

CLP Spring 2024

NEWSLETTER



CALIFORNIA WESTERN
SCHOOL OF LAW | San Diego

CLP Highlights of the Season

As the weather warms up, we are happy to share some recent highlights with our California Western family!

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

CLP student fellow, Andrea Martinez, and CLP student manager, Sofia Carrasco, first joined CLP in their 2nd year of law school. They have excelled in their work helping to provide services to individuals in need. As a student fellow, Andrea developed and managed a new project that tracks outcomes for individuals after they come to our clinics and provides follow-up services, as needed. Sofia jumped into the role of student manager with gusto, eagerly increasing CLP's social media presence. She created a LinkedIn account to help connect current law students to past participants of our programs and foster a sense of community. We will miss both Andrea and Sofia as they will be graduating this spring, but we know they have an exciting path ahead of them. We are excited to see what is in store for them in the future!

Experiential Learning in the Field

In an effort to further enrich the clinical experience for our students, we have added field trips to our curriculum. This trimester, CLP students visited the Small Claims Court and gained a more in depth understanding of how to navigate this self-help service. Students also visited One Safe Place, and learned about the legal and social services available to those who have experienced violence. With a more in-depth understanding of services that might be available to individuals who come to our clinics, our students are better informed and more effective advocates.



Andrea Martinez, CLP Student Fellow (left)
&
Sofia Carrasco, CLP Student Manager (right)

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Spotlight: CLP is featured in San Diego Lawyer Magazine

Our very own Assistant Director, Ted Janowsky, wrote an article for a recent issue of San Diego Lawyer Magazine on the important role CLP plays in training students to be both empathetic and strong advocates for their community. Read the full article [here](#).



1 to R: CLP Student Clinician Cristal Alvarez, CLP Volunteer Attorney Bhushini Ramalingam

COMMUNITY LAW PROJECT: LEARNING THROUGH DIRECT SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

By Ted Janowsky

A survivor of domestic violence is seeking a restraining order and has questions about the divorce process. A senior citizen has become the victim in a consumer scam. A family with school-aged children has received an eviction notice and is at risk of becoming homeless.

These are some of the common profiles among the thousands of San Diego County residents who the California Western Community Law Project (CLP) has helped over the last 18 years. The Community Law Project is a legal clinic where law students, California Western faculty, and community volunteers work together to address the unmet legal needs of San Diego's most vulnerable individuals. In collaboration with a wide network of partner organizations, the CLP meets people where they are, both physically and otherwise. Physically, our free legal clinics are housed in convenient locations, such as schools and churches, and operated at various times to accommodate different schedules. At every CLP site, individuals are treated with empathy and provided with a careful, individualized evaluation of their legal issues; accurate legal information; access to legal and social resources; and advice and counsel. Whenever possible, and frequently under challenging circumstances, CLP works to empower individuals to make informed decisions, making it more likely that a positive outcome of their legal issues can be achieved.

Since 2005, the Community Law Project has pursued its dual goal of creating greater access to justice for vulnerable residents of San Diego County and training our California Western law students to be empathetic and passionate advocates. The CLP team is small but mighty: a core of three staff members and a formidable array of law student clinicians, community volunteers, and volunteer attorneys work together to serve the San Diego community. Supervising attorney Ted Janowsky says: "Every day I am amazed by the dedication and passion of the Community Law Project law students and volunteers. I see their important work as upholding the highest ideals of the legal profession through public service."

The California Western law students embrace the practical experience as they interact with clients in a fast-paced and sometimes chaotic clinical setting. "The experience is often described as "eye-opening," and it comes with a growing awareness that newly acquired legal skills can be used to help bring real assistance and comfort to those in need. When asked about how she would like to grow from her experience with CLP, a recent student clinician said: "I hope that my experience with CLP will further reinforce my passion for public service and lay the foundation for a career rooted in a commitment to using my education to help people when they need it most."

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CLP staff, students, and interpreters
Spring 2024

Celebration! Lunar New Year

CLP meets clients where they are, and sometimes that provides us with additional opportunities to learn about diverse groups in our community. On February 23rd, during our regular clinic at Rosa Parks Elementary School, CLP staff, students, and interpreters were able to take part in the school's Lunar New Year celebration. We enjoyed traditional Vietnamese food, music, and performances.