

# Sparer Connect

February 2010



 Brooklyn Law School est1901

## A newsletter for the Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Community

### Upcoming Sparer Events

**2/18** Professor Eve Cary, an important member of the Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Committee for many years died on September 29, 2009 following a brave battle with ovarian cancer. To celebrate her life, a memorial service will be held at 4:00 PM in the Moot Court Room at the Law School with a reception to follow. **RSVP** at: [www.brooklaw.edu/en/NewsAndEvents/Events/2010/02-18-2010a.aspx](http://www.brooklaw.edu/en/NewsAndEvents/Events/2010/02-18-2010a.aspx)

**3/5** The Sparer Program will hold our annual Forum, "Finding A Cure: Providing Adequate Healthcare for Immigrants in Detention on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-5:45 PM in the Subotnick Conference Center. **Nina Bernstein**, the New York Times Reporter who has done path-breaking investigation of the problems of immigrant detention will be the keynote speaker. A reception will follow. Information is on the **BLS website** at [www.brooklaw.edu/NewsAndEvents/Events/2010/03-05-2010a.aspx](http://www.brooklaw.edu/NewsAndEvents/Events/2010/03-05-2010a.aspx)

*Preparing lawyers to work for social justice and the greater good has been part of Brooklyn Law School's Mission since our founding over a century ago. The Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Program, established in 1985, has earned nationwide recognition and has become an important element in fulfilling that mission. This newsletter highlights some of the recent work of Sparer Fellows, and provides updates on how Sparer Alums can remain connected to this vibrant public interest community.*

**Sparer Spotlight:** Erin Durkin spent the summer of 2009 at the Anchorage Office of Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC)

Erin Durkin '12 was looking for a public interest opportunity in an entirely new environment. She found that at the Alaska Legal Services Corporation. The Alaska Legal Services Corporation provides low-income Alaskans with free legal assistance pertaining to government benefits, housing and family law, among other issues. Durkin's primary focus was on housing. She provided direct services to clients across the State regarding eviction notices they had received. Because her clients often did not have the protection of leases, landlords were frequently able to obtain evictions in housing court. However Durkin's efforts helped clients to better understand their rights and avoid having a housing court record. Durkin was also able to gain exposure to areas outside of housing through work on a consumer protection case initiated by ALSC. Outside of work, she was able to spend time hiking mountain trails, going on fishing trips, and enjoying the 24 hours of sunlight that an Alaskan summer offers!



## Sparer Fellows Summer 2010

- Noor Alam '12
- Kyle Antonelli '12
- Dana Betterton '12
- Archana Dittakavi '11
- Nick Fribourg '12
- Megan Hjelle '12
- Daris Isbell '12
- Erica Kyzmir '11
- Jane Li '12
- Jason Labate '12
- Allison Lack '12
- Leigh Mangum '11
- Michael Mastrangelo '11
- Lee Miller '12
- Brandon Novelli '12
- Cristina Pejoves '11
- Lesley Peterson '11
- Alexandra Puleo '11
- Hannah Roth '12
- Riti Singh '12
- Rebecca Watson '12

### A special thanks to our Sparer Leadership Committee

- Amy Hsieh '11
- Jason Labate '12
- Jane Li '12
- Deirdre McGuigan '10
- Lee Miller '12
- Michael Pope '10
- Hannah Roth '12

Do you want to contribute to our next newsletter or have suggestions? Please email: [charles.krause@brooklaw.edu](mailto:charles.krause@brooklaw.edu)

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## Michael Pope '10 Awarded Equal Justice Works Fellowship for Community Youth Reentry Project

Brooklyn Law School and Sparer Alumna Laurie Parise '04 and current Sparer Fellow Michael Pope '10 have much to celebrate, and many ambitious goals to meet in the year ahead. They received news that Pope was awarded one of the coveted Equal Justice Works Fellowships to launch a program at Youth Represent, a non-profit organization that Parise founded to provide representation to youth in both the family and adult criminal justice system.

"The stars aligned" Pope remarked, as he described the collaborative process that went into developing this new program with Parise. Both Pope and Parise are quick to point out that the Equal Justice Fellowship would not have been possible without their involvement with the Sparer Fellowship Program. Parise, who was also awarded an Equal Justice Works Fellowship after graduating from BLS, was exploring hosting an Equal Justice Works fellow at her own organization. She chose to go directly to the Sparer community to find a top-notch student with a longstanding dedication to public interest. Elizabeth Kane, Director of Public Service Center Programs at BLS, connected Parise with Pope. Pope had spent his time as a Sparer Fellow working in public defense, and had expressed interest in the Equal Justice Works Fellowship. Parise knew he was a perfect fit for this Fellowship upon first meeting, "his commitment to the field stood out, and the youth side desperately needs a male mentor, and Michael has the background, the passion, and the humor to be just that."

The Equal Justice Works Fellowship supports one-of-a-kind legal advocacy programs targeted at disenfranchised individuals or groups in need of representation. The Fellowship program works by connecting fellows and host organizations to corporate sponsors. Through the generous support of Morrison and Foerster LLP, Pope will be using his Equal Justice Works Fellowship to launch the Community Youth Reentry Project (CYRP). CYRP will connect youth affected by the criminal justice system to a comprehensive set of legal services offered at Youth Represent. The services will be uniquely positioned to reach affected youth through partnerships with Community Based Organizations, like the New York City Justice Corps. Pope will also work to use alternative media, like podcasts, to help youth to better understand their rights. Young individuals will receive support on a range of issues, including housing, employment and education.

Pope said, "Sparer helped me to connect to the organizations I needed to make this all possible." He also described the immense support he received from Sparer faculty and staff when preparing his fellowship application and gearing up for the rigorous Equal Justice Works interview process. Parise described a similar experience, "I was first inspired to work on youth issues after my Sparer summer at the Juvenile Rights Division [Legal Aid Society], and I may not have discovered the Equal Justice Works Fellowship without Sparer."