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For Immediate Release Mailed: 1 Sept. 1994

Law Clinics Receive Grants to Expand Environmental and Women's Programs

SAN FRANCISCO—More than \$270,000 in grant money received by the Golden Gate University Law School will be used to expand clinical programs that serve disadvantaged women and low-income communities. The Women's Employment Rights Clinic, which works with women who have employment-related concerns, and the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic, which serves low-income communities that do not traditionally have access to quality legal representation, will directly benefit from the grants. The grants were received from the U.S. Department of Education, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the State Bar Foundation.

The additional funding means more attorney positions can be added, enabling the law school to increase student enrollment in both clinics. "Golden Gate Law School is committed to providing unique learning opportunities for its students and preparing them with genuine hands-on training," said Law School Dean Anthony J. Pagano. "As word of the clinics' success has spread, student requests to participate have increased. We are now in a position to meet the increased demand.."

The Women's Employment Rights Clinic, which provides assistance to women with employmentrelated concerns, was founded in June 1993, with initial funding from an anonymous charitable trust. The additional funding will enable the clinic to increase its legal and administrative staff, as well as the number of student clinicians enrolled. Joining the staff of the clinic is Maria Blanco, an Equal Rights Advocates staff attorney. "We look forward to having someone of Maria's caliber with us," says Marci Seville, clinic director and associate professor of law.

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Grants Add one

The Environmental Law and Justice Clinic opened last spring. It is dedicated to providing assistance to those low-income, ethnically diverse communities that bear an unequal burden of environmental hazards. The clinic will be jointly directed by Alan Ramo and Clifford Rechtschaffen, associate professors of law. The addition of Ramo, formerly a part-time faculty member, enables the clinic to increase its student enrollment to eight per semester. Ramo is former general counsel for Citizens For A Better Environment and, more recently, a sole practitioner specializing in environmental impact litigation.

With the EPA grant, the Environmental Law and Justice Clinic is developing a lead outreach and education program. Both clinics will be involved in preparing a citizens' guide to enforcing environmental and occupational laws in California. The clinics also will conduct community workshops focused in these areas.

The Golden Gate University School of Law is located on the San Francisco Campus of Golden Gate University at 536 Mission St. The law school is approved by the American Bar Association. The university is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

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