

**Trina Grillo Public Interest and Social Justice Retreat
March 7 and 8, 2008
Las Vegas, Nevada**

COMMUNITIES BUILDING SOCIAL JUSTICE

During last year's Trina Grillo Public Interest and Social Justice Retreat at Seattle University, law students from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas marveled at the comparative strength of Seattle's legal services institutions and organizations. These students decided that this year's retreat should focus on how to create and strengthen institutions promoting social justice in cities, towns, and regions where the social justice infrastructure is less developed, such as Nevada. This retreat will build on the creativity and entrepreneurship of law students and new lawyers to help them determine how to establish their own organizations or how to incorporate themselves more effectively into existing social justice institutions. Although a key focus will be on building social justice and public interest organizations where few exist, the retreat will also be useful for anyone interested in building the skills and vision to start new projects, promote social justice in private practice, or improve existing social justice organizations at any point in their careers.

Retreat participants will identify effective models for pursuing social justice work; address funding, student debt and mentorship issues; and brainstorm how existing legal delivery systems can be expanded or become more effective. Communities with new and relatively scarce social justice organizations provide opportunities for law students to have important roles promoting social justice where the needs are very great. The Las Vegas location of this Social Justice Retreat provides a rich site for a focus on entrepreneurial social justice lawyering and organization-building, and the participation of successful and visionary social justice advocates from many locations will ensure that the lessons about institutionalizing social justice will be relevant for all communities.

Consortium Members

Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Golden Gate University School of Law
Santa Clara University School of Law
Seattle University School of Law
Stanford University School of Law
University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law
University of Denver Sturm College of Law
University of Oregon School of Law
University of San Francisco School of Law

Program Schedule

Friday, March 7

6:00pm **Opening reception for attendees and local public interest /
social justice service providers.**

Location: UNLV Foundation Room, Blasco Event Wing

Saturday, March 8

8:30am **Registration and Continental Breakfast
Location: Lobby of law school**

9:00am **Welcome**

9:15am-10:45am **Plenary I
Roundtable Discussion: Models for Social Justice - Framing
Your Mission
Location: Law school**

Deborah Kenn, Professor, Syracuse University
Maria Blanco, Executive Director of the Warren Institute
on Race, Ethnicity and Diversity at the University of
California, Berkeley Law School
Bill Ong Hing, Professor and Director of Clinical
Programs, University of California at Davis

10:45am-11:00am **Break**

11:00—12:15pm

Concurrent Panel I: Private Pro and Low Bono – Advocating for the Public Interest in Private Practice

Location: Law school

Luz Herrera, Chapman U., The Law Office of Luz Herrera
Kathia Pereira, Pereira and Associates
Scott Cummings, Professor, UCLA

Concurrent Panel II: Achieving Your Mission - Navigating Challenges and Growing Your Model

Location: Law school

Jim Preis, The Mental Health Advocacy Project in Los Angeles
Pam Mohr, Professor, UNLV and founder of the Alliance for Children's Rights in Los Angeles
Rhina Ramos, Training Director, Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network (PLAN)

Concurrent Panel III: Getting Involved with Existing Social Justice Projects

Location: Law school

Gary Peck, Executive Director ACLU of Nevada
Kimberly Mucha Abbott, Clark County Legal Services
Urban League, Clark County Chapter
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

12:15-1:30pm

Career Strategies Lunch

Location: UNLV Foundation Room, Blasco Event Wing

2:00pm-3:15pm

Plenary II: Workshop: How To Create Your Own Shop and Fund It

Location: Law school

Luz Herrera, Chapman U. and the Law Office of Luz Herrera: Setting Up Your Own Law Practice
Ericka Hines, Equal Justice Works: Setting Up Your Own Non-profit Organization
Cynthia Asher, Career Services at Boyd School of Law: Student Loan Forgiveness
Mike Pawlak, Clark County Community Development: Pitching your Project to Government

3:15-3:30pm

Break

3:30-4:45pm **Concurrent Working Group I: Setting Up Your Own Law Practice**
Location: Law school

Facilitator: Luz Herrera

Concurrent Working Group II: Setting Up Your Own Non-Profit Organization
Location: Law school

Facilitator: Ericka Hines, Equal Justice Works

4:45-5:00pm **Break**

5:00-6:00pm. **Plenary Workshop: It Can Be Done!**
Location: Law school

6:00pm-8:00pm **Reception and Closing Presentation**
Location: Law school

Remembering Trina Grillo, Joan Howarth, Professor UNLV