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I. Overview

The mission of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School is to work with judges, legal professionals, governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve access to justice in an effort to eliminate violence against women and girls. The Center was established in 2009, with a grant to Cornell Law School from the Avon Foundation for Women.

This report summarizes activities from February 2010 to January 2011, an important year of growth and milestones for the Center. Throughout the year, the Center worked with Chairperson Kim Azzarelli, members of the Steering Committee, Cornell Law School, Avon Foundation for Women and various partner organizations to develop opportunities for the Center to further its mission. The Center was also pleased to welcome new additions to its staff: Associate Director Elizabeth Brundige; 2010-2011 Women and Justice Fellow Maithili Pradhan and Program Assistant Jamie Weber.

A key initiative for the Center was its inaugural Women and Justice Conference, "Gender-Based Violence and Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas." The event took place in March 2010, in Washington, D.C. The conference was presented in collaboration with the Cornell International Law Journal, and was co-sponsored by Virtue Foundation, Cornell Law School, the Berger International Legal Studies Program and BarBri. The proceedings are memorialized in a conference report as well as video and audio recordings, all available on the Center’s website (www.womenandjustice.org). Papers by several conference speakers comprise a special issue of the Cornell International Law Journal.

The Avon Global Center also had a busy year with its clinical projects undertaken by the International Human Rights Clinic. The Center’s work on acid violence culminated in the publication of the report “Combating Acid Violence in Bangladesh, India and Cambodia,” co-authored with the NYC Bar Association and Virtue Foundation. Building on this experience, the Center has undertaken a project to draft a model code designed to prevent and penalize acid attacks. Partnering with Lawyers Without Borders, the Center contributed to the development and execution of a training program for Liberian judges and lawyers, led by Steering Committee member Hon. Ann C. Williams. The one-week program focused on crimes involving the prosecution of trafficking in persons. The Center continued its work on the Women in Prisons project, and will release a report of its research and findings in March 2011.

The Center continues to provide pro bono legal assistance to judges around the world. This past year, the Center fulfilled 15 judicial requests from seven countries, including Ghana, Uganda, Bangladesh, India, the United States and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The requests were varied in topic and nature, and included developing research memoranda and recommending and synthesizing
resources on gender violence-related issues. Cornell Law students provided research assistance in the preparation of materials and memoranda in response to a number of these requests.

The Center’s online presence continues to grow, with the website (www.womenandjustice.org) receiving a steadily growing number of visitors per month. The legal resources collection contains an expanding number of vetted case law focusing on gender rights and gender violence issues. The Center also has started to use social networking media to draw attention to the problem of gender violence, and to provide access to legal and other resources.

The Center strives to serve as a dynamic resource for Cornell University and Cornell Law School by providing students exceptional learning experiences and bringing engaging events to campus. In addition to involving students in the organization and execution of the 2010 Women and Justice Conference, clinical projects and research projects for judges, the Center was pleased to have the assistance of five law students funded by Cornell’s Public Interest Fund program. The summer research associates conducted important research for the Center’s online legal resources and other initiatives, and had the opportunity to meet with a Ugandan High Court judge for which the Center conducted research.

The Center also contributed to campus offerings by organizing a speaker series sponsored by the Dorothea S. Clarke Program in Feminist Jurisprudence. Cornell Law students and faculty were also invited to attend two programs organized by the Center for the U.S. Department of State International Visitors Leadership Group Program on Women & Justice. These events provided unique opportunities for Cornell students and faculty to meet with and engage noted practitioners and leaders in the field of international gender justice work.

The commitment of the Cornell Law School administration, faculty and staff continues to prove essential to the Center’s development. In particular, Dean Stewart Schwab, Vice Dean and Professor Barbara Holden-Smith, Professor Cynthia Grant Bowman and Professor Muna Ndulo have each dedicated substantial time and efforts to the Center and its initiatives. Moreover, the Center benefits from the support of the Law School staff and facilities, including the expertise of professionals working in the Communications, Library and IT teams, among others.
II. Women and Justice Conference


On March 12, 2010, the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice hosted its inaugural conference, “Gender-Based Violence and Justice in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas.” The conference and closing reception were held at the National Museum for Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. The Center also hosted a Speakers’ Dinner at the Historic Georgetown Club on March 11, 2010.

The conference convened almost 200 participants from 15 countries, including 32 judges (among them, four Supreme Court justices and nine judges from international courts and tribunals), as well as noted scholars, advocates and practitioners from the private and public sectors. The program focused on advances in and obstacles to securing justice for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict areas, featuring four distinguished expert panel discussions and a keynote address by Rashida Manjoo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. Articles by several conference participants will be published in a special issue of the Cornell International Law Journal.

The conference was made possible by funding from the Avon Foundation for Women, Cornell Law School, the Berger International Legal Studies Program at Cornell Law School, Virtue Foundation and BarBri.

The guest speaker panels are noted below.
Panel 1: Progress and Gaps in International Law in Securing Justice for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence During Conflict

**Moderator:** Hon. Joanna Seybert (U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York)

H.E. Judge Joyce Aluoch (International Criminal Court)

Judge Dennis Byron (President, International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda)

Muna Ndulo (Professor, Cornell Law School and Director, Institute for African Development)

Valerie Oosterveld (Professor, University of Western Ontario)

Patricia Viseur Sellers (Visiting Fellow, Kellogg College, University of Oxford)
Panel 2: National Initiatives and Training Innovations to Address Gender Justice and Gender-Based Violence

Moderator: Hon. Ann Williams (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit)

Justice Elena Highton-Nolasco (Vice President, Supreme Court, Argentina)

Joseph Kamara (Deputy Prosecutor, Special Court for Sierra Leone; President, Sierra Leone Bar Association)

Judge Virginia Kendall (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois)

Justice Shiranee Tilakawardane (Supreme Court, Sri Lanka)

Chief Justice Georgina Wood (Supreme Court, Ghana)
Keynote Address: Rashida Manjoo

Rashida Manjoo (United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women)

Introduction: Barbara Holden-Smith (Vice-Dean and Professor, Cornell Law School)
Panel 3: Broadening the Concept of “Justice” for Women and Girl-Survivors of Conflict Violence

Moderator: Erica Steinberger (Partner (ret.), Latham & Watkins, LLP)

Dr. Kelly Askin (Senior Legal Officer, Open Society Justice Initiative)

Fatou Bensouda (Deputy Prosecutor, International Criminal Court)

Anita Bernstein (Professor, Brooklyn Law School)

Dr. Ebrahim Elahi (Director, Global Health & International Planning, Virtue Foundation; Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Preventative Medicine and Global Health, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Attending Physician Beth Israel Medical Center and Elmhurst General Hospital)

Dr. Denis Mukwege (Founder and Director, Panzi Hospital, DRC)
Panel 4: International Courts: The Judicial Experience

**Moderator:** Hon. Barbara Rothstein *(U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington; Director, Federal Judicial Center)*

Justice Shireen Fisher *(Special Court for Sierra Leone)*

Hon. Justice Florence Mumba *(Chair, Electoral Commission, Zambia; Judge, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia)*

Judge Carolyn Temin *(Court of Common Pleas of the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania)*

Judge Inés Weinberg de Roca *(Argentina, UN Appeals Tribunal)*

Judge Patricia Whalen *(War Crimes Chamber, State Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina)*
2010 Conference Feedback

"The conference was exceptionally inspirational."
- Judge Dennis Byron (President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda)

"An extraordinary Inaugural Conference! It was the content of the speeches that impressed me most. Indeed a most enlightening and inspirational Conference on a difficult and pertinent topic. One of the best Conferences I have attended." - Hon. Louise Mailhot (Canada)

"Thank you so much for inviting me to participate in the inaugural conference of the Avon Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School. It was an exciting experience and we all had something to learn from one another. It was a gathering of such high caliber of Judges, Professors and many other dignitaries from different backgrounds. I certainly enjoyed it and was happy to make a contribution... Over and above all this, was your wonderful hospitality for which we all remained so grateful! Once again thank you very much and look forward to seeing you in future."
- H.E. Judge Joyce Aluoch (International Criminal Court)

"I met very important wonderful people in the crusade against gender-based violence, I am grateful for the opportunity." - Hon. Justice Florence Mumba (Chair, Electoral Commission, Zambia; Judge, Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia)

"You should be very proud of your conference. The substance was superb.... I was honored to participate (and so happy that you included the very critical trafficking component)." - Hon. Virginia Kendall (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois)

"I found the conference to be one of the most stimulating that I have ever attended. It was enlightening to hear from so many practitioners (judges, lawyers, doctors, etc.) and I was especially inspired by a number of those practitioners. I enjoyed your conference so much that I have begun my last two Public International Law classes with verbal summaries of what certain speakers said (a judge from Argentina, the doctor from the DRC [Dr. Denis Mukwege of Panzi Hospital] and Patricia Viseur Sellers)." - Professor Valerie Oosterveld (University of Western Ontario)

"I learned much and I am so impressed by the Center’s work. You are certainly filling an important niche."
- Professor Lee Ann Reus (Penn State Altoona; Co-Founder, Panzi Foundation USA; Carl Wilkens Fellow, Genocide Intervention Network)

"It was the best conference I’ve ever been to where I left wanting to do much more than I ever thought we, as individuals, could do! ... (In fact, in large part because of the conference, a group of lawyer friends and I are in the initial stages of creating a network/NGO of Latin American lawyers who are currently working, or may want to work, on bringing justice to victims of gender-based violence! Thanks to the conference, I was put in contact with a Colombian lawyer who will probably be part of this initiative.)" – Montse Ferrer (law clerk to the Honorable Vanessa Ruiz of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals)

"I feel really privileged to have been able to attend this conference. I had the opportunity to listen and talk to people I have been hearing about throughout my legal career - the people who write the articles, laws and judgments that I have been studying on a regular basis."
- Angelique Sarr (Cornell, LL.M. ’10; lawyer in Senegal)

"I was not only impressed by the amazing selection of speakers who came from all over the globe, but more importantly, the substantive discussions truly inspired me and re-affirmed my passion to pursue a career in the field of human rights."
- Christina Kaspar (Cornell, JD ’11)

"I am a Columbia Law student who was lucky enough to attend your conference this past weekend. I just wanted to write to say thank you for putting on such an amazing conference. I have attended many conferences and this was truly the most educational and fun conference I have ever been to." - (Columbia Law student)
B. 2011 Women and Justice Conference – New Delhi, India

The Center plans to host its 2011 conference in New Delhi, India, October 22-23, 2011, with the theme: “Gender Violence and Justice in South Asia.” The conference will be organized in collaboration with Jindal Global Law School and Virtue Foundation, and will convene judges, scholars and practitioners from around the world.
III. Initiatives

A. Clinical Projects

The Center worked on four in-depth clinical research projects during the Spring 2010 and Fall 2010 academic semesters. These clinical projects were undertaken by the Cornell International Human Rights Clinic, directed by Professor Sital Kalantry and assisted by Women and Justice Fellow Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum in the Spring 2010 semester, and co-taught by Sital Kalantry and Elizabeth Brundige in the Fall 2010 semester.

1. Comparative Analysis of Acid Attacks against Women and Girls in Bangladesh, India and Cambodia

Acid violence is a devastating form of gender-based violence in several countries around the world. Acid violence involves intentional acts of violence in which perpetrators throw, spray, or pour acid onto victims’ faces and bodies as an act of revenge, hatred, dishonor, jealousy, or even terrorism to deter women and girls from challenging gender norms, such as attending school or holding public office.

The Center project examining acid violence stemmed from Steering Committee member Dr. Ebby Elahi’s work with Virtue Foundation, performing complex surgeries on acid attack victims in Cambodia. The Center undertook the project in Fall 2009, with discrete studies of three countries with a high incidence of acid attacks: Bangladesh, India and Cambodia.

Following a productive mission to Bangladesh in December 2009, Center faculty and staff, together with students from Cornell’s International Human Rights Clinic, participated in fact finding missions to Cambodia and India during the Spring 2010 semester. Hon. Janet Bond Arterton (U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut) participated in the Cambodia mission. The three missions entailed more than 150 interviews with survivors, judges, lawyers, civil society advocates, policymakers, legislators and medical professionals. These interviews and meetings supplemented extensive desk research, including legal analysis and review of local media sources.

Drawing upon this research, the Center issued the report, *Combating Acid Violence in Bangladesh, India, and Cambodia*, co-authored with the Cornell International Human Rights Clinic, NYC Bar Association International Human Rights Committee and Virtue Foundation. The report is the first comparative analysis of acid violence in these countries. Examining acid violence from an international human rights perspective, the report demonstrates that it is a form of gender-based violence in contravention of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW). The report identifies the causes of acid violence and suggests practical measures that governments, the private sector and other actors can take to address and mitigate the harms of acid violence.
Advocates from Cambodian NGOs, including Cambodia Acid Survivors Charity and LICADHO, met with Hon. Janet Bond Arterton and the Avon Global Center delegation, which included Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum, Sara Lulo and Cornell Law student Stella Kwon.

To mark the release of the report, the Center organized a launch event and panel discussion at the Cornell Club in New York City on January 27, 2011. The event was co-sponsored by the Avon Global Center, the New York City Bar Association International Human Rights Committee, Virtue Foundation and the Cornell Law School Alumni Association. Seventy people attended the event, representing a cross-section of legal practitioners, judges, medical professionals, journalists, private and public sector professionals and other interested parties. Avon Global Center Chair Kim Azzarelli opened the event with introductory remarks. The event featured a panel discussion on the international problem of acid violence, the related legal, medical and societal considerations, and the particular findings and recommendations of the report. Speakers included: Hon. Janet Bond Arterton (U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut); Dr. Ebby Elahi (Director, Global Health & International Programming, Virtue Foundation; Associate Clinical Professor, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Attending Physician, Beth Israel Medical Center and Elmhurst General Hospital); Professor Sital Kalantry (Associate Clinical Professor and Faculty Director of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School); and Sujata Warrier (Director, New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence & Former Country Director, ABA Rule of Law Initiative in Bangladesh). Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum (Program Director, Virtue Foundation) moderated the panel discussion.

The Center also invited members of the media to attend an advance briefing on the report and the broader work of the Center.

2. Women in Prisons Project

At the suggestion of Justice Debra James, Chairperson of the New York Women in Prison Committee of the National Association of Women Judges, the Avon Global Center undertook a project in Fall 2009 to investigate the criminal justice system’s response to domestic violence survivors charged with crimes that involve harm to their abusers or that were committed under the threat of violence from their abusers.

Nine out of 10 women in U.S. prisons have been victims of violence at some point in their lives. Many of these women are survivors of domestic abuse, and the crimes for which they have been sentenced are often directly related to their abuse. In many cases, the police failed to investigate and enforce laws against domestic abuse, defense attorneys failed to raise the issue during the trial, and the judges failed to consider past victimization and institutional failures during the sentencing phase. Often, these women receive and serve the maximum sentences in prison for their crimes, with no regard for their prior abuse or the failures of the justice system to protect them as victims of criminal violence.

As part of the Women & Justice Speaker Series sponsored by the Dorothea S. Clarke Program in Feminist Jurisprudence, the Avon Global Center organized a panel discussion regarding the treatment of women in New York State prisons who had been victims of domestic violence and committed crimes as a result of such violence. Pictured from left: Cynthia Grant Bowman, Dorothea S. Clarke Professor of Law and Avon Global Center Steering Committee member; Lady Kathryn Williams-Julien, a domestic violence survivor; Tamar Kraft-Stolar, director of the Women in Prison Project at the Correctional Association of New York; and Jesenia Santana, legal services coordinator of STEPS to End Family Violence.
Working in collaboration with the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York, the Clinic prepared a report based on interviews and desk research that identifies and analyzes some of the central barriers to justice for domestic violence survivor-defendants in New York State. The draft report examines these barriers by considering the full context of the survivors’ lives, from the initial failures of the criminal justice system to protect them from violence to the challenges they encounter as criminal defendants and later as convicted individuals. By contributing to a greater understanding of the criminal justice system’s response to survivor-defendants, the report aims to assist policymakers and others, especially justice system actors, in taking concrete steps toward improving access to justice. The Avon Global Center is presently in the final stages of review and revision of the report, which will be released in March 2011.

3. Trial Advocacy Training Program on Trafficking in Persons in Liberia

During the Fall 2010 semester, the Avon Global Center developed an international law training module for the Lawyers Without Borders trial advocacy training program for Liberian judges and lawyers in Monrovia, Liberia. The training program aims to strengthen the rule of law and improve the ability of the Liberian judicial system to effectively prosecute traffickers. Trafficking in persons is a form of modern-day slavery and a serious human rights problem throughout the world, including in Liberia. Trafficking victims in Liberia are typically forced to work as domestic servants, street vendors, beggars or prostitutes, and are also found working on rubber plantations or in diamond mines. The Liberian government enacted an Act to Ban Trafficking in 2005, and has taken important steps to combat trafficking. However, limited resources and lack of training of legal, judicial and law enforcement personnel have presented challenges to Liberia in its efforts to effectively prevent trafficking in persons, protect trafficking victims and prosecute traffickers.

The program took place November 9 to 13, 2010, with participants comprising more than 60 Liberian judges, prosecutors, and public defenders. The delegation of trainers was led by Hon. Ann C. Williams (U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the Seventh Circuit and Avon Global Center Steering Committee member). The faculty also included Hon. Timothy Burgess (U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska), Hon. Virginia Kendall (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois), Hon. Richard Roberts (U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia), and lawyers from law firms in the United States and United Kingdom.

The Avon Global Center developed and delivered the international law component of the training program. This aspect of the program addressed international law on trafficking in persons and explored how it can be used in prosecuting, defending or adjudicating trafficking cases. The Avon Global Center team included Cornell Law School Vice Dean and Professor Barbara Holden-Smith, Associate Director Elizabeth Brundige, and two International Human Rights Clinic students.

The Liberia program was made possible by a sub-grant to Lawyers Without Borders by World Hope International under a grant from the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of the U.S. State Department. The Avon Global Center’s participation was made possible by funding from the Avon Foundation for Women and Cornell Law School.

Above: The Temple of Justice, home to the Liberian Supreme Court.

Below: The delegation of trainers in the Chambers of the Chief Justice of Liberia, Johnny Lewis. Cornell participants included Steering Committee member Vice Dean and Professor Barbara Holden-Smith, Associate Director and Adjunct Professor of Law Elizabeth Brundige, and students Jennifer Holsey and Melissa Koven.
B. Legal Research Support for Judges

The Center aims to be a resource for judges by providing pro bono legal research assistance. To that end, the Center undertook 15 individual judicial requests for research assistance between February 2010 and January 2011. Certain of these requests formed the basis for semester-long research and drafting projects conducted by Cornell Law School enrolled in a class taught by Sara Lulo, allowing students to receive law school credit for their work. Sample topics of research requests:

- Research memorandum on policy considerations relating to the exploitation of child domestic labor disproportionately impacting girls
- Research memorandum on links between child trafficking and child domestic labor
- Research on trafficking of women and girls
- Research on domestic violence
- Research on U.S. trafficking legislation
- Research regarding international sources of support for the protection of judicial independence
- Research memorandum on the practice of lobolo ("bride price")
- Compilation of articles and reports on the effects of polygamy
- Compilation of articles and reports on female genital mutilation
- Sample presentation materials for a presentation on gender-based violence
- Information regarding training program for judges and lawyers

C. Online Legal Resources Collection

The continued development of an online legal resources database remains an important initiative of the Center. In terms of case law relating to gender violence and access to justice, the Center expanded its jurisprudence section to include cases from 44 countries, as well as from international and regional human rights bodies. Cornell Law School students provided assistance in researching and analyzing the case law, and drafting the case summaries.

The Center diversified its database of non-jurisprudential legal resources by featuring more than 30 newly-published articles and reports addressing gender-based violence and access to justice. In addition, the Center developed two original documents: a “checklist guide” for applying international law to domestic cases, and an extensive chart tracking the development of gender jurisprudence in international war crimes tribunals.

D. Social Networking Media

Recognizing the growing importance of social networking media, the Center initiated a Facebook page, featuring information about the Center and developments in the field of gender justice – e.g., relevant events, US and international news reports, newly released studies and reports and videos. Through this popular form of social media, the Center will strive to raise awareness of gender justice issues and providing pertinent information and news updates from media sources around the world. The Center hopes to develop a diverse international "online community"; as its user base grows, the Center also hopes to use Facebook and Twitter as a means to engage different stakeholders to comment on and discuss gender violence issues.
E. U.S. Department of State
International Visitors Leadership
Program on Women and Justice

The Center was twice selected by the U.S. Department of State to host an international delegation of prominent professors, members of parliament, judges, lawyers, prosecutors and advocates. The International Visitors Leadership Program on Women and Justice includes participants nominated by U.S. Embassies in their home countries as leading figures in their respective fields. The program aims to promote understanding of different legal systems and appreciation of the rule of law. The respective themes for the two visits to the Avon Global Center were: “Improving Gender Justice” and “The Role of NGOs in Promoting Global Women’s Issues.”

The delegation of international visitors with Professor Sital Kalantry, Judge John Rowley, JoAnne Miner (former clinical professor at Cornell Law School), Dean Stewart Schwab and Sara Lulo at Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY, March 15, 2010.

Improving Gender Justice, March 2010

On March 15, 2010, the Avon Global Center hosted a delegation of international visitors from 23 countries. The Center developed a program focused on innovations in judicial systems designed to strengthen women’s access to justice. The program featured a presentation by and discussion with Hon. John C. Rowley, the supervising judge of the Integrated Domestic Violence Courts in Tompkins County. Judge Rowley spoke about the successes and challenges of this innovative court system in New York State, which refers cases involving domestic violence to a single court with a presiding judge trained in domestic violence issues. Judge Rowley gave practical insights on the challenges and successes of such a system.

The Avon Global Center team also presented on resources offered by the Center to support the work of judges.

The Role of NGOs in Promoting Global Women’s Issues,
June 2010

On June 21, 2010, the Avon Global Center hosted a second State Department delegation, this one comprising leaders from civil society organizations in 14 countries. The Center hosted a luncheon and panel discussion on the role of NGOs in promoting women’s rights and access to justice.

A panel discussion provided the opportunity for Cornell Law faculty and scholars to further engage with the distinguished visitors. Professor Cynthia Bowman spoke on “Feminist Jurisprudence and Feminist Lawmaking in the United States.” Professor Bowman charted the history of feminist lawmaking and particular events that spurred American feminist jurisprudence. Anna Dolidze (Cornell Law JSD Candidate) spoke on “Public Interest Law Transnationalism in Europe: Advancing Women’s Issues through Transnational Litigation,” drawing upon both her doctoral research and personal experience as a human rights advocate in Georgia. Finally, Professor Sital Kalantry discussed “Human Rights Advocacy through Clinical Teaching,” describing the work of clinical programs in American law schools, and how they can be an effective tool for legal advocacy with the additional benefit of providing students with valuable experience. The visitors had the opportunity to engage in a question-and-answer session with the panelists and to exchange views and experiences with one another.
F. Women and Global Justice Speaker Series

In collaboration with Professor Cynthia Grant Bowman, the Avon Global Center organized the Women and Global Justice Speaker Series at Cornell Law School. Funding for the series was provided by the Dorothea S. Clarke Program in Feminist Jurisprudence at Cornell. Video and audio recordings of lectures are available at the Center's website.

“Barriers to Justice Faced by Domestic Violence Survivors as Criminal Defendants”
Tamar Kraft-Stolar (Director, Women in Prison Project at the Correctional Association of New York) and Jesenia A. Santana (Legal Services Coordinator, STEPS to End Family Violence) February 24, 2010

“Protecting Human Rights and Improving Access to Justice in Ghana”
Chief Justice Georgina Wood (Supreme Court, Ghana) April 1, 2010

“Impressive Progress Alongside Persistent Problems: Promoting Gender Fairness in U.S. Courts”
Lynn Hecht Schafran (Director, National Judicial Education Program and Senior Vice-President, Legal Momentum Judicial Education Program) April 8, 2010

“Advocating for Victims of Acid Attacks through Public Interest Litigation in the State of Karnataka, India”
Sheela Ramanathan (Director, Human Rights Law Network, Bangalore Unit) April 27, 2010

Above: Dean Stewart Schwab, Chief Justice Georgina Wood and Vice Dean and Professor of Law Barbara Holden-Smith.

G. Presentations

The Avon Global Center team made the following presentations on the Center’s work and initiatives:


IV. Who We Are

A. Center Staff and Faculty

Sital Kalantry, Faculty Director

Sital Kalantry is an Associate Clinical Professor at Cornell Law School where she directs the International Human Rights Clinic and is the co-founder and Faculty Director of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School. She has extensive experience working on and supervising projects that utilize litigation and non-litigation strategies to promote international human rights, particularly women’s rights and the right to education. Professor Kalantry’s research focuses on using quantitative and qualitative approaches to understand and promote international human rights law. She has received a Fulbright-Nehru grant to conduct research in India on the use and impact of public interest litigation. Her works have been published in, among other places, the Human Rights Quarterly, the National Law Journal, and the Stanford Journal of International Law. Prior to joining Cornell Law School, she was a visiting clinical lecturer at Yale Law School where she co-taught a clinic focusing on national security and civil liberties. She also practiced private international law at two major international law firms. She received a J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Law School, a M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, and a B.A. from Cornell University.

Sara Lulo, Executive Director

Sara Lulo is the Executive Director of the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Cornell Law School. Ms. Lulo has helped develop various rule of law initiatives focused on gender-based violence, including judicial symposia and advocacy training programs in Kenya and Liberia, as well as a public outreach and education campaign in Liberia, sponsored by Lawyers Without Borders. Prior to joining the Avon Global Center, Ms. Lulo worked in the New York and London offices of the international law firm White & Case LLP. In private practice, she specialized in international commercial arbitration and investor-state treaty arbitration. Her pro bono practice included acting as lead counsel for successful political asylum claims and heading up multiple international rule of law initiatives. In addition, Ms. Lulo served on secondment to the Ministry of Justice of Georgia in Tbilisi, Georgia, where she advised the government on investment treaty disputes. Ms. Lulo received J.D. and LL.M. degrees from Cornell Law School, where she served as Article Editor for the Cornell Law Review. She holds an M.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from New York University and a B.A. from Cornell University.
Elizabeth Brundige, Associate Director

Elizabeth Brundige joined the Avon Global Center as Associate Director in July 2010. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Cornell Law School, where she co-teaches the International Human Rights Clinic. Prior to joining Cornell Law School, Ms. Brundige was the Robert M. Cover – Allard K. Lowenstein Fellow in International Human Rights and a clinical lecturer in law at Yale Law School, where she co-taught the Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, taught an undergraduate course in international human rights at Yale College, and helped coordinate the activities of the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights. She previously worked for the International Association of Women Judges, under the auspices of Yale Law School’s Robert L. Bernstein Fellowship in International Human Rights, on several programs designed to advance women’s human rights and access to justice in southern and East Africa. She was also an Associate Legal Officer in the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and a law clerk for Judge Kermit V. Lipez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and Justice Sandile Ngcobo of the Constitutional Court of South Africa. She received a J.D. from Yale Law School, an M.Phil. in Development Studies from Oxford University, and a B.A. from Yale University.

Jocelyn Getgen Kestenbaum, 2009-2010 Women and Justice Fellow

Jocelyn works in the areas of international human rights and public health with a special focus on improving the health and lives of women and girls. She has worked on women's human rights and development projects in Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Nicaragua. She has also worked on strategic human rights litigation and advocacy projects in Colombia, Nicaragua, India, Croatia and Poland. Prior to graduate school, Jocelyn served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador from 2001 to 2003. Since that time, she has worked with several social justice organizations, including Safe Horizon’s Domestic Violence and Immigration Law Projects, Praxis Institute for Social Justice in Lima, Peru, and the Center for Reproductive Rights’ International Legal Program. Jocelyn has conducted original in-country research and has written award-winning articles examining the reproductive health and human rights violations of Nicaragua’s complete abortion ban as well as Peru’s enforced sterilization programs. She received a J.D. from Cornell Law School, an M.P.H. from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a B.A. from Cornell University. Her commitment to international human rights won her Cornell Law School’s Freeman Award for Civil and Human Rights. Jocelyn completed her time as Women and Justice Fellow in August 2010, and joined the Virtue Foundation as Program Director. She continues to be involved with the Avon Global Center through various collaborations between the two organizations.
Maithili Pradhan, 2010-2011 Women and Justice Fellow

Maithili Pradhan worked part-time for the Avon Global Center during summer 2010 and, in August 2010, joined the Center on a full-time basis as the 2010-2011 Women and Justice. She is interested in international human rights law with a special focus on women and discrimination. Maithili began working in this field as an undergraduate at the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at New York University School of Law, where she researched caste-based discrimination in the context of international human rights law. She also worked at the International Rescue Committee, assisting refugees in the citizenship process. During her time as a student at Cornell Law School, she worked with Professor Sital Kalantry on public-interest litigation relating to maternal mortality in India and, as part of the International Human Rights Law Clinic, co-authored a briefing paper on domestic violence in India for a judicial training program. Maithili received a J.D. from Cornell Law School, a Master 2 (LL.M. equivalent) in Global Business Law from the Institut d’Etudes Politiques (“Sciences Po”) in Paris, and a B.A. in International Politics from New York University. She is a native speaker of English, Hindi, and Marathi and is proficient in French.

Jamie Weber, Program Assistant

As the Program Assistant for the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice, Ms. Weber assists with all aspects of office support. Prior to joining the Law School and the Avon Global Center, Ms. Weber supported several areas at Cornell University including, Alumni Affairs & Development, and the Office of Commencement Events, and also served on various committees including the Inauguration of President David J. Skorton. She joined the Cornell staff in 1990. She earned her license in Practical Nursing in 1999 and attended Tompkins Cortland Community College majoring in Business Administration.
B. Steering Committee

The Center faculty and staff met with the Steering Committee by telephone conference in February, July and October 2010. The Committee also met in person on March 11, 2010, in Washington, D.C., preceding the inaugural Women and Justice Conference.

Steering Committee members:

Kim K. Azzarelli, Chairperson
Vice President, Corporate Engagement, Goldman Sachs

Professor Cynthia Grant Bowman
Dorothea S. Clarke Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

Dr. Ebby Elahi
Director, Global Health and International Programming, Virtue Foundation; Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Preventative Medicine and Global Health, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Attending Physician, Beth Israel Medical Center and Elmhurst General Hospital

Justice Elena Highton-Nolasco
Deputy Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Argentina

Professor Barbara J. Holden-Smith
Vice Dean and Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

Carol Kurzig
President, Avon Foundation for Women

Professor Muna Ndulo
Professor of Law, Cornell Law School and Director, Cornell University’s Institute for African Development

Honorable Barbara Rothstein
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington and Director, Federal Judicial Center

Honorable Joanna Seybert
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Erica H. Steinberger
Partner (ret.), Latham & Watkins LLP

Honorable Ann Claire Williams
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Chief Justice Georgina Wood
Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Ghana