

JUSTICE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08









EBCLC'S FUTURE: **OUR ALUMS**



The East Bay Community Law Center's 20th Anniversary Annual Report is not just an opportunity to thank our remarkable community of supporters, it is also a chance to reflect on the evolution and growth of this outstanding organization. In this report, we highlight EBCLC's alums, over 1,000 of whom have graduated from our clinical training program since 1988. Law students and recent graduates created EBCLC and have always played a central role in EBCLC's development. Our students and alums not only make it possible to provide excellent services to more clients, they also infuse EBCLC with their energy, brilliance, and passion for justice.

In this report, you will read about EBCLC alums who came to the law center and never left! Eight of our 15 supervising attorneys are EBCLC graduates. You will also read about alums who work in every sector of the legal profession—from public interest to corporate defense—and for each of them, EBCLC made a significant impact on their lives, careers, or outlooks. We have heard from many alums that EBCLC's focus on *learning through service and reflection* created an environment where they could

gain skills and substantive knowledge, but also explore issues of professional ethics and personal morals that arise through practicing law. Some alums told us that they were forever changed by working directly with clients and seeing clearly the challenges facing those living in poverty.

EBCLC's alums are crucial to serving EBCLC's clients, and YOU are crucial to EBCLC's ability to provide JUSTICE THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY. The support of individuals, law firms, corporations, foundations, government agencies, and the UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), allows EBCLC to continue providing legal training and services in this time of economic crisis and political uncertainty. I can not thank you enough for your unwavering support.

As we look back on the past 20 years, we are proud of EBCLC's accomplishments on behalf of low-income clients. As we look forward to the challenges and possibilities ahead, we know it will take all of us—EBCLC, our partners and supporters, our friends and alums—working together to increase justice and to make our communities more secure, productive, healthy, and hopeful. Thank you for your contributions to EBCLC's efforts.

Following are stories about a handful of alums who spent a semester or more working at EBCLC on behalf of low-income clients and communities. More than 1,000 law students have interned at EBCLC during the past 20 years, and we regularly hear from hundreds of alums who keep us updated on their work and whereabouts. From Anchorage to Des Moines, Hawai'i to New York, Denmark to Tanzania, EBCLC alums are scattered far and wide and work in every legal (and nonlegal) field imaginable. For many, EBCLC continues to be a touchstone marking a time when they practiced being the advocates that they hoped to become. Our alums were inspired by the clients and inspiring to their supervisors, who are constantly made better teachers and lawyers because of the energy and commitment of EBCLC students. The East Bay Community Law Center is grateful to have been a part of the lives of our alums, and we are even more grateful that our alums are still part of EBCLC.



Ann O'Leary is the founding Executive Director of the new Berkeley Center on Health, Economic & Family Security (Berkeley CHEFS) at Berkeley Law. Ann previously served as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Francisco, law clerk for the Honorable John T. Noonan, Jr., legislative director for Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and in several capacities in the Clinton White House. Ann sits on the boards of Public Advocates and the Bay Area American Constitution Society Chapter. In law school, Ann was a student in EBCLC's Income Support Clinic, served as a student representative on EBCLC's board of directors, and was the 2005 recipient of the Sax Prize for Excellence in Clinical Advocacy, Berkeley Law's highest clinical honor.

"Before law school, I worked in the Clinton administration and in the United States Senate on children and family policy, including welfare reform. I knew first-hand that the goal of the 1996 welfare reform bill was to help women and families transition from government assistance to meaningful and sustainable jobs. However, my experience with a client in EBCLC's Income Support practice helped me to understand the unforeseen impact of policy changes on the people those policies are designed to help.

At EBCLC, I worked with a limited English proficient client who was told she was no longer eligible for welfare because she reached the 60-month time limit. She was working at a low-paying factory job while on aid, reporting her income, and receiving minimal cash assistance and health benefits. However, she was told she "timed off" welfare just weeks after she had been laid off from her factory job. Just when she needed welfare benefits the most—to serve as a bridge to securing another job—she found that she was no longer eligible.

Welfare-to-work time limits were not designed to punish those who work to support their families, yet this was what happened to my client. As my supervisor, Ed Barnes, and I worked to save our client's financial support, we also transformed this case into a legislative effort. Working with a coalition of former welfare recipients, we drafted the CalWORKS Bill of Rights (AB 503, sponsored by Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (D-MountainView). While the political climate was ultimately unfavorable for the bill's passage, the experience of seeing the full circle of policy reform—from federal legislation to local implementation to individual impact—was eye-opening and has informed my approach at Berkeley CHEFS, where we hope to work with EBCLC to engage the community directly in the creation of policy reforms." ANN O'LEARY

Purvi Shah grew up in Florida and, after law school, she returned to her home state armed with a stellar legal education from Berkeley Law and a New Voices Fellowship to work with low-income communities on affordable housing and disaster-related matters at Legal Services of Florida. In law school, Purvi participated in the Community Economic Justice practice at EBCLC for four semesters, where she developed legal skills and explored problemsolving strategies. Purvi also embraced the clinical education component of EBCLC's dual mission. In Florida, Purvi has replicated EBCLC's community-based clinical training model, and she is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Miami School of Law's Community Economic Development & Design Clinic.

"I knew before going into law school that I would pursue a public interest legal career working with the diverse community that I was from in Miami. To me, law is a powerful tool that is best used in the service of justice and those who have been historically disenfranchised. Working in the Community Economic Justice Practice at EBCLC helped me to focus my efforts by presenting a dynamic model of community lawyering. Margaretta Lin (CEJ Practice Director) addressed issues of economic injustice with a collaborative community-empowerment approach that brought together disparate partners—community organizers, local government, developers, and residents—to solve problems facing people living in poverty. EBCLC's clinical teaching component encouraged law students to learn through working on actual cases and projects, but also to care about injustice and to commit to finding compassionate and creative solutions to existing economic disparities. EBCLC served not only as an inspiration for my current work, EBCLC staff have provided ample training and teaching materials that have made my project possible." PURVI SHAH



Kathi Pugh has been active with EBCLC since the very beginning. As a first-year law student, she was one of a handful of students in cofounding the Berkeley Community Law Center. At the time, Kathi was an elected Commissioner to the City of Berkeley's Rent Stabilization Board so she was able to secure the support and some initial funding from the City. Kathi was originally on the first Board of Directors for EBCLC and joined the board again in 2007.

In 1990, Kathi received her joint JD/MBA from Boalt Hall and the Haas School of Business. Since graduating, she has been at Morrison & Foerster where she has been the firmwide Pro Bono Counsel since 1995. In this position, she is responsible for administering all aspects of the firm's extensive pro bono program. She and her husband, Josh Maddox, live in Berkeley where they enjoy sailing on the San Francisco Bay and bike riding in off-leash dog areas with their two tenacious Terriers, Rosie and Fannie.



"From my experience on the rent board. I knew how vital it was since Berkeley did not have a free legal clinic assisting tenants as well as others in need. I also was appalled at the lack of clinical opportunities for the Boalt law students. I felt like the law school had a moral obligation to give back to the community. I am so proud of how far EBCLC has come in the past 20 years and encouraged that Berkeley Law has now fully embraced the clinical program. It's a win-win-win-for the people, the community, and the law school." KATHI PUGH

Samson Asiyanbi was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria, the youngest of five children. At fifteen, his family moved to Houston, Texas, and he later graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with bachelor's degrees in Government and Economics and a minor in African and African-American Studies. Samson began Berkeley Law in 2005, where he was active in Law Students of African Descent, California Law Review, and the Coalition for Diversity. Samson recently began a post-graduate fellowship to work at the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama. In law school, Samson was a member of the Clean Slate Clinic at EBCLC in the spring of 2007.



"The clinic reignited my passion to use my law degree to serve others. I have humble roots, but I've also been fortunate and had more opportunities than most. Clean Slate reminded me of this fact. The clinic began to teach me how to work with indigent clients, both as an advocate and as an ally. It taught me the value of progressive lawyering and the need to avoid the attendant pitfalls. Our clients helped me understand how thin the line is between a criminal record and a clean one, and that those of us without a record are no more righteous or deserving. EBCLC values relationships with clients, and my supervisors (Margaret Richardson, Eliza Hersh, and River Abeje) never relented in inculcating this value. The seminar allowed the clinical students to grow together and to vet our own beliefs. I am more confident about my lawyering skills because of my EBCLC pedigree." SAMSON ASIYANBI

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1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Student Steering Committee (SSC) forms	501(c)(3) non-profit status obtained	 Bernida Reagan becomes founding Executive Director Berkeley Community Law Center (BCLC) opens its doors September 26 Services include Housing assistance and Welfare advocacy 	Loma Prieta Earthquake Relief	HIV/AIDS Law Project Homeless Action Center	Housing Eviction study 100th law student trained
		Budget = \$118,314; staff			

of 3

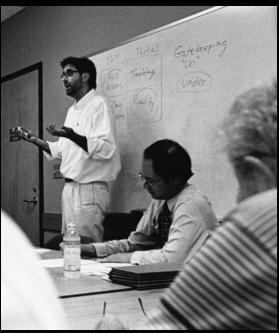


1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Boalt Hall financial support	Budget = \$460,551; staff of 8	Tenant Workshops Legal Services Development Collaborative	HIV/Homeless Outreach Project Community Economic	Welfare "Reform" Swift Report to Boalt	Family Care Network 250th law student	Name change: East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC)
			Development	Faculty	trained	Budget = \$924,905; staff of 13









1999

Family Advocacy and Services Team (FAST)

HIV Back-to-Work Initiative

Low Income Eviction Project

2000

Bay Area Construction Sector Intervention Collaborative

AIDS Lanka Project

Regional Nonprofit Pro Bono Initiative

2001

UC Chancellor's Award

Suitcase Clinic Legal Services

People's Credit Union opens

500th law student trained

2002

Jeff Selbin becomes second Executive Director

ABA Gambrell Professionalism Award

State Bar of California Loren Miller Award

2003

HIV/AIDS Immigration Project

Budget = \$1,630,043, staff of 21

East Bay Community Law Center's 15th Anniversary Celebration









2004

Worker's Rights Collaborative

Berkeley Community Award

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program

750th law student trained

2005

Clean Slate Clinic

Class action lawsuit on behalf of low-income tenants

Kick-off of Building for Justice Campaign

8-year affiliation agreement with Boalt Hall

2006

Medical-Legal Partnership with Children's Hospital

West Oakland Train Station collaborative

Building campaign raises \$3.25 million

Purchase and renovation of new building

2007

Tirien Steinbach becomes third Executive Director

Move to new offices at 2921 Adeline Street in Berkeley

Community Legal Access Services Site (CLASS) opens at old Shattuck Avenue location

Victory in Pacific Renaissance case

2008

Children's Health Justice Policy Advocacy Project

1,000th law student trained

Budget = \$2,812,544, staff of 29

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In 2007-2008, EBCLC's practice groups worked harder than ever to meet the growing need for services and the increasing desire for hands-on clinical legal education. Over 100 law students worked with clients in one of our six programs, where we served more than 7,000 low-income members of the East Bay community. Following are some of the highlights

Clean Slate



The Clean Slate Practice provides legal information and assistance to people with prior criminal records who have paid their debt to society and now are trying to successfully reintegrate in the community. Through policy advocacy and direct services, the goal of the program is to reduce recidivism and promote societal reentry by removing civil barriers to jobs, education, housing, and civic participation. This year, practice director Eliza Hersh (Berkeley Law, '05), along with staff attorney River Abeje, Boalt Bridge Fellow Meredith Desautels (Berkeley Law, '08), intake specialist Serina Rankins, and their students served clients at our two court-based clinic sites in Oakland and Hayward.

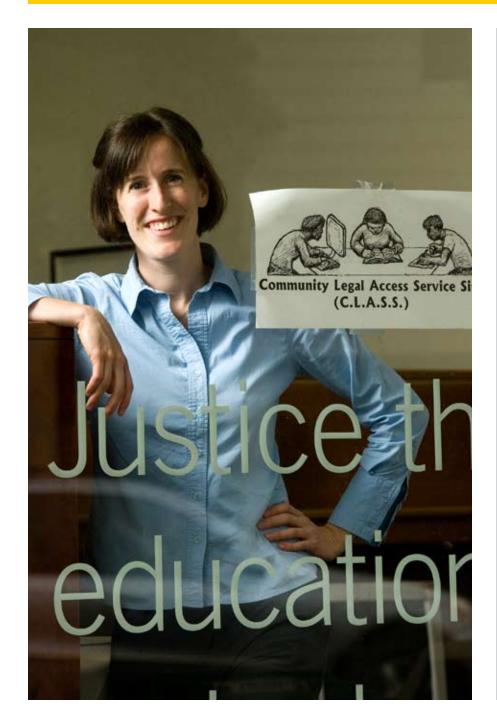
Total served from July 1, 2007– June 30, 2008 = **1,681**

Community Economic Justice (CEJ)



The Community Economic Justice Practice works alongside labor, neighborhood, and community groups, organizers, and politicians to bring meaningful, sustainable, and community-centered progressive change to Oakland's diverse working class communities. Practice director Margaretta Lin (Berkeley Law, '91), staff attorney John Engstrom, their interns, and pro bono attorneys are currently working on two important collaborative efforts: the Children's Health Justice Policy Change Project, which will address the socioeconomic roots of children's ill-health through grassroots policy development, and the 16th & Wood Street Train Station Partnership, a collaboration of community and labor organizations that will redevelop a historic train station and transform it into a community institution serving the needs of West Oakland's residents, showcase the African American and labor organizing history, provide financial and employment services, and harness the sustainability movement to directly benefit the community.

Community Legal Access Service Site (CLASS)



In August 2007, we launched the Community Legal Access Service Site at our original office at 3130 Shattuck Avenue. Directed by EBCLC attorney Elisa Della-Piana (Berkeley Law, '02), with assistance from consulting attorney Osha Neumann and project coordinator Jen Neuber, CLASS provides essential tools to enable community members to navigate the legal system, including computer stations, self-help materials, referral guides, and legal forms and instructions. CLASS's daytime self-help center is staffed by Berkeley Law students supervised by EBCLC staff and volunteer attorneys, and is open several mornings each week. Most evenings, CLASS hosts free legal workshops on topics including: Tenants' Rights, Workers' Rights, and Criminal Citation Defense.

Total served from July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 = **1,117 clients**

Health



The Health Practice is now an umbrella for three distinct projects related to law and health: (1) the HIV/AIDS Law Project, delivering holistic services to low-income, HIVpositive clients throughout Alameda County, including the Family Care Network that focuses on HIV+ women and children; (2) the Medical-Legal Partnership with Children's Hospital Oakland, serving children and families at a CHO outpatient clinic; and (3) the Health & Immigration Project, helping immigrant clients regularize their legal status to allow them to stabilize their lives and gain access to vital medical care and treatment. Clients are identified and referred by EBCLC's HIV/AIDS project and the medicallegal partnership. Through the work of director Sheila Hall (Berkeley Law, '84), staff attorneys Liam Galbreth, Linda Tam, and Yvonne Troya, and their clinical law students, the Health Practice serves as a model for multidisciplinary advocacy for lowincome individuals and families.

Total served from July 1, 2007– June 30, 2008 = **452**

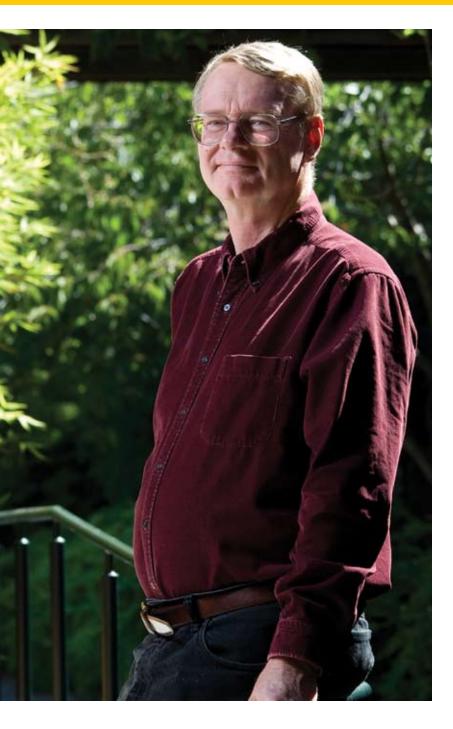
Housing



The Housing Practice, with director Laura Lane (Berkeley Law, '96), staff attorneys Jaimee Arnone Modica, Sharon Djemal, and Marc Janowitz, contract attorney Phil Rapier, intake specialist Gracie Jones, and student interns, continues to serve hundreds of clients each month through direct representation, at Tenants Rights workshops throughout the East Bay, and at self-help clinics at the Alameda County Courthouse-based Low-Income Eviction Project. Housing Practice attorneys and students have also engaged in community education, media campaigns, and policy advocacy regarding the impact of the current mortgage crisis on Alameda County tenants.

Total served from July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 = **3,833**

Income Support



The Income Support Practice, after 20 years, continues to serve welfare recipients who are facing reductions in their grants and services by the Social Services agency. The practice maintains a focus on clients with language barriers, particularly within the Southeast Asian community. Director Ed Barnes, staff attorney Luan Huynh, and clinical students have worked with clients to preserve and increase the base income provided by welfare. Additionally, they have advocated for broader policy and practice changes for low-income people, including work to push for state-wide repeal of the law that excludes children from welfare assistance if they were born when a family is already on benefits. Also, Ed Barnes successfully spearheaded an effort to block a reduction of General Assistance in Alameda County — a diminution of already meager cash and employment assistance that would have been devastating to our client community.

Total served from July 1, 2007– June 30, 2008 = **88**

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION JUNE 30, 2008*

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2008*

ASSETS		
Cash	\$	482,640
Marketable securities	Ψ	1,105,669
Grants and contracts receivable		571,249
Prepaid expenses		72,512
Other current assets		27,974
Fixed assets		2,240,560
Other assets		63,841
Total assets		4,564,443
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts payable	\$	36,001
Pension plan contribution payable		61,615
Trust funds payable		31,660
Accrued vacations		136,676
Other liabilities		20,608
Total liabilities		286,560
Unrestricted fund balance	\$	1,410,732
Temporarily restricted		599,656
Property and HPN fund balance		2,267,496
Ending fund balance	_	4,277,883
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		4,564,443

REVENUE \$ 1,653,066 Grants and contract support Donations Interest and dividend income Fees & miscellaneous income Total revenue Less: Pass through grants Net revenue FYPENSES

926,452 62,597

337,822

2,979,937 (\$77,500)

2,902,437

EXPENSES	
Salaries and wages	\$ 1,547,712
Benefits and payroll taxes	523,613
Contracted services	101,144
Non-personnel costs	 283,812
Total expenses	 2,456,281
Net from operations	446,156
OTHER INCOME & EXPENDITURES	
Building fund income	\$ 45,125
Realized gains/losses	9,790
Change in value of investments	(81,654)
Depreciation & amortization	(75,926)
Miscellaneous revenues	 20,267
Building account balance	 (82,398)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	 363,758

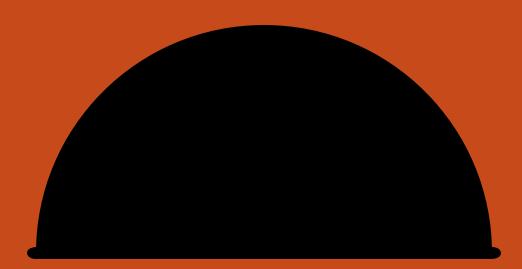
* Unaudited financials. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

A core value of our society is equal access to justice. The complex nature of the legal system limits equal access, especially for people in poverty and those faced with language and cultural barriers. Well-trained legal advocates should be available to all people, regardless of economic status. To that end, EBCLC provides:

- desperately-needed legal services to the low-income community in the areas of housing, welfare, HIV & health, homelessness and economic development; and
- hands-on clinical education to law students to make these future lawyers aware of and skilled in addressing the needs of indigent communities.

Since its founding in 1988 by law students at UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), EBCLC has become the largest provider of free legal services in the East Bay and a nationally-recognized poverty law clinic.

EBCLC's work makes the lives of East Bay community members more healthy, secure, productive, and hopeful.



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