of Law, University of Denver, and the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting.



#### Leslie E. Wolf

Professor Wolf gave presentations of her research at the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs annual meeting, a conference on the globalization of health care (with Aaron Levine, Georgia Tech) at Harvard Law School, and the annual Health Law Professors conference (with COL Professor, Wendy Hensel). She also conducted webinars with state, local, and tribal health officials as part of her work on the CDC Ethics Subcommittee.

## HeLP Clinic Faculty



**Lisa R. Bliss**

Professor Bliss recently spoke about Interdisciplinary Education at the 6th Worldwide Conference of the Global Alliance for Justice Education and the 9th International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference in Valencia, Spain. She discussed implementing Best Practices in Legal Education at the CLEA New Clinician's Workshop and Interdisciplinary Diagnosis: Problem-Solving Client Matters in Collaboration with Medical Professionals to Achieve Client-Centered Solutions at the AALS Clinical Legal Education Conference in Seattle.



**Sylvia B. Caley**

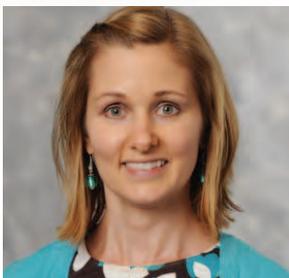
Professor Caley presented at the International Conference on Health, Wellness, and Society and at a combined meeting of Global Access to Justice Education and the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education. Students enrolled in her Health Legislation and Advocacy course performed research and drafting services on proposed legislation to increase the age that children must be protected in booster seats that gained passage and was signed into law by the Governor.



**Emily F. Suski**

Supervising Attorney Suski continued her work co-teaching the HeLP Clinic in the Spring 2011 semester and supervised 8 students. She also made presentations on education law at the Marcus Autism Center and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite and Hughes Spalding. This fall she is supervising an MSW student who will work in the clinic. She currently is working on co-authoring an article analyzing the values of clinical pedagogy.

## Law Faculty Affiliates



**Jessica D. Gabel**

Professor Gabel published "Forensiphilia: Is the Public Fascination with Forensic Science a Love Affair or a Fatal Attraction?" in 36 *New Eng. J. Crim. & Civ. Confinement* 233 (2010) and "Probable Cause from Probable Bonds: A Genetic Tattle Tale from Forensic DNA Searching" in 21 *Hasting Women's L. J.* 3 (Winter 2010). She spoke recently on "Genetic Sleuthing and Genetic Snitching" in Dalian, China at the World Congress on Forensics.



**Wendy F. Hensel**

Professor Hensel published (with Professor Wolf) "Playing God: The Legality of Plans Denying Scarce Resources to People with Disabilities in Public Health Emergencies" in 63 *Fla. L. Rev.* 718 (2010) and spoke on this topic at the 2011 health law professors conference and the 2010 Lancaster, UK, Disabilities Studies Conference. She published "Vouchers for Students with Disabilities: The Future of Special Education?" in 39 *J. L. & Educ.* 291 (2010).



## Faculty Fellow



**Roberta M. Berry**

Professor Berry spoke at meetings of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, the International Conference on Ethical Issues in Biomedical Engineering, and the Health Law Professors Conference. She was Guest Editor for a global bioethics issue of *HealthCare Ethics Committee Forum*. She served on the NSF site visit team for a synthetic biology center at the University of California-Berkeley and joined the Education Advisory Committee of the NSF-funded National Center for Professional and Research Ethics.



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## Center Faculty & Staff

**Charity Scott**, Director and Catherine C. Henson Professor

**Yaniv Heled**, Assistant Professor

**Paul A. Lombardo**, Bobby Lee Cook Professor

**Jonathan Todres**, Associate Professor

**Leslie E. Wolf**, Professor

**Amy L. Grover**, Administrative Coordinator

## HeLP Legal Services Clinic

**Lisa R. Bliss**, Associate Clinical Professor and Co-Director of Clinic

**Sylvia B. Caley**, Director of HeLP, Associate Clinical Professor, and Co-Director of Clinic

**Emily F. Suski**, Clinical Supervising Attorney

**Shamecia D. Powers**, Administrative Coordinator

## Law Faculty Affiliates

**Jessica D. Gabel**, Assistant Professor

**Wendy F. Hensel**, Professor

## Faculty Fellows

**Roberta M. Berry**, Georgia Institute of Technology

**Randall L. Hughes**, Of Counsel, Bryan Cave Powell Goldstein LLP

## Faculty Positions Open

The College of Law seeks two tenure-track faculty with the following expertise:

1. Health law, with a research focus on health business regulation, corporate law and compliance, and ethics of health care businesses and organizations
2. Health equity, with legal background consistent with a research focus on health justice and reducing health disparities (e.g., health law, administrative law, public law, social welfare law)

For information, please visit <http://law.gsu/recruitment> or contact Professor Charity Scott at [recruitment2ci@gsu.edu](mailto:recruitment2ci@gsu.edu).

