

IN JUST TIMES

a publication of the

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**



Changing Laws, Changing Lives

August 2015

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Dear Friends,

We want to take time this month to thank our incredible interns, past and present, for their contributions. This summer, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty opened its doors to eight interns. Over these past few months, each has demonstrated an impressive commitment to utilizing the power of the law to end and prevent homelessness.



Maria Foscarinis
Executive Director

We asked them to put together the newsletter this month and share what had brought them here - below you will find what moved them to give their time and attention to our mission in particular.

So, again, our gratitude goes to each of you - you will be missed, but we know you will be making the world a better place.

Breaking News:
**The Department of Justice Condemns the Local Criminization
of Homelessness**

On August 6, 2015, **the Department of Justice filed a statement of interest brief supporting the Law Center's position in our anti-camping litigation in Boise, Idaho.** Click here to read **our press release.** The Law Center brought this case in 2009 not only to defend the rights of homeless residents of Boise to survive without being punished, but also to create an example that would have a national impact. This brief has the potential to make that impact – in this case and many others. It has already had an impact on the national conversation around homelessness. Including, **NBC, NYTimes, LA Times, Huffington Post** , and **Boise Weekly.**

The Law Center has worked for years to educate and encourage the federal government, including the DOJ, to take a stronger stand on criminalization. It has been a central part of our advocacy and strategy around international human rights mechanisms **where we obtained important recommendations that emphasized federal as well as local responsibility to end criminalization.** **Thank you for supporting us – there is much to celebrate this week as our country takes important steps to fulfill its human rights obligations!**

Intern Edition



“I think that this cause is important because too often people feel as if just because something doesn’t affect them personally that it shouldn’t concern them. I disagree with this sentiment and believe that the Law Center is working towards changing that outlook as well as the laws that coincide with such views. Further, the Law Center also does an amazing job of making this issue relatable to you, regardless of your background.”

Alyse Belavic

Development & Communications Intern

“Growing up in South Africa, I have witnessed how senseless discrimination and injustice cripples a society. Sustainable and humane societies are built on the values of empathy and justice that ensure the right to housing, healthcare, education and equal opportunity for all. I feel so privileged to work at an organization that is so dedicated to achieving this vision.”

Beth Abramson

Development & Communications Intern

"Homelessness is an affliction that strikes people when they are down, and then keeps them down. I think those who shun persons experiencing homelessness do so because, in the back of their minds, they fear that it could happen to them. They are correct... What they don't often realize is how easily it can happen to them. What we need to do is end homelessness, not hide those who are afflicted by it."

Bob Alexander

Legal Intern

“Even before I considered a career in law, I had always been passionate about human rights and public policy. The issue of homelessness is particularly interesting to me because, unlike many issues facing this country, there are clear solutions that both respect individual rights, and are more fiscally responsible. I am honored to contribute to the Law Center’s work to stop the practice of criminalizing poverty and to end homelessness in the United States.”

Kathryn Krause

Legal Intern

“I’m here because I believe in the inherent humanity, dignity, and worth of every, single human being in this world. NCLHP is an incredible community of people who harness the power of law and policy to improve the world in which we live.”

Leslie Paluch

Legal Intern

“Before I came to the Law Center, I really didn’t know the scope of the issues for those experiencing homelessness, and the criminalization associated with this major issue. Accompanying the legal and advocacy aspect is crucial, and is being used to prevent and end homelessness. America has the resources. It is time to implement lasting change that treats the most vulnerable with the human dignity everyone deserves, and to remove the stigma making homelessness a crime.”

Natalie Bach

Administrative Intern

“Everyone can make a difference. Working together, this is what the Law Center does on a national scale in the lives of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and in poverty and it has been a privilege to have the opportunity to intern with the Law Center.”

Nicole Cardamone

Legal Intern

“In order to achieve the apogee of the American democratic system people deserve access to the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, and education. Progressive social change comes from the dedicated few who unapologetically challenge the inequitable conditions of their fellow human beings and the systemic pressures that maintain them. I am proud to be a part of an organization that works to give individuals greater control over their own lives.”

Siarra Rogers

Program & Communications Intern

The Law Center Has a New Deputy Director!



“We have the capacity to eradicate dire poverty and homelessness, as well as a legal and moral obligation to do so. Working together, we can reduce suffering and injustice, promote fairness and opportunity.”

Janet Hostetler comes to the Law Center from HUD’s Office of Fair Housing Equal Opportunity where she was the Chief of Staff, charged with driving and coordinating major priorities for the 500+ person civil rights office. Janet’s portfolio includes communication and policy development strategies, coordinating the implementation of new policies, and improving effectiveness and efficiency in key areas.

Janet was instrumental in advancing national fair housing policy, including policies related to affirmatively furthering fair housing, section 3 of the 1968 HUD Act, housing protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity, housing protections for victims of domestic violence, and HUD’s responsibilities under international human rights law. In addition to policy and communications work, Janet successfully led many of FHEO’s efforts in strategic planning, process improvement, leadership development, and employee engagement.

Prior to being appointed at HUD, Janet was an appellate attorney working on a range of civil rights and poverty issues at the Public Justice Center in Baltimore, Maryland as the Francis Murnaghan Appellate Fellow.

Janet holds a J.D. from New York University School of Law, an M.A. in International Relations from the Australian National University, and a B.A. in Economics and Latin American Studies from Wellesley College. Janet has lived in Argentina, Australia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, and various parts of the United States.

Thank you for joining our team Janet!

Changing Laws. Changing Lives.

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (the Law Center) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to end and prevent homelessness.

With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.

www.nlchp.org