Criminal Law Clinic Student Wins Motion to Dismiss

Peter Hanschke 3L won a motion to dismiss based on violation of the New York State speedy trial law. His client had been charged with assault in the third degree and criminal mischief in the fourth degree. Peter submitted a written motion and then argued the motion orally before a judge in the Manhattan Criminal Court at 100 Centre Street. After the argument, the judge granted the motion and then invited the assistant district attorneys to the bench and used Peter's motion to conduct an informal tutorial on the application of the speedy trial statute, CPL 30.30.

Urban Law Clinic Students Conclude Successful Settlement Agreement

Urban Law Clinic students John Murillo 2L and Amanda Stein 2L formulated a settlement agreement in which they successfully persuaded the New York City Department of Education to cover the costs of private school tuition for an 18-year-old student with dyslexia, tracking and phonological difficulties, and other learning disabilities. The student had been moved between residential schools for years, and in August 2007, the Department of Education failed to provide the student with an appropriate public school placement. Due to the Department’s procedural error, John and Amanda were able to convince the Department of Education to reimburse the parents for their unilateral placement of their son in a private school.

Mediation Clinic Students’ Final Settlement of the Fall Semester

Mediation Clinic students Sherene Crawford 3L and Noelle Fiorentino 3L mediated a case last December involving the purchase of an unsatisfactory MP4 player that was returned to an electronic store. Upon return of the merchandise, the plaintiff, a longtime, loyal customer of the store, was informed that he would receive a refund check in the mail. When the plaintiff had not received the check in six months, he sued in Small Claims Court. Sherene and Noelle mediated a settlement that provided for a full refund and an added bonus of gift cards in the sums of $25 to $50. In a particularly transformative moment, the claimant and the defendant stated that a written stipulation of settlement was not necessary and an oral contract would be satisfactory because both parties agreed to be men of their word. At the end of the mediation, one of the parties pulled Sherene and Noelle aside and thanked them for the chance to mediate the case, stating he felt this process was a great form of dispute resolution.

To find out more about clinics/externships, please contact the Lawyering Skills Office at 212.431.2179.
Securities Arbitration Clinic Receives Praise for Job Well Done

Following is an excerpt from a letter sent by a satisfied Securities Arbitration Clinic client:

As a former educator, I know how rewarding it is to hear about the accomplishments of our students.

I had read an article in Newsday about your Securities Arbitration Clinic and how helpful your efforts have been for senior citizens. This motivated me to get justice from my broker, who I felt did not have my interests at heart when managing my finances. Professor Howard Meyers and his three separate teams of students successfully mediated on my behalf with a large financial institution. As a retired schoolteacher, the money they obtained for me was truly a welcome gift.

I would like to call particular attention to the efforts of the final team of New York Law School students: Luke Charleston, Lou Gelormino, Christy Monier, and Wendy Singletary. They came to law school with previous experience in the field of stocks and a great deal of maturity. They were each equally committed to keeping me well informed of all the data pertaining to this case. They were friendly, considerate, very smart, and professional. All in all, a great team!

Professor Meyers is a great mentor to his students and his clients. This program is a wonderful department in the New York Law School. For almost three years, he held my hand. I always took his advice. I know how experienced he is in the field of securities arbitration.

Please keep this wonderful program. It really benefits people who could not otherwise afford justice.

Sincerely,

With gratitude,

A.J.

Safe Passage Project Off to Great Start

The Justice Action Center's Safe Passage Project was active in a number of immigration projects during the fall 2007 semester, and we look forward to many more volunteer opportunities for students and alumni attorneys this semester.

We would like to thank the following students for participating in Safe Passage events in fall 2007 and early 2008: Yvonne Baracaldo 2L, Maryam Biazar 2L, Veronica Cardenas 1L, Manuel Garcia 3L, Desiree Hernandez 3L, Sarah Khan 3L, Kenneth Sanders 1L, Zarina Syed 2L, and Tanya Molina 1L.

These students volunteered to provide assistance with translation, intake interviews, research, and case preparation for the Safe Passage Project and Legal Aid, as well as the juvenile docket in Immigration Court sponsored by the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the NYC Immigrant Advocacy Initiative organized by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Safe Passage is always looking for student volunteers for pro bono immigration cases and events run by New York Law School and nonprofit organizations. Please contact Lindsay Curcio at lcurcio@nyls.edu if you would like to be added to our volunteer list and receive e-mails about events.

Please mark your calendars for the Special Immigrant Juvenile Training to be held on Tuesday, March 4 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Wellington Conference Center. We will have a variety of interesting speakers, including lawyers and judges in the fields of immigration and family law. New York Law School students attend free.

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