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NEWS

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Media: If you would like to attend the reception or speak to the clinic principals, please contact Lorri Ungaretti.

Reception Celebrates Law School Clinics' 10+ Years of Service to Community

SAN FRANCISCO—On Thursday, November 18, from 5 to 7 pm, Golden Gate University School of Law will host a reception to celebrate more than 10 years of service by two Law School clinics: Women's Employment Rights Clinic (WERC) and Environmental Law and Justice Clinic (ELJC). Proclamations by the Mayor of San Francisco will be included in the program. These two public interest clinics have represented clients and influenced employment and environmental law in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout California.

Both clinics have become respected resources in the local and national legal communities, receiving awards from the American Bar Association, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, among others. The mission of both clinics is to serve the community while providing hands-on training for the next generation of public interest lawyers.

(continued)

The Women's Employment Rights Clinic (WERC) started in 1993, emphasizes services for immigrant workers and limited-English or non-English speakers. Through direct service, impact litigation, and legislative advocacy, clinic cases address issues affecting low-wage and immigrant workers. Specific areas include discrimination, workplace harassment, wage and hour violations, unemployment benefits, and pregnancy and family/medical leave. WERC recently helped obtain nearly \$1 million in unpaid wages from the California Department of Labor for hundreds of Chinese immigrant garment workers.

WERC collaborates with community-based organizations, labor organizations, and other advocacy groups to identify ways that the law can serve as a tool to improve the working conditions of its client base.

The Environmental Law and Justice Clinic (ELJC) was started in 1994 and is currently the only California law school clinic that focuses on environmental justice redressing the disproportionate environmental harms experienced by low-income communities and communities of color. Over the past decade, the ELJC has played a pivotal role in reducing fossil fuel pollution from power plants in the southeast area of San Francisco, including a decision earlier this year by the California Public Utilities Commission to allocate money to de-commission the Hunters Point Power Plant. The Clinic's Clean Air Accountability Project has successfully sued EPA and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District for numerous failures to enforce the Clean Air Act.

Principals

Marci Seville, Director of WERC

Doris Ng, Visiting Professor and Supervising Clinical Attorney, WERC

Alan Ramo, Director of ELJC and Director of the LL.M. in environmental law program

Clifford Rechtschaffen, Co-director of ELJC and Director of the J.D. in environmental law program.

Helen Kang, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Clean Air Accountability Project