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GALLOGLY FAMILY FOUNDATION

HELPING OU LAW GRADS IMPACT SOCIETY

BY MACKENZIE DILBECK AND JONELLA FRANK

Students who choose to attend law school are typically motivated by a desire to help others and make a difference in the world. For some law students, that desire to help is focused on our poorest and most vulnerable citizens. Many first-year students arrive with an established passion to represent the underserved. For others, the desire is fueled as a result of their OU Law experiences.

On opening day of orientation, each 1L is invited to pledge to perform 50 or 100 hours of pro bono service during his or her law school career. In this year's incoming class, 99 percent pledged 50 or more hours. The Public Interest Law Student Association (PILSA), a student-driven organization devoted to developing a culture of commitment to public service, works to connect students with qualified and meaningful volunteer placement opportunities. Summer fellowships are available for students working a minimum of 200 hours in the summer, with the amounts awarded dependent upon availability of funds. Each spring, PILSA honors students' pro bono service hours and announces the summer fellows.

Now, through the inspired generosity of Jim Gallogly ('77) and his daughter, Kasey DeLuke, a new postgraduate fellowship

opportunity is available to recent OU Law grads – the Gallogly Family Foundation Public Interest Fellowship Program. It was created by the Gallogly Family Foundation to increase the number of people who receive much-needed legal services and to help new lawyers pursue a career in public interest law. The OU College of Law was selected to serve as the pilot school for the new program.

"We are grateful to our alumnus, Jim Gallogly, and Gallogly Family Foundation Executive Director Kasey DeLuke for choosing to provide OU Law graduates with this remarkable opportunity," said OU College of Law Dean Joe Harroz. "Our alumni and friends continue to create opportunities for our students to pursue the careers of their dreams, and we are confident OU Law's participation in the program will open the door to meaningful public interest work for our students."

Jim Gallogly had a highly successful career in oil and gas, holding many executive positions with Phillips, Chevron Phillips Chemical and ConocoPhillips before being named chief executive officer of LyondellBassell Industries. He led the company out of Chapter 11 bankruptcy, transforming it into what is now one of the world's largest plastics, chemical

"Our family agreed that we wanted to start a program that would **HELP NARROW THIS JUSTICE GAP."**

— KASEY DELUKE



PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS

The Gallogly family (left to right) is Kim Gallogly, Kasey DeLuke, Jim Gallogly, Janet Gallogly, and Kelly Gray.

Photo by the Nexus Open Air Photobooth

and refining companies. He currently serves on the DuPont board of directors, where he provides leadership in corporate governance and strategic planning.

DeLuke has served as the executive director of the Gallogly Family Foundation since 2014. She received her undergraduate degree in environmental studies from the University of Colorado before attending American University Washington College of Law. Following law school, she worked as a law clerk for a Wisconsin Court of Appeals judge prior to assuming leadership of the family foundation.

Explaining how the idea for the fellowship program developed, DeLuke said, “We have three lawyers in our immediate family including myself, my father, and my brother-in-law, Kyle Gray. We knew that a person’s ability to access justice was often determined by their financial circumstances. Our family agreed that we wanted to start a program that would help narrow this justice gap.”

Different options were explored and the family decided a public interest law fellowship, patterned after existing programs like the prestigious Skadden Fellowship Program and Equal Justice Works Fellowships, was the model they



would pursue. “Through the fellowship program, we would increase access to critical legal services, while helping new lawyers from our alma maters get a start in public interest law,” said DeLuke.

Each Gallogly Fellowship includes a compensation and benefits package of \$50,000 and is awarded for one year, with the option to renew for an additional year. Fellows work for a domestic 501(c)(3) nonprofit on a new or existing project within the organization. Qualified organizations provide legal services to the poor and/or those deprived of their civil or human rights. As part of the application process, applicants propose their own organization and project to the foundation for consideration.

After receiving all application packets, the foundation reviewed them and chose the applicants to be interviewed at OU Law. After considering each candidate’s

qualifications and proposed work, the foundation’s board of directors voted to select the first-ever Gallogly Family Foundation Fellows.

“The Gallogly Family Foundation is thrilled to partner with OU Law on this important project,” said DeLuke. “Dean Harroz and the OU Career Development staff helped us with all aspects of developing and implementing the program. We were so grateful for their expertise and support. We knew we started the program at the right school.”

For 2017 fellowships, the program was expanded to include American University Washington College of Law. “We may expand it to more law schools in the future, but for now we are focusing on OU and AU,” DeLuke said. “We are proud of our first fellows and are grateful that we can support the critical work they will do serving others.”

Fair Housing



Immigration Law



Indian Legal Services



THE INAUGURAL GALLOGLY FAMILY FOUNDATION FELLOWS ARE 2016 OU LAW ALUMNAE:

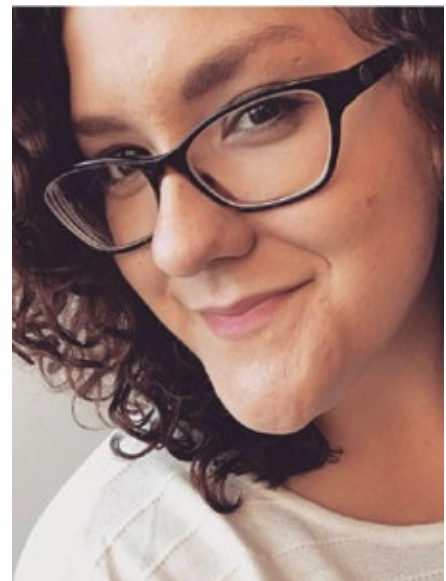
GE'ANDRA JOHNSON



CORIE O'ROURKE



MARY BETH WILLIAMS



GE'ANDRA JOHNSON

studied psychology, earning both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in the field. While working in the mental health profession, she realized the population she was serving was largely unaware of their rights. "It was this realization, in part, that led me to pursue a law degree," Johnson said. "I wanted to serve as an advocate for those who were underserved and underrepresented."

During her second year of law school, she began working as a legal intern at the Metropolitan Fair Housing Council of Oklahoma Inc., the only full-service private nonprofit organization in Oklahoma dedicated to fair housing enforcement and advocacy. Johnson loved the work, but realized that as a grant-funded nonprofit organization, resources were very limited. "I saw the Gallogly Family Foundation Public Interest Fellowship as an opportunity to continue

making a difference by doing the work I love, while allowing the organization to use more of its resources to help the populations we serve," Johnson said.

She works with the Metropolitan Fair Housing Council of Oklahoma Inc. investigating claims of housing discrimination and ensuring compliance with state and federal fair housing laws by both landlords and tenants. In addition, she assists individuals who have been

subjected to unfair housing practices in the filing and processing of their claims for relief.

In this job, Johnson is able to do precisely what she intended when she began her educational journey. "I gain tremendous fulfillment from it," she said. "When clients return to the office to let me know that my services helped them to gain access to equal housing, stopped them from being illegally evicted or helped them receive reasonable accommodations based on a disability, it reminds me that what I do makes a difference."



CORIE O'ROURKE has aspired to solve the world's problems since childhood.

With this early focus, earning an undergraduate degree in international and area studies with a minor in Spanish made perfect sense, as did completing OU Law's joint degree program, resulting in a juris doctor degree and a master of arts in international studies.

Following her 1L year, O'Rourke spent the summer in London working as a legal research intern for the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law working on a project titled "Barriers to Access to Justice." The next summer, she began working as case manager and legal research assistant for a Norman attorney whose practice included employment-based immigration cases.

"For as long as I can remember, public service has been an important part of my life. I grew up volunteering regularly with the food bank, animal shelters and Girl Scouts' service projects," said O'Rourke. "I knew I wanted to work in public service after law school graduation, so

when I learned about the fellowship, it seemed like a perfect opportunity."

Because she wanted to live in Washington, D.C., and work in immigration law, she contacted nonprofit immigration organizations in the area and explained the fellowship opportunity. She interviewed with several organizations interested in participating in the program, ultimately selecting Ayuda, and completed her fellowship application packet.

O'Rourke now works at Ayuda, which serves immigrants from more than 104 countries by providing legal support in various situations, including family-based immigration applications, humanitarian applications and naturalization petitions. "I essentially work as an immigration staff attorney," said O'Rourke. "I have a caseload of clients I represent in their various immigration legal needs. I file immigration applications for clients, represent them in immigration court and in state court, and accompany them to immigration interviews."



MARY BETH WILLIAMS

has been devoted to working for nonprofit organizations and political or issue campaigns since her days as an undergraduate. By her 2L year, she knew she wanted a legal career focused on American Indian law, so she spent the summer working as a law clerk with the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

When Williams learned of the fellowship opportunity, she was in Washington, D.C., completing a legal externship with

the Department of Justice Office of Tribal Justice. She contacted Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Inc. about serving as a partnering organization for the fellowship, and OILS agreed. In applying for the fellowship Williams said, "As a proud citizen of the Cherokee nation, I would like to work for an organization that is dedicated to assisting tribal members in their time of need."

Williams is spending her fellowship, based in the Oklahoma City OILS office, assisting low-income Indian people with civil legal issues impacting them as members of a federally recognized tribe. "Given my experience working with the Oglala Sioux Tribe, I am acutely aware of the need for legal services in Native communities," she explained. "OILS provides an exceptional opportunity in terms of the potential for responsibility and direct involvement with tribal members and tribes."

Most of Williams' caseload involves serving as guardian ad litem for numerous cases in tribal court. Her remaining work involves drafting and executing wills, living wills and powers of attorney for low-income tribal members across the state. By shadowing senior attorneys at OILS, she also is learning the procedures of probating an estate and processing expungements.

"My experience will serve as a reminder to me that the lives and rights of Native people often rest in the hands of attorneys dedicated to representing them," Williams said. "The work I get to do each day impacts the lives of a drastically underrepresented population in Oklahoma." | **SL** |