

PILC NEWSLETTER



GET INVOLVED!

Street Law

A student-run organization sending law students out into the Athens community to teach various topics of "Street Law"

www.streetlaw.org

DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center

Represent the interests of children alleged to be abused or neglected and in need of the protection of the DeKalb County Juvenile Court.

www.dekalbcac.org

Spotlight On: Monika Dobbs & Sara Schramm

Monika Dobbs is a 3rd year student at UGA Law. She has been doing public interest work since she was in college. During her three years at UGA Law she has worked tirelessly with several non-profits in Athens and Atlanta. Last year, Dobbs spent the second part of her summer working abroad in Slovakia at the Human Rights League through UGA's Global Internship program. In August, when Dobbs came back, she started working with CASA, where she represented children in foster care who had been abused. "I have been working with CASA for over a year now," said Dobbs, "I represent two children from the same family. Their case manager has a ton of children but I only have two so I am more involved and it is easier to make suggestions to the court." When I asked Ms. Dobbs what she enjoys most about working with CASA she replied, **"I like being involved and making something good happen in a child's life that wouldn't otherwise happen."** Along with her continued work with

CASA, Dobbs also teaches children in the Athens community about various legal topics through the student run organization "Street Law." "We will be looking for new officers in January," explained Dobbs, "the commitment is 3 hours per week—two for preparation and one for the presentation." Additionally, this past summer **Dobbs was awarded an Equal Justice Foundation Fellowship** that allowed her to work at the DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center, where she continued to be a champion for children's rights. This semester, along with her continued work with CASA and Street Law, Dobbs is working with juveniles as part of UGA Law's Criminal Defense Clinic where **"...the hardest part is seeing the racial disparities in the criminal justice system,"** said Dobbs.

Ms. Dobbs' commitment to Public Interest work is admirable and PILC would like to congratulate her on her much deserved nomination!

Sara Schramm is the Assistant Director of Legal Career Services at UGA Law School. Ms. Schramm started off her legal career in Brooklyn, New York. She worked full time at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett while taking evening classes at Brooklyn School of Law. Schramm's interest piqued after a Sunday morning encounter with a little girl in the streets of New York. This 8-year-old approached Schramm asking for help finding her therapist's office. They walked and talked for 8-10 NY blocks. It turned out that the little girl was a foster child and her foster parents had accused her of stealing another child's nail polish. As punishment, the girl was kept home from church services and she was so upset she left the house by herself in search of her therapist's office.

“You don't get personal in New York,” said Schramm, “but I was glad did with this little girl and years later I still wonder about her.”

As a result of this experience, Schramm took a leave of absence from her full-time job to intern that next summer at the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) in their Brooklyn office. There she helped prosecute child abuse and neglect cases. Schramm also volunteered at *InMotion*, where she helped women who could not afford an attorney accomplish a divorce as a pro se litigant. Women in this program were getting divorced because of abuse or because their husband was incarcerated.



“The law school deserves a lot of credit for funding a number of Public Interest Fellowships for our 2010 graduates. These fellows are out doing amazing work now and several have had their fellowship work lead to other employment opportunities. For example, Sheenum Gupta will clerk next fall with a DC superior court judge in the family division who she met through her fellowship work at the juvenile division of the DC Public defenders office.”

Now that Ms. Schramm is at UGA she has played an integral role helping students find jobs in the public sector. LCS as a whole has worked with PILC to encourage placements at non-profit organizations. One event that Schramm finds very valuable is Mock Table Talk. **“It gives students a flavor for what it is really like, and introduces them to organizations in the Athens community that could use their help, it immediately sets up connections.”**



In the future, Schramm hopes to find a way to help track the pro bono work done by UGA students. “Having students do pro bono work while in school makes it more likely they will continue to do so after they graduate.” Ms. Schramm is sure to continue making a positive impact on UGA Law students through her support for careers that involve Public Interest and Pro Bono work.

Many thanks!

Next semester, to nominate students, faculty, or staff for this award please email swooten@uga.edu.



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