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Corporate and Real Estate Clinic Closes a \$469,671 Loan from NYC Green Loan Program



Pictured: Krisna Creque '18 on the right and the co-op board President (our client) is on the left.

Krisna Creque '18, who spent the summer semester representing low income-cooperatives in the Corporate and Real Estate Clinic, conducted a closing for a 9 unit Bronx building which received \$469,671 on Monday August 22 from New York City's Green Loan Program. The loan is the first that the clinic has handled through the program and it will

enable the co-op to install a new roof, thermal and moisture protection, a new HVAC system and other energy efficiency improvements. Leaks had been plaguing the residents for some time. Before the closing, Krisna drafted resolutions, reviewed loan documents and prepared a City-required amendment to the co-op's certificate of incorporation. The deal was quite complex because the loan amount was broken into three parts, each with different repayment details and accompanying legal documents. Krisna, along with Ben Margolin '18 also conducted a shareholder meeting at the building in July to explain amendments to corporate documents and accomplish the vote on several resolutions.

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H(elping) E(lders) through L(aw) and P(olicy) Clinic

On April 19, HELP Clinic students volunteered their time and new knowledge of preparing advanced directives for seniors who attend SAGE senior centers. SAGE is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults. The event was such a success that they have asked the clinic to come back this fall.

In an effort to explore sexual rights for older adults, and in recognition of Sex and the Law week at Brooklyn Law School, HELP clinic students put together a panel on Cultural Competency in the LGBT community.

Among the panelists were: Bill Mendez of SAGE, Professor Natalie Chin, Lambda Legal's Eric Lesh and Chaumtoli Huq, editor of Law@theMargins.



Pictured: Adjunct Professors Deirdre Lok (far left) and Chaumtoli Huq (second from left) and Professor Natalie Chin (center)

Disability and Civil Rights Clinic Students and Faculty Hard at Work

The Clinic successfully preserved a Section 8 housing subsidy for a woman whose primary care taker passed away. The client lived with her mother who was her primary caretaker. Her mother completed the paperwork necessary to maintain the Section 8 housing subsidy. Her daughter could not independently understand her Section 8 obligations due to a developmental disability. After her mother's death, the woman's sister moved into the home as the primary caretaker. Stepping into her mother's role, the sister submitted the Section 8 housing recertification papers, which were required to renew her sister's housing subsidy. Upon learning that the sister submitted the papers, HPD – the city housing agency that administers Section 8 – threatened to terminate the subsidy unless the sister became her sibling's legal guardian. Pinny Gold '16, conducted extensive research, multiple interviews and fact investigation. As a result of the Pinny's research and investigation, the Clinic filed a request for a reasonable accommodation under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA claim argued that guardianship was not necessary, and requested that HPD add the client's sister to the Section 8 housing subsidy and allow her to assume the responsibilities of complying with Section 8 requirements. The reasonable accommodation was granted and the client no longer at risk of losing her housing subsidy.

Sarah Esmi '16 and Christopher Loschiavo '16 served as a court-appointed guardian *ad litem* in an Article 17-A guardianship proceeding for a 22-year-old man. The young man's parents sought to become his guardian because they alleged that his developmental disability prevented him from understanding health care and other personal decisions. Sarah and Chris were tasked with conducting a deep investigation and submitting a written report to the court as to whether guardianship is appropriate. They investigated the matter, which included conducting over a dozen interviews and several home-visits, with the young man and his family. As a result of their investigation, Sarah and Chris found that the young man was capable of managing his own affairs, especially with the support of his family. For example, he excelled in an internship at the Prospect Park Zoo and developed a complex plan for future employment distinguishing between his dream job and "survival jobs" that he might need to take in the interim. As guardian *ad litem*, Chris and Sarah recommended against guardianship after a contested hearing. The court issued a written decision in April 2016 holding that guardianship was not appropriate, relying heavily on the 22-page guardian *ad litem* report completed by the students.

In an online article in [Pacific Standard](#) discussing a case of the sexual assault of an intellectually disabled young woman, Natalie Chin, director of the [Disability and Civil Rights Clinic at Brooklyn Law School](#). Expressed her general concern about the widespread pattern of denying sexual agency to people with intellectual disabilities in a misguided attempt to stop sexual abuse. Abuse, she told me, is a real issue, but insists: "There is no correlation between limiting the sexual rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and a decrease in sexual exploitation and abuse. In fact, the opposite has proven true." This case is just one of many in which group homes attempt to "shield themselves from any liability by deeming a person non-consenting"—as Chin described it—rather than providing comprehensive sexual education to their residents, and training to their staff. Given the details of the Iowa case, I worry about Jane Doe's continued rights to go on dating sites, to pursue healthy sexual relationships, and to live an independent and full life.

Appellate Division Justices in Second Department Learn About Immigration Law

BLS faculty members, Maryellen Fullerton, Dan Smulian and Stacy Caplow, made a presentation about current developments in immigration law at the annual CLE program for AD2d justices. They covered topics including criminal immigration, special immigrant juvenile status, and overall immigration trends.



Externship Program Delivers for BLS Students and their Alumni Mentors

BLS has had a long tradition of alumni involvement, particularly as employers of graduates and supervisors of externs. Under the leadership of Jodi Balsam, the Director of Externships, the three students pictured below with their alumni mentors who are supervising them this semester are examples of this tradition.

Culture of mentoring strong at Estee Lauder externship

Dwana Dixon '17, is externing this fall at The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. in the Intellectual Property Group. Her fieldwork focuses on trademarks, licensing, domain name protection, and IP due diligence for mergers and acquisitions, as well as special projects in the area of international distribution. Her Mentor Attorney is Donna Ruggiero '04, Associate Counsel and Legal Internship Coordinator at the company. Ms. Ruggiero remarked on the "pleasure of mentoring many students from BLS," noting that she thrived at Estee Lauder because of the help of great mentors. Ms. Ruggiero's goal for Dwana this semester is "not only to share my knowledge of the law, but also the practical application of the law in an in-house setting. More importantly, as a mentor, I hope to assist Dwana with any questions or concerns she may have about career choices, or even about such things as my own experience studying for the bar. The best part about mentoring for me is that it continues on well beyond the end of the semester. My door remains open anytime a student needs advice or just wants to say hello."



Pictured: Dwana Dixon (right), Donna Ruggiero (left)

Student externs gain foothold in sports law careers at Barclays Center

Externing at the Brooklyn Nets, Barclays Center, and the Business Operations of the New York Islanders means juggling a wide variety of legal assignments for Eric Einhorn '17. Eric has delved into both corporate and litigation work, tasked with legal research and written analysis, drafting and summarizing a multitude of commercial and transactional agreements, and sitting in on meetings and negotiations. The work touches upon all of the company's assets, including the NBA Nets and NHL Islanders sports teams and the Barclays Center and Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum venues. Eric is fortunate to be working with Jeff Gewirtz '94, the Executive Vice President of Business Affairs & Chief Legal Officer at the company. Mr. Gewirtz has been hosting his alma mater's law students for nearly 10 years and notes that "many have gone onto careers as sports lawyers with major firms or with sports and media companies." He is consistently "impressed by the work ethic, intellectual curiosity and talent of the BLS externs we have hosted over the years."



Pictured: Eric Einhorn (left), Jeff Gewirtz (right)

Externing at Criminal Court immerses students in judge's perspective

Sinead Sinnott '18, appreciates the unique exposure to the criminal justice system provided by her externship with Honorable Marguerite S. Dougherty '01. Spending two days each week at the Kings County Criminal Court, she observes the system from multiple perspectives, including the judge's. Her assignments for Judge Dougherty include conducting legal research, preparing bench memoranda, and drafting judicial opinions. Sinead also regularly attends court proceedings, including pretrial conferences and bench trials, taking notes for the judge and sharing insights. Judge Dougherty reports that her experience as a Mentor Attorney is equally rewarding: "Sinead is topnotch; she is diligent and hardworking. I have had many interactions with BLS students over the past 15 years and have always found them to be excited to learn and not the least bit afraid of working hard. I plan to participate in the externship program every semester from now on."



Pictured: Judge Marguerite S. Dougherty (left), Sinead Sinnott (right)

Brooklyn Warmly Welcomes Two New Clinical Faculty Members

Professor Amy Mulzer is a staff attorney and instructor of clinical law in the [Disability and Civil Rights Clinic](#): Advocating for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at Brooklyn Law School. Previously, she was an Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering at NYU School of Law. Amy previously worked as a family defense attorney, first as a staff attorney at the Brooklyn Family Defense Project and then as an appellate attorney on the assigned counsel panel for the Appellate Division, Second Department. She also has represented homeless families and individuals as part of the Legal Aid Society's Homeless Rights Project. She served as a law clerk for Judge Jack B. Weinstein of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.



Pictured: Professor Amy Mulzer

Professor Susan Hazeldean is the founder and director of the Brooklyn Law School [LGBT Advocacy Clinic](#). Students in the clinic will represent LGBT individuals in immigration and prisoners' rights cases as well as undertake advocacy projects to advance LGBT equality. Susan's teaching, scholarship, and law practice focus on gender, sexual orientation, immigration, and civil rights. Her article, "Confounding Identities: The Paradox of LGBT Youth Under Asylum Law," was published in the *U.C. Davis Law Review*. Her writing has also appeared in *Benders Immigration Review* and the *ABA Human Rights Magazine*. Before joining the faculty, Professor Hazeldean taught at Cornell Law School, where she directed the LGBT clinic and at Yale Law School, where she served as a Robert M. Cover Fellow in the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic. At Yale, she supervised students who represented immigrants and low-wage workers in civil rights actions and engaged in policy work and community-based advocacy. Prior to her academic career, Professor Hazeldean directed the Peter Cicchino Youth Project at the Urban Justice Center in New York City, providing free legal representation to homeless and at-risk LGBT youth in matters related to immigration, foster care, public benefits, and family law.



Pictured: Professor Susan Hazeldean

And Says Good-bye to a Wonderful Colleague

Professor De Barbieri, who has taught the [Urban Economic Development Clinic](#) for the past three years is leaving BLS in December to join the faculty at Albany Law School. He is a 2008 graduate of Brooklyn Law School, and is an [Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship](#) Committee Member, having also been a Fellow. Before joining Brooklyn Law School, he was an adjunct professor of clinical law at New York University School of Law, and senior staff attorney at Urban Justice Center's Community Development Project, where he provided legal assistance to nonprofit organizations, low-income workers, tenants, and homeowners in foreclosure. Professor De Barbieri joined Urban Justice Center in 2008 as an Equal Justice Works Fellow. He was a Fulbright Research Fellow at the University College Cork, Ireland from 2007-2008. Ted has been a creative and energetic member of our clinical faculty. Albany is extremely lucky and we will miss him a lot.



Pictured: Professor Ted De Barbieri

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