



Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center

La Voz del Centro

DECEMBER 2013



Learning Law Beyond the Classroom: Twenty Years of Service in the Jesuit Tradition of Educational Excellence and Service to the Community

Nearly twenty years ago, when Santa Clara law students decided to use their legal skills to help their community, they could not anticipate the tremendous success of their efforts. Today, their vision, represented by the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center, known then as the East San José Community Law Center, touches the lives of thousands of clients in the Valley who could not otherwise obtain legal representation. At the same time, the Law Center continues to be a practical training ground for the law students who serve the Center's clients under the supervision of expert attorneys. As a way to acknowledge this twenty-year milestone, to be reached in 2014, it seems fitting to celebrate the efforts of some of the many individuals who partici-

pated and continue to participate in the success of the Alexander Community Law Center.

The foundation for the Community Law Center was established in 1993, when a number of SCU's La Raza law students decided to add practice to theory for the benefit of their community and their own education. Ruben Pizarro '95, a second-year law student at the time, recalls sitting right next to Professor Jim Hammer during a La Raza event. Having expressed his dismay at the theoretical nature of his curriculum, Ruben found a good ally in Professor Hammer, then a Jesuit with a very practical commitment to the community.

"We had a passion to serve and our legal training gave us the tools to help those in need," recalls Ruben. Sandra Pizarro '94, Ruben's sister and also a law



SERGIO LOPEZ

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A Message From the Executive Director



Happy Holidays! As we enter our 20th Anniversary year, we celebrate many of our past accomplishments and highlight some of the great work of the staff, students, and volunteers at the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center.

The Center has come a long way since its beginnings in the early 1990s, when it started as a student-initiated project to provide much-needed legal services to day laborers in East San Jose. The Center has enlarged its staff, expanded its space and physical facilities,

and developed innovative and effective strategies for serving the community. Today, the Center is a leading clinical program at Santa Clara University's School of Law, and each year it serves hundreds of low-income clients needing legal assistance in consumer protection, immigration, and workers' rights.

Our newsletter highlights many of the Center's landmark developments, as well as some of the most recent accomplishments of our law students, staff, and volunteers. Our current work in cases involving human trafficking and wage theft, as well as our cooperative work with the Law School's Low Income Taxpayer clinic, has evolved to meet emerging needs, but also remains fundamentally rooted in community service and legal education.

As we approach the end of 2013 and look ahead to the coming year, we are also striving to meet the financial challenges of the Center. Most of the our funding comes from non-University sources, and reductions in our traditional base of government dollars and cy pres funds have led us to look to new sources of funding, particularly individual donor support. Our end-

of-year appeal – featuring the generous support of up to \$15,000 of matching dollars from an anonymous donor – is just one example of our efforts. (You can support this appeal at law.scu.edu/MatchIt.)

Looking back on the past two decades of success in training law students and in serving clients from throughout Northern California, we also recognize the extraordinary support that we have received from our students, volunteers, alumni, and funders who have worked closely with the Community Law Center over the years. Our work would have been impossible without their support, and we owe all of these individuals and organizations our gratitude.

We look forward to continuing our important work and serving as a vibrant resource for Santa Clara University and the local community.

Best wishes,

Angelo Ancheta
Executive Director

Reaching For a Global View With a Local Perspective

Joseph Nave '14 walks fast between his office and that of his supervising attorney, and from his computer to the printer and copier. He is a man on a mission. "I know exactly what I want to do after I graduate, and that helps me stay focused," he says. But he also needs to complete some hours for his Skills II class at the Alexander

Law Center before the semester is over, which he had to put on hold while he traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to meet with international organizations about human trafficking in the United States.

Joseph is simultaneously taking a course through the International Human Rights Clinic which, like the

Alexander Community Law Center, works to combat human trafficking locally and nationally. He is a second-year law student with a passion for travel, languages and making things right for his clients. At the Community Law Center, he has worked on various immigration matters, including T-visas and adjustment of status for victims of human trafficking.

Because of his work here, he has a "better grasp of the plight of immigrants, who are often the most vulnerable members of society; the most exploited and the ones who hold the most dangerous, low-paying jobs." Joseph plans to become an immigration attorney, so he has taken the Skills I and Skills II classes in this area. Already, his work has revealed that many immigration and human trafficking cases go hand in hand with work-related abuses, so he is also planning on enrolling in the Workers' Rights clinic at the Center before he graduates.

Through his work at the International Human Rights Clinic, Joseph is also acquiring a global perspective that took him all the way to Geneva. Under the supervision of Francisco Rivera, Assistant Clinical Professor and Director of the International Human Rights Clinic, Joseph, two classmates and a clinical fellow researched, co-authored and submitted a shadow report to the United Nations Human Rights Committee (HRC) on human



Joseph Nave '14 and his fellow Santa Clara students visit the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in October, 2013, in Geneva, Switzerland.



trafficking. Signatory nations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) present their reports to the HRC annually. "Shadow" reports, as they are called, provide a venue for NGOs, non-profit and other civic organizations to engage with the HRC and shed light on information that their own governments may not acknowledge. The Santa Clara students were disappointed to find out that, because of the US government shutdown earlier this year, the American delegation postponed its hearing until March 2014. Nonetheless, they traveled to Geneva with a modified agenda that included three pared down goals: 1) meet informally with HRC members to advocate around their shadow report; 2) observe the review of other states to learn how the HRC operates; and 3) meet with other UN agencies to consult on broader international anti-trafficking efforts.

"Being there, seeing how consensus and laws are made internationally, really gave me a sense of how challenging that can

be. Some HRC members had a long debate just on the word 'arrest' and how the word could vary in its precise meaning when translated into French or Spanish. But most importantly, this gave me a chance to understand global conditions and all the injustices happening everywhere else. If you understand that, then you understand why immigrants come here; and once here, they are again exploited with few or no protections. That's where I'd like to come in to help."

Upon graduation, Joseph will become a legal professional with a global view and a local perspective that characterizes a Santa Clara education. It was through Joseph's participation in the school's clinical programs that he discovered his professional path early on. "As a student, you have to find your own way by following your interests and trying different things. The clinics give you a good opportunity to get some good hands-on experience. And even if that's not you, you'll learn skills that you can apply to whatever other path you decide to take."

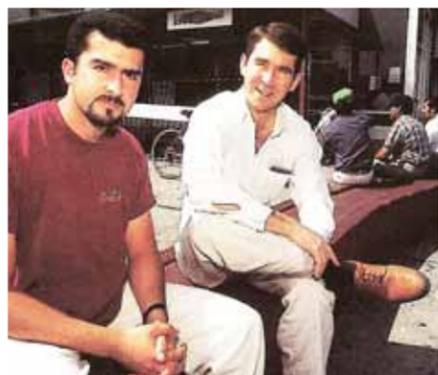


Twenty Years of Educational Excellence and Community Service

Continued from p. 1

student at the time, agreed: “We wanted law school to have more meaning for us. We wanted to help real people with real problems.”

They did not have to look hard or far to realize that East San José, with its concentration of day workers, could use their evolving legal expertise. After



Ruben Pizarro '95, left, and SCU law professor Jim Hammer make themselves available to day workers on Story and King.

some initial planning, Jim Hammer, the Pizarros and other students ventured to the former Home Base do-it-yourself store on Story and King, to speak to the

“We had a passion to serve and our legal training gave us the tools to help those in need.”

— RUBEN PIZARRO '94

workers in the store’s parking lot. “It took a while for them to feel comfortable with us, but eventually they opened up and started sharing their problems,” remembers Sandra.

The case of workers José O., Ricardo V., and Nehemias S. was a typical one. For weeks they laid tile, poured ce-

ment, built kitchen cabinets, but they were never compensated for their work. Under the supervision of SCU Law Professor Eric Wright, the students were able to recover their unpaid salaries in the amount of \$1,110.00 each.

The students’ first break came that same year, when Sister Mary McCusker of Most Holy Trinity Parish helped to set up a Day Workers’ Job Center in a former bakery in the historic Tropicana Center, on Story and King. Suddenly, the students had a place where they could offer their valuable knowledge and service. Their initial success, however, soon revealed a need for an operational budget and a more structured relationship with SCU’s School of Law, their source of legal supervision.

Professor Hammer and the students approached Professors Eric and Nancy Wright. The Wrights immediately saw the potential for the students and the community in a viable Law Center. On the academic front, they started offering credit to those students involved in the Center. On the financial side, the Wrights approached two major sources of funding. “We had never put together a grant proposal, but selling the idea was easy because the concept was so good,” recalls Professor Eric Wright.

The Wrights’ work paid off when the California Department of Education and the Legal Services Corporation approved grants of over \$200,000 for the Law Center. “We could not believe it. We actually got both grants; we were ecstatic!” remembers Professor Nancy Wright.

The money was put to use immediately to pay the rent of badly needed office space, and to hire two attorneys, Laura Ramirez and Margaret (“Peggy”) Stevenson, a law fellow, and an office manager. So, in 1994, the East San José Community Law Center was officially born. Its first home was on 1765 Alum Rock Avenue, still in the heart of East San José. Eric Wright became its first director but passed the baton over to



Among others, Professor Hammer, Ruben Pizarro '95, Sandra Pizarro '94 (center) and a few new clients re-conditioned the 1765 Alum Rock Avenue location.

Peggy Stevenson after the first year, when he took a temporary medical leave.

Kristin D. Nevarez '96, then a second-year law student, recalls moving into the new building: “The place was in horrible condition, but we decided that it was not going to interfere with our work.” Sandra agreed: “It was hard work, but it was so exciting. We all became painters, found some donated furniture, and fixed up the place.”

For years, portable fans and heaters mitigated the extreme summer and



Kristin D. Nevarez '96, currently an associate immigration attorney at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP.

winter temperatures inside the offices, where activity never ceased. “It was a place where I could find solace during my law school years. That’s where things made sense to me; it became my second home,” confided Nevarez, who signed up for a semester during her second year and worked there as a volunteer her entire third year of law school.

It was this location that saw the addition of Immigration, Consumer Law, Workers’ Compensation and Small Business advice to the Center’s roster of services. With additional funding from the School of Law and other private and public grants, the Center also added support staff to its payroll. By 2002, under

“[The Law Center] was a place where I could find solace during my law school years. That’s where things made sense to me; it became my second home.”

— KRISTIN D. NEVAREZ '96

the leadership of Law Professor and Center Director, Cynthia Mertens, the Law Center was assisting over 1,100 clients per year (with varying levels of advice and representation) and employed five attorneys and a seven-person staff, including a multilingual interpreter.

In 2002, the Law Center received notice that the sale of its building was pending. Faced with a lack of affordable and suitable office space in East San José at the time, Professor Mertens turned to the University for assistance. In May 2002, Santa Clara University closed escrow on the Center’s new location on 1030 The Alameda, away from East San José. Many, including some of the founding students, had reservations about moving the Law Center out of its intended focus of operation. “Being in



Students attend class in the conference room, at the Alum Rock location.

the community added to the comfort level of the clients, and now the Center was moving – yes, I was worried,” confessed Ruben. Fortunately, those concerns were soon put to rest when the clientele attended the new Center in its usual numbers. Said Professor Mertens, “We faced some constraints with our relocation, but I think that we made the best of it. Thanks to our new building, we achieved greater confidentiality for our clients, obtained suitable work areas for students, and managed greater comfort for all. But really, we could not have done it without Dean Mack Player and the University behind us.”

In 2004, George Alexander, professor and former dean of the School of Law, and his wife, Katharine, made a generous donation to the East San José Community Law Center’s endowment. In recognition of their gesture, the ESJ-CLC was officially renamed the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center.

Today, the Law Center is a thriving institution that maintains its original commitment to the community and its students. Under the

leadership of its Executive Director, Angelo Ancheta, it currently focuses on consumer law, immigration law, employment law and personal tax matters, and serves over 1,000 clients on-site per year. It also reaches out to more than 1,200 individuals through its community workshops on Consumer Rights, Workers’ Rights and Tenant-Landlord Rights. Each year, students log over 10,000 hours of direct services to their clients. This year alone, the work of the Law Center and the LITC students, if billed, would amount to more than 2 million dollars. Their work this year also resulted in over \$915,000 in favor of their clients as paid damages, resolved contract disputes, recovered wages, employer-related penalties, released tax returns and waived, tax-related penalties (see *Our Work, by the Numbers*, p.10).

Scott Maurer, who now supervises the Consumer Project and was in the first class of students to come through the Law Center, says: “I am still inspired by the people who founded this place. The office was barely habitable but the students who got the place going had such energy and such a sense of ownership. We’ve helped a lot of folks in the last twenty years, and I think those of us who work here, as well as our clients, owe a debt of gratitude to the people who got this place started.”



For Law Student, the Pattern of Injustice is One More Reason to Work Harder for His Client

Sam Kesten '14 recently represented Priscilla Soriano, an administrator of a residential care home for disabled adults, in a hearing before the Labor Commission. Ms. Soriano was employed at the facility for over a year, often working 70 to 80 hours per week and performing tasks outside her role, such as cooking, cleaning and other household activities. Her salary was fixed, and it never fully compensated her for her work. Kesten, a student in the Workers' Rights project of the Alexander Community Law Center, obtained an award which recovered her unpaid wages and penalties in the amount of \$63,746.

Ms. Soriano was trained as a nurse in her native Philippines, and she eventually became an instructor for the newcomers to the field. Her background

proved helpful in securing her position once she immigrated to the Bay Area. Her steadfast commitment to her local employer led her to think that the long work hours were normal, so she did not complain about the demanding schedule. When the facility changed ownership, her situation worsened, and she finally looked for help at the Alexander Community Law Center.

To Kesten, her work situation looked very familiar. "This case fit the rule, rather than the exception. I had handled other cases at the Alexander Community Law Center that, painfully, fit the same pattern of abuse. Even the lack of accurate records [by the employer] seemed very familiar." This "boiled down to a 'he said, she said' type of case," said Kesten. This was a challenge until the employer enlisted a witness whose testimony backfired. The description of the witness' responsibilities buttressed Ms. Soriano's testimony because it accounted for all the hours that she claimed she worked. Presented with this information, the Labor Commissioner readily sided with

Kesten and his client, which resulted in a decision granting 100% of the claim for unpaid wages, liquidated damages and penalties.

Ms. Soriano, a jovial individual with a contagious smile, had complete confidence in Kesten and Margarita P. Alvarez, his supervising attorney. Her enthusiasm was born out of a missed opportunity because, as a youngster, she had always dreamt of becoming an attorney. So, when Kesten updated her on her case or her wage calculations, she relished every detail of his explanation. But life's twists and turns eventually led her to nursing, a field she learned to love.

For Kesten, this was yet another opportunity to validate his intention of becoming an employment law attorney upon graduation. "I always wanted to help people as an attorney, but I did not know how. Working with our clients here, I realized that there are individuals out there who intentionally hurt people by cheating them out of their salaries or by abusing their willingness to work hard. That's not right, and that's where I feel I can make a difference."

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— SAMUEL KESTEN '14
EMPLOYMENT LAW STUDENT

Sam Kesten meets Ms. Priscilla Soriano, his client, in the lobby of the Alexander Community Law Center.



SERGIO LOPEZ

SCU Undergraduates Learn Practical Legal Information Thanks to New Partnership with KGACLC



Campbell Yore '15, first-year SCU law student

This year, the Associated Student Government (ASG) at Santa Clara University and the Alexander Community Law Center partnered for the first time to deliver important legal information to the school's undergraduates in regards to their rights and responsibilities as off-campus tenants. ASG students Austin Smith '16, Kelley Cislo '16 and Garrett Jensen '14 saw the problem: While nine out of ten undergraduates choose to live on campus during their freshman year, many choose to live off-campus during subsequent years. Landing a house or an apartment near the school can be quite competitive, so students must initiate their search at the end of their very first quarter if they want to move off campus as sophomores. This, of course, leads to signing new leases – a new experience for the majority of them, who must also deal with this process amidst exams and their many school obligations. "Students have no idea of what they're signing, and if any problems arise, they have no idea of how to resolve them. We are just happy

that the Law Center is there to help," said Smith.

Marisol E. Durani, staff member at KGACLC, worked with the ASG students to schedule a workshop on campus, facilitated by Campbell Yore, first-year law student, and Diana E. Castillo, long-time volunteer attorney at the Alexander Law Center and Senior Attorney at the Fair Housing Law Project, a program of the Law Foundation of Silicon Valley. For Yore, this was a good opportunity to learn about tenants' rights and to immediately apply this knowledge by explaining it to an eager audience. He was supervised by attorney Castillo, who was also there to answer specific questions from the students. "Informing the public of their legal rights is a fundamental civil service lawyers are privileged to provide. This forum presented a particularly rewarding opportunity to practice this skill because it allowed me to empower fellow members of the school community by increasing their awareness of such a practical area of law," he said of this experience.

For Cislo, attendance to the 45-minute event in November

SCU Associated Student Government officers, Austin Smith '16 (Chief Justice), Garrett Jensen '14 (Senior Senator and Student Affairs Committee Chair) and Kelley Cislo '16 (Associate Justice)

validated the idea that there was indeed an unmet need among his colleagues. "We were expecting a good number of students there, but the 40-plus students who showed up really exceeded all expectations. Now that the word is out, we expect attendance to be even better next time." Encouraged by the results, ASG hopes to continue its partnership with the Law Center to offer additional workshops next year. Castillo "was thrilled that ASG's leadership collaborated with KGACLC to present important information to SCU students, which enables them to understand their responsibilities and empowers them to assert their rights in a very competitive housing market. We look forward to providing this workshop for years to come."



MARISOL E. DURANI

For Clients of the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, Relief Comes in Different Ways

In 2013, the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic provided legal advice to 138 clients during its clinics and successfully settled 16 cases with the Internal Revenue Service. Two of the settled cases in particular illustrate the degrees of complexity that keep Director, Caroline Chen, and her students busy each semester. One involved a young entrepreneur and business owner who decided to keep his troubled company afloat by re-investing the payroll taxes deducted from his employees' paychecks, instead of submitting them to the IRS. The other case is about a World War II veteran, 89 years old, who incurred an \$8,000 tax liability with penalty when his tax return preparer misreported his IRA account on his tax return. In both instances, the assigned law students provided significant relief to their clients, as outlined below.

The young entrepreneur initiated a

downward spiral that was very difficult to overcome. This became very clear to him when he received an \$80,000 bill from the IRS, which not only accounted for his employees' withholdings but also a 100% penalty. "For the client, the first step in trying to resolve a matter like this is admitting that there is indeed a 'controversy,' or a problem to resolve," says Chen. "In this case, the second step was making an 'Offer in Compromise' [OIC] to the IRS, which is a detailed request for a lower settlement based on many financial factors." Unfortunately, people often underestimate the OIC's complexity and level of detail, so the IRS denies many offers without revisions, and then the original claims stand.

Law student Jack McMorro '14 made an offer of \$8,000 on behalf of his client that was accepted by the IRS, but getting there took considerable work. McMorro put together a thorough financial declaration for the client that

included all sources of income, assets and expenses in accordance to applicable federal guidelines. The OIC was further supported by an effective narrative of the circumstances that led to the client's predicament and his current, financially-precarious situation. "The narrative is crucial; most people simply overlook its importance. Not surprisingly, this can lead to a negative result," says Chen.

In the case of the veteran, he, like many other unlucky individuals each year, became a victim of an incompetent tax preparer. Indeed, the fallout for the client was an \$8,000 tax liability, including fines due to a faulty reporting of his IRA rollover. Chen and law students Amanda Sparks '12 and Kyu Hyun Chun '13 were able to show that the mistake was a result of the tax preparer's incompetence and further discovered that the proper reporting resulted in a refund of \$800 to the client.

While it can be a challenge to fix the mistakes caused by inept tax preparers, it is more frustrating to undo the damage perpetrated by individuals who offer tax preparation services that are too good to be true. In one instance, an unscrupulous tax return preparer guaranteed "large refunds" to his unsuspecting clients, who paid hefty fees for his services. The preparer kept his promise by falsifying deductions and credits on the taxpayers' returns. Initially his clients were not disappointed with their refunds, but they eventually regretted their choice. By the time the IRS came knocking at their doors, the tax preparer was out of the picture. This scenario, starring the same tax preparer, was repeated with three of the Tax Clinic's clients.

In these instances, advocating for the Tax Clinic's clients went beyond resolving their outstanding matters

with the IRS. Chen filed detailed complaints with the IRS and the Office of Professional Responsibility. In December 2012, the preparer was indicted on 10 counts of fraud over a four-year period, which had resulted in millions of dollars in lost revenue for the government. Unfortunately, there are many tax return preparers who fraudulently inflate refunds. They also engage in other practices that seemingly help their clients but that, in fact, cost them dearly, such as taking their preparation fees from the clients' refunds, instead of having the client pay right away. The fees for the so-called "fast refunds" or "rapid refunds" are in fact short-term loans that can carry an exorbitant average rate of nearly 300%. The preparer's fee is guaranteed through the client's tax refund, which is normally routed directly to the preparer's account. Chen added, "Sadly, it is our low-income population that always falls prey to these practices. So, while I recognize that money may be badly needed sometimes, I always advise our clients to never take advances on their tax refunds, and never agree to have a portion of their refund be routed to the preparer's bank account to pay his or her fee; always request a refund check."

When they are not assisting individual taxpayers, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic students also help local, non-profit organizations. During this past year, they helped Friends of Santa Teresa Library and Friends of Vineland Library obtain I.R.C. Section 501(c)(3) tax status, allowing them to fundraise for the benefit of their communities' libraries. Although the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic is housed at the Alexander Community Law Center, it operates as an independent clinical program of the School of Law.

Leading by Example, Law Center Attorney Receives Recognition



Ruth Silver Taube, Supervising Attorney of the Law Centers' Workers' Rights Clinic and SCU Law Adjunct Professor

On October 2, 2013, Ruth Silver Taube, supervising attorney of the Workers' Rights Clinic at the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center at Santa Clara University School of Law and Senior Staff Attorney at the Legal Aid Society - Employment Law Center, received the Unsung Hero Award from the Santa Clara County Victim Support Network. The Victim Support Network is an association of victim service professionals who strive to enhance the quantity and quality of services for crime victims in Santa Clara County.

The award cited her lifetime of protecting the rights of workers, her promotion of the expansion of civil legal remedies for human trafficking survivors, and her organization of a day-long human trafficking conference on criminal and civil litigation. The award also recognized her efforts to train the LGBTQ community, the disabled community, Filipina domestic workers, and farmworkers on human trafficking laws protecting the exploited workers in

these communities.

During her tenure as supervising attorney of the Workers' Rights Clinic, Ms. Silver Taube has enabled low-income workers in the greater San José area to receive assistance and representation and has trained law students in employment law. The Department of Labor Standards Enforcement has recently partnered with Ms. Silver Taube and her students to conduct investigations of retaliation claims filed with the state agency.

For her effectiveness in improving access to legal services for organizations and communities, she also received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition Sept. 27, signed by Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, and was keynote speaker and honoree at the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California's (VABANC) dinner. The Congressional certificate was presented "in recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community." VABANC honored Silver Taube for her assistance in establishing the South Bay VABANC/KGACLC clinic for Vietnamese-speaking clients; for training and mentorship of Vietnamese-American law students; and for her supervision of a VABANC Law Foundation fellow in San Jose who was sponsored by the Legal Aid Society's Employment Law Center.

In addition, on October 3, Ms. Silver Taube received the Alexander Community Law Center *Commitment Award* during the Center's annual Community, Commitment & Courage Celebration. The Center noted her unwavering support of the organization, her uncompromising commitment to clients' legal needs, and her devoted attention to the professional growth of law students.



Left to right: Caroline Chen, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic Director and Supervising Attorney; Fall semester students, Nicola Liu '15, Paul LaMartina '14, Thomas Skinner '13, and Morgan Anderson '14

Our Work, by the Numbers

For almost twenty years, the Alexander Community Law Center has been a meeting point for several constituencies which, to name a few, include the university's law students, members of the local community, volunteer attorneys, alumni and Santa Clara undergraduates. Now, thanks to the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, currently housed at the Law Center, the community benefits from additional legal services, and law students enjoy a wider selection of hands-on, legal experience. In the Santa Clara tradition of solidarity, these programs make it possible for hundreds of low-income individuals to receive legal advice and services that would otherwise be beyond their reach. At the same time, the hands-on experience obtained by the law students adds to their repertoire of skills just as they embark on their own careers. Below is a snapshot of the programs' achievements during the indicated periods.



The Alexander Community Law Center

During the fiscal period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, the Katharine & George Alexander Community Law provided brief services and advice to:

- 99 individuals during its Consumer Rights Clinics,

- 286 individuals during its Workers' Rights Clinics and
- 206 individuals during its Immigration Clinics.

During the same period, the Community Law Center was able to:

- recover a total of \$71,203 in damages for 11 clients in the Consumer Law area, while it was able to save them a total of \$540,648 arising from contract disputes;
- recover \$144,385 in unpaid wages and compensation for discrimination claims (for cumulative awards totaling \$327,067) for its Workers' Rights clients;
- open nine T-visa cases for victims of human trafficking; obtain 12 T-visas for existing clients that also resulted in 11 additional T-visas for their immediate relatives; and terminate removal proceedings for four Immigration clients.
- open 48 U-Visa cases (28 of which were requested for victims of domestic violence and 12 for victims of other crimes; the remaining 8 visas were for immediate family members of the victims). The Law Center also offered full legal representation to 39 additional clients seeking either U-visas or adjustment of status from U-visas. During the same period, the Immigration area closed 17 existing cases.

KGACLC students logged 11,872 hours of work to ameliorate the lives of their clients. If their hours were to be billed, the prevailing hourly rate of \$150

would apply. Thus, this would represent a direct benefit of \$1,780,800 to the community.

Additionally, thanks to its workshops, given throughout the community, the Law Center reached 1,041 individuals in San Jose with information regarding their rights as consumers, employees, and tenants.



The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

During the 2013 calendar year, LITC provided legal services and advice to 138 clients. For 16 of them, LITC's direct representation resulted in the resolution of all controversies with the Internal Revenue Service.

LITC's students logged 1,774 hours during the same period. If their hours were to be billed, the prevailing hourly rate of \$150 would apply. Thus, the dollar value of their work would be \$266,100.

The monetary benefit to their clients, expressed in terms of waived penalties and the release of disputed refunds, amounts to \$159,593, but this only covers the period of January 1 to June 30, pending additional computations for the second half of the year.

Help us achieve our mission of educating law students in the highest professional and ethical standards while serving the community with competence, conscience and compassion.



TAKE THE MATCHING CHALLENGE TODAY!



Will you help us double the gift?

An anonymous donor has generously offered \$15,000 as a matching gift to the Alexander Community Law Center for our End-of-Year Appeal.

We're already on our way to raising our share, but we need your help to reach our goal by next month.

Please consider a donation to the Law Center to help us reach our \$30,000 goal.

It's easy. Simply go to law.scu.edu/MatchIt

Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center at Santa Clara Law

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About us:
The Katharine & George Alexander Community Law Center (KGACLC) is a civil legal component of Santa Clara University School of Law. Its mission is to educate law students in accordance with the highest professional and ethical standards by serving individuals and communities in need with competence, conscience and compassion through pro bono legal representation and education.

You may learn more about KGACLC at <http://law.scu.edu/kgac/c/>
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