

30th Annual Sparer Symposium
Partnering Against Poverty:
Examining Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Public Interest
Lawyering
Friday, March 18th, 9-5p.m.
Levy Conference Center

8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast & Registration**

9:00 a.m. **Opening Remarks**

9:15 – 10:30 a.m. **Breaking Down Barriers to Re-entry: A Conversation about Life after Conviction**

This panel will focus on both the challenges associated with re-entry and novel initiatives that help reintegrate the formerly convicted and formerly incarcerated into the community. After paying their debts to society, individuals with criminal records face myriad challenges, including societal prejudgment, discrimination in employment opportunities, and lack of practical knowledge or formal education necessary to excel professionally. This panel of legal practitioners, representatives from advocacy organizations and government officials with expertise in the realm of re-entry will explore questions such as: How can the legal community collaborate within and without to enable these individuals to become productive citizens again? What types of programs help people with criminal records piece their lives back together? How can re-entry initiatives play a role in promoting stronger and healthier communities?

- **Everett Gillison**, Esq., Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, City of Philadelphia
- **Thomas J. Innes III**, Esq., Director of Prison Services, Defender Association of Philadelphia
- **Wayne Jacobs**, Executive Director, X-Offenders for Community Empowerment
- **Donna Reed Miller**, Councilwoman for the City of Philadelphia
- **L. Felipe Restrepo**, Magistrate Judge, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Poverty-Environment Connection: Fostering Collaboration in Environmental Justice

There is a relationship between poverty and the environment. This panel explores that relationship and the role of a diverse array of practitioners, from activists and organizers to policy advocates and lawyers in addressing the poverty-environment connection. Through first-hand accounts of dynamic and varied models of lawyering, organizing, and advocacy, panelists will discuss partnerships between practitioners in different fields to achieve environmental justice.

- **Cecil Corbin-Mark**, M.Phil, Deputy Director and Director of Policy

Initiatives, WE ACT for Environmental Justice

- **Steve Fischbach**, Esq., Community Lawyer, Rhode Island Legal Services
- **Al Huang**, Esq., Environmental Justice Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council
- **Nicky Sheats**, Esq., Ph.D, Director, Center for Urban Environment, John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy at Thomas Edison State College

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

Refocusing the Digital Revolution: Employing Innovative Technological Solutions to Eliminating Poverty

This panel will consist of people working to combat poverty with innovative technological solutions. Panelists have formed numerous links with other actors in their respective fields, a necessary condition of solving difficult problems in the digital age. The conversation will center on effective ways to collaborate among government and non-government actors, for-profit and non-profit organizations, and legal and non-legal groups.

- **Claudia Colindres Johnson**, Esq., L'97, Local Initiatives Coordinator for LawHelp Interactive, Pro Bono Net
- **Robert Fadel**, Vice President for International Development and Treasurer, One Laptop Per Child Foundation

Heather Thorne Matthews, W'01, Director of ICT Innovation Program at AppLab, Grameen Foundation

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Poverty's Youngest Victims: Ethical Choices for First Responders and Advocates in the Fight for Healthy and Affordable Food

This panel will consist of attorneys, healthcare practitioners, and academics, and will focus on innovative solutions to combating child hunger. It will explore the advantages and difficulties of cross-profession collaboration within the hunger realm. It will also tackle the ethical problems that come into play when attorneys, doctors, and social workers encounter a hungry child and family; how do these various advocates perceive their respective roles in the fight for a child's well-being?

- **Mariana Chilton**, Ph.D., MPH, Associate Professor of Public Health at Drexel University School of Public Health, Principal Investigator for the Philadelphia Grow Project, co-Principal Investigator of Children's Health Watch
- **Kathleen Conroy**, M.D., Medical Director at Medical-Legal Partnership
- **Jonathan Stein**, Esq., L'68, General Counsel, Community Legal Services
- **David Super**, Professor, University of Maryland School of Law

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

In Search of Shelter: Local and National Strategies to Alleviating Homelessness

This panel will focus on innovative solutions and opportunities for using cross-disciplinary collaboration to better address the needs of the homeless and to combat the forces that contribute to the rising tide of homelessness in Philadelphia and around the country. This panel will include the formerly homeless, direct service providers at the local and national level, as well as researchers whose work drive the creation and implementation homelessness policy.

- **Dennis Culhane**, Ph.D., Professor at the University of Pennsylvania; Director of Research for the National Center for Homelessness Among Veterans
- **Farah Jimenez**, L'96, President and CEO of the People's Emergency Center
- **Nikki Johnson-Huston**, Esq., Attorney for the City of Philadelphia Law Department and formerly homeless
- **Ralph da Costa Nunez**, Ph.D., President of the Institute for Children and Poverty, CEO of Homes for the Homeless
- **Edward J. Speedling**, Ph.D., Manager of the Homeless Veterans Internship Program at Project H.O.M.E.

4:45 p.m.

Closing Remarks

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Reception, Featuring Remarks from Sr. Mary Scullion, Co-Founder, Executive Director and President of Project H.O.M.E.