

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW  
PRESENTS THE

*Ninth Annual*

*Peter M. Cicchino*

*Public Service Awards Dinner*

With Guest Speakers  
**DARREN HUTCHINSON**  
AND  
**NANCY POLIKOFF**

**TWO VIEWS – SCHOLARS IN THE PUBLIC  
INTEREST**

**APRIL 8, 2008**

**LAW**  
WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW  
**LAW**  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY



*Peter M. Cicchino*  
August 12, 1960–July 8, 2000



*“Our lives are the only things that are completely ours. The kind of life we make is the most important work, the single most important project we will ever undertake. I suppose what I am trying to say is that in my own life as I have struggled with the question of what makes a good happy human life, I have become more convinced that struggling to secure the conditions for a decent human life for others is a large part of that answer.”*

Peter M. Cicchino was an Assistant Professor of Law at American University Washington College of Law (WCL), where he taught Constitutional Law, Torts, Jurisprudence, and Sexual Orientation and the Law. He joined the WCL faculty in 1998 after a distinguished career in public interest law. He founded and directed the Lesbian and Gay Youth Project of the Urban Justice Center, and, in that capacity for four years, provided legal representation for lesbian and gay street youth in New York City. He also served as a staff attorney in the national office of the ACLU and clerked for Justice Alan Handler of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

In January 2000, the WCL faculty voted unanimously (with Professor Cicchino abstaining) to create these public interest awards in his name. Professor Cicchino was a cherished figure at WCL and in the national public interest law community. He passed away on July 8, 2000.

### *The Awards*

The Peter M. Cicchino Awards for Outstanding Advocacy in the Public Interest are given annually to three persons during our Founder’s Celebration: a current second or third-year WCL student, an alumnus or alumna whose work is primarily in the United States, and an alumnus or alumna whose work is primarily abroad or in international law. The Cicchino Awards recognize and honor those students and alumni whose devotion to and creative service in the public interest exemplify the highest ideals of the Washington College of Law.

Ninth Annual  
Peter M. Cicchino Awards Dinner

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

*WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER*

**Billie Jo Kaufman**

Associate Dean for Library & Information Resources  
Professor of Law

*KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:*

**Darren Hutchinson and Nancy Polikoff**

Professors of Law, Washington College of Law  
*Two Views – Scholars in the Public Interest*

*INTRODUCTION OF PETER M. CICCHINO AWARD RECIPIENTS*

**Billie Jo Kaufman**

*INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS*

**Charlene Gomes**, Public Interest Coordinator, and  
**David Jaffe**, Associate Dean of Student Affairs

Community Service Award  
Postgraduate Public Interest Fellowships  
Premio Inspiracion Award  
APALSA Student Service Award  
Public Interest/Public Service Scholarship Class of 2008

Pro Bono Excellence Award  
Pro Bono Honors Recipients  
Outstanding Pro Bono Service Honors Recipients  
Exceptional Pro Bono Service Honors Recipients

**CLOSING**

**Billie Jo Kaufman**

## Peter M. Cicchino Awards Recipients

LINDSAY JENKINS  
WCL CLASS OF 2008  
*Winner in Category of  
Current Washington College of Law Student*

MICHAEL KIRKPATRICK  
WCL CLASS OF 1991  
*Winner in Category of  
Alumna or Alumnus Whose Work is Primarily  
in the United States*

CHIN KONGNYUY GERALDINE  
WCL LL.M. CLASS OF 2006  
*Winner in Category of  
Alumna or Alumnus Whose Work is Primarily  
Outside the United States*

## Student Public Service Awards Recipients

### Community Service Award

Jimmy Qaundah

### Postgraduate Public Interest Fellowship

Khadine Bennett, ACLU Reproductive Freedom Fellowship, Chicago

Michelle Lapointe, Immigrant Justice Project Fellowship at the  
Southern Poverty Law Center

Erin Scheick, Skadden Fellowship at Women Empowered Against Violence

### Premio Inspiracion Award recognizing a 3L's outstanding commitment and service to the Latino/a community

Sebastian Amar

### WCL APALSA Student Service Award

Amy Tai

Public Interest/Public Service Scholarship Class of 2008

Gwyneth Hesser  
Lindsay Jenkins  
Parag Khandhar  
Michelle Lapointe  
Patricia Maskew  
Nuri Nusrat  
Erin Overturf  
Erin Scheick  
Zafar Shah  
Shirley Woodward

60 members of the WCL class of 2008 have completed the Honors Pledge. The class as a whole has performed over 15,643 hours of pro-bono work.

Pro Bono Excellence Award  
Recognizing the Student Who  
performed the Greatest  
Number of Pro Bono Hours

Patricia Maskew  
1,768 hours

Pro Bono Service Honors  
Recipients  
Each Awardee Performed at  
Least 75 Hours of Pro Bono

Olubukola Akinsanya  
Sarah Bateman  
Jason Baum  
Parva Fattahi  
Kari Greenwood  
Gwyneth Hesser  
Helen Lee  
Rebecca Levin  
Sutton Meagher  
Ryan Mullady  
Maria Patente  
Lysandra Rauch  
Elana Viner  
Meadow Wirick  
Shirley Woodward

Outstanding Pro Bono Service  
Honors Recipients  
Awardee Performed at Least

Exceptional Pro Bono Service  
Honors Recipients  
Each Awardee Performed at  
Least 175 Hours of Pro Bono

Sebastian Amar  
Kevin M. Baker  
Heather Bennett  
Matthew Coulter  
Kimberly Curtis  
Ogochukwu Ekwuabu  
Jessica Farb  
Megan Freismuth  
Mary Beth Gallagher  
Pierre Gaunard  
Alice Hamilton Evert  
Lindsay Jenkins  
Lauren Kasprzak  
Parag Khandhar  
Jenny Knopinski  
Michelle Lapointe  
Nicholas Leddy  
Marc Liberati  
Harlye Maya  
Kendra Mullin  
Nuri Nusrat  
Erin Overturf  
Berengere Parmly

**125 Hours of Pro Bono**

**Janette Hays  
Miranda Jolicoeur  
Lauren Daniels Laitin  
Maria Lizondo  
Gabrielle Mulnick  
Amy Tai  
Dari Yudkoff**

**Eduardo Pezo  
Martha Plante  
Daniel Raposa  
Sakina Rizvi  
Erin Scheick  
Sarah Selim Milad  
Zafar Shah  
Bjorn Sorenson  
Nicole Stephansen  
Emily Strunk  
Lauren Teichner  
Leslie Thompson  
Anju Varakalayil  
Rachel Weiner  
Lauren Whalen**

**Ninth Annual  
Peter M. Cicchino Awards Dinner**

The Annual Peter M. Cicchino Awards Program is held every year in honor of a beloved former Washington College of Law Professor, Peter M. Cicchino, who passed away in 2000. Professor Cicchino was a brilliant scholar and teacher and a brave and creative public interest lawyer. This year's keynote, "Two Views, Scholars in the Public Interest," delivered by Professors Darren Hutchinson and Nancy Polikoff of the Washington College of Law, will address those attorneys who, in Peter Cicchino's words, are working "to promote and rescue the issue of humanity." After law school, Peter worked as a special death penalty clerk for a New Jersey Supreme Court judge who was a death penalty abolitionist. Later, he assisted with a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union that struck down Colorado's statewide prohibition on gay rights legislation. Throughout his career, Peter was arrested over two dozen times in civil disobedience actions protesting U.S. Policy in Central America, nuclear arms proliferation, and police brutality. In addition to these causes, he worked for the development of the Peter Cicchino Youth Project, the only organization in the United States to provide direct legal services specifically to LGBT youth and provide public education to combat homophobia and engage in systemic advocacy to improve conditions for this population. This year's awards program will focus on the role of scholarship in the promotion of public interest ideals and will attempt, as Peter himself did, to inspire all of us to look beyond ourselves and work for the benefit of others.

## Peter M. Cicchino Awards Dinner

### Biographies of Awards Recipients

#### LINDSAY JENKINS, WCL CLASS OF 2008

*Winner in Category of Current Washington College of Law Student*

At WCL, Lindsay has dedicated much of her time to promoting immigrant and refugee rights. Since her first year, she has been an active leader in the WCL Immigrants' Rights Coalition, a dynamic student organization dedicated to engaging the WCL community and beyond on a range of immigrants' rights issues. Lindsay has led the IRC to become one of the most active student-led organizations on campus. Currently a student attorney with the Immigrants' Rights section of WCL's International Human Rights Law Clinic, Lindsay represents clients on issues of immigrant labor exploitation, trafficking, and diplomatic immunity, both in domestic U.S. courts and the Inter-American Human Rights system. Lindsay was also one of the first members of the Public Interest Student Coalition (PISC), a coalition of student leaders working to improve opportunities and resources for WCL students to engage in public interest work. In 2007, she traveled with Dean Claudio Grossman to Geneva to participate in the 39th Session of the UN Committee Against Torture, and to New Orleans as part of WCL's alternative winter break. Lindsay is currently a Dean's Fellow for WCL Professor Janie Chuang, researching issues related to international and domestic anti-human trafficking efforts. In addition, she is a Public Interest/Public Service Scholar and acts as a peer advisor to her fellow joint JD/MA degree students at WCL. Beyond the WCL community, Lindsay spent her first-year summer with the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, analyzing human rights issues within the context of the Inter-American Human Rights system. She was also a legal intern at the Arlington Immigration Court, and with the Washington Regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, where she worked on refugee protection efforts in the Caribbean states. Lindsay's pre-law school experience includes work as a development associate with Bay Area Legal Aid and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Honduras, working on issues of local development and women's empowerment. During the summer of 2008, she will intern with the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project in New York City, where she will work on impact litigation promoting immigrant civil rights.

As she leaves WCL, Lindsay is excited to pursue a career advocating for immigrant and refugee rights. She is extremely grateful to have shared her law school experience with such an amazing and varied group of public interest advocates in the WCL community.

#### MICHAEL KIRKPATRICK WCL CLASS OF 1991

*Winner in Category of Alumna or Alumnus Whose Work is Primarily in the  
United States*

Michael Kirkpatrick is an attorney at the Public Citizen Litigation Group in Washington, DC, where he has worked since March 2004. His practice areas include constitutional law, civil rights, administrative law, and open government, including practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Among the cases litigated by Mr. Kirkpatrick are *Jones v. Flowers*, 547 U.S. 220 (2006) (holding that

due process requires the government to take further action to provide notice of an impending deprivation of property when the government learns that its initial effort has failed) and *Cerqueira v. American Airlines, Inc.*, 484 F. Supp. 2d 232 (D. Mass. 2007) (jury verdict for the plaintiff in civil rights challenge to racial profiling by an airline). Mr. Kirkpatrick is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and a 2007-2008 Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard Law School.

In 1991, Mr. Kirkpatrick graduated *cum laude* from WCL and received the Dean's Award for Professional Responsibility, Most Outstanding Clinical Student. Before joining the Litigation Group, Mr. Kirkpatrick served as a senior trial attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (1995-2004), where he litigated employment discrimination cases against state and local government employers under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and defended the constitutionality of federal affirmative action programs. Mr. Kirkpatrick was lead counsel from initial investigation through discovery and trial of two complex pattern-or-practice cases that used the disparate impact theory to challenge the discriminatory use of written cognitive tests in selecting public safety officers. Earlier in his career (1991-1995), Mr. Kirkpatrick was a staff attorney with the Farm Worker Division of Texas Rural Legal Aid (TRLA), where he litigated employment and civil rights cases on behalf of migrant, transnational, and contingent workers. While practicing at TRLA, Mr. Kirkpatrick litigated over two dozen cases in federal court, including class and collective actions. He also negotiated labor agreements for striking workers and counseled farm worker unions and community organizations.

CHIN KONGNYUY GERALDINE  
WCL LL.M. CLASS OF 2006

*Winner in Category of Alumna or Alumnus Whose Work is Primarily  
Outside the United States*

Chin K. Geraldine is the founder and Executive Director of the Women Empowerment Institute Cameroon (WEICAM), a non-profit organization that promotes human rights and democracy. Ms. Chin coordinates and leads the following programs in her communities in the northwest province of Cameroon: education and training workshops for female leaders, language and computer literacy programs, intensive agriculture with farmers, and women economic empowerment programs. She carries out popular education and advocacy on human rights with grass roots populations and mobilizes communities to be actively involved in poverty alleviation programs. She translates human rights mandates, treaties and national policies for the understanding of local communities and empowers them to realize their potentials and get involved in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Ms. Chin earned an LL.M from WCL in the International Legal Studies Program and the 2005/2006 Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Award, a Fulbright Scholarship offered by the U.S. government to mid-career professionals drawn from developing countries for a year of academic course work and professional enhancement in the United States. Her exposure to several U.S. and international organizations gives her the knowledge and insight to blend issues of human rights, democracy, and development to implement in local communities. Before coming to the United States, she worked for seven years as the assistant coordinator of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Church in Kumbo-Cameroon, designing and implementing human

rights and peace building programs with civil society members, NGOs, tribal and religious leaders, administrative and law enforcement officials. Ms. Chin trains election observers and has coordinated election observation in two divisions in Cameroon during the 2002 and 2004 elections . She has equally trained and helped to set up other human rights defense groups and Justice and Peace Commissions in the country. Ms Chin attended the Fifth World Social Forum in Brazil 2005, networked with organizations that campaigned for the debt cancellation of developing countries. In Cameroon she involved civil society members to be aware of the foreign debt situation of the country and become actively involved in the debt relief campaign. Ms Chin collected thousands of petition signatures from local population against debt relief and sent these to the IMF, World Bank and to the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair during the G8 Meeting in Gleneagles 2005. These efforts and those of many others have all contributed for Cameroon to reach the completion point of the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative in April 2006 and is now benefiting from debt relief. She was also the Board Chairperson of the first ever Women's Cooperative and Micro Finance Institute in Kumbo, a cooperative with over 11,000 members.

**JIMMY QAQUNDAH, WCL CLASS OF 2008**  
*Community Service Award Recipient*

Jimmy came from California to attend a progressive and public interest oriented law school. Before moving to the East Coast, Jimmy worked with children diagnosed on the Autism Spectrum, performing behavior, language, and functional therapy.

While in law school, Jimmy dedicated most of his time to various student organizations and the Student Bar Association, which he joined to ensure that the public interest community had an active voice in WCL's student government. As an SBA Senator, he authored and advocated for a resolution to contribute 20% of the SBA's budget surplus to the PILRAP endowment. In 2006-07, he co-chaired the Society for Justice in Palestine and Israel, with which he organized and hosted lecture events and a full-day conference that discussed the right of return of refugees in the context of Palestine, Darfur, and Bosnia. Jimmy also co-founded WCL chapters of the Arab Law Students and the Native American Law Students Associations and worked closely with the Poverty Law Society and the Public Interest Student Coalition. Jimmy is particularly interested in Federal Indian and Tribal Law. Along with Professor Ezra Rosser, he organized and attended an Alternative Spring Break to the Navajo Nation, where students volunteered at DNA People's Legal Services, a non-profit organization dedicated to legal service on the Reservation. He then clerked at the Native American Rights Fund, working on legal issues affecting Tribal interests across the country. This year, Jimmy continued his interest in disability advocacy by enrolling in the Disability Rights Law Clinic, while serving the American University Law Review as an Articles Editor and the Moot Court Honor Society as both a Team Director and a Burton D. Wechsler First Amendment Problem Drafter.

After law school, Jimmy will move to Colorado, where he will clerk for Chief Justice Mary Mullarkey of the Colorado Supreme Court.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS BIOS

### ***DARREN HUTCHINSON***

Professor Hutchinson received a B.A., *cum laude*, from the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Yale Law School. Prior to his career in law teaching, Professor Hutchinson practiced commercial litigation at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton in New York City. He also clerked for the late Honorable Mary Johnson Lowe, a former United States District Judge in the Southern District of New York. Professor Hutchinson teaches Constitutional Law, Equitable Remedies and seminars in Critical Race Theory and Equal Protection Theory. He has written extensively on issues related to Constitutional Law, Critical Race Theory, Law and Sexuality, and social identity theory. His numerous publications have appeared in several journals including the *Cornell Law Review*, the *UCLA Law Review*, the *Illinois Law Review*, the *Tulane Law Review*, the *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*, and the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law*. Professor Hutchinson is currently completing a book for New York University Press that examines the legal significance of the relationship between racial subordination and heterosexism. Professor Hutchinson has delivered lectures at numerous universities, including Yale, Stanford, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Michigan, the University of California at Berkeley, Cornell, and Georgetown. During the Fall of 1999, Professor Hutchinson was a Visiting Scholar at Yale Law School, and during the Spring of 2002 he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Before coming to WCL, Professor Hutchinson was an Associate Professor at Southern Methodist University School of Law.

### ***NANCY POLIKOFF***

Nancy D. Polikoff is Professor of Law at American University Washington College of Law, where she teaches in the areas of family law, civil procedure, and sexuality and the law. Previously, she supervised family law programs at the Women's Legal Defense Fund (now National Partnership for Women and Families), and before that she practiced law as part of a feminist law collective. For 30 years, she has been writing about and litigating cases involving lesbian and gay families. Her articles have appeared in numerous law reviews, and her history of the development of the law affecting lesbian and gay parenting appears as a chapter in J. D'Emilio, W. Turner, and U. Vaid, eds., *Creating Change: Sexuality, Public Policy, and Civil Rights* (2000). She helped develop the legal theories in support of second-parent adoption and visitation rights for legally unrecognized parents, and she was successful counsel in *In re M.M.D.*, the 1995 case that established joint adoption for lesbian and gay couples in the District of Columbia, and *Boswell v. Boswell*, the 1998 Maryland case overturning restrictions on a gay noncustodial father's visitation rights. She is currently at work on her forthcoming book, *Valuing All Families*, to be published by Beacon Press in 2007.