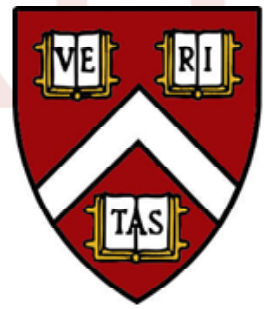


# Center for Public Interest Careers at Harvard College

## Spring/Summer 2008 Newsletter

[www.cpic.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.cpic.fas.harvard.edu)



### *A Conversation with the 2008 Liman Fellows*

Meeting together for the last time before spring exams, the 2008 Arthur Liman Public Interest Law Fellows shared lunch and discussed their summer plans. The Liman Fellowship Program provides stipends for undergraduates working in domestic public interest law positions for the summer.

This year, Melissa Ader '09, Vinita Andrapallyal '09, Pawanpreet Dhaliwal '09, Seth Packrone '10, and Michael Zuckerman '10 will have the opportunity to explore the public interest legal field through the Liman Fellowship Program.

Seth said he greatly benefited from his past experience as a CPIC Fund for Service Internship (FSI) Program Intern at Advocates for Children.

"It was my first real exposure to education law, and I loved it! I loved working with the kids, and I loved helping to write a policy paper," he said.

Excited to continue to work on education law, Seth is in Washington, D.C. interning with the Center for Law and Education. He will also have the opportunity to explore education through writing policy reports.

Michael discussed how he always wanted to pursue law, and how he "really wanted to make the jump to doing something for other people who had been less fortunate." He identified Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Portland, Maine as the perfect host organization to provide him with a better understanding of foreclosure litigation.

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### *Steve Pershing '79 Discusses Mentoring*

"A sense crept up on me that there were serious things wrong with the world that I wanted to help address," said Steve Pershing '79 about his decision to study law after five years as a music producer in public radio. Now serving as Senior Litigation Counsel at the Center for Constitutional Litigation, a public interest law firm in Washington, D.C., Steve said addressing social issues is the reason he became a lawyer.

After seven years as an attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and nine years as a civil rights lawyer at the U.S. Department of Justice, Steve is still passionate about service. He has served as a CPIC mentor since 2002, when the Washington, D.C. program began.

Through the CPIC Fellowship and Internship Program, students are matched to alumni/ae mentors, who offer career advice and help the Fellows or Interns think about their professional development.

Although he has mentored countless students in the past, Steve continues to be impressed by the perspectives CPIC Interns and Fellows bring to their positions.

"Many of them already know they want to go to law school in the future. I encourage that tremendously, because we are in continuous need of people to do this work---people with a sense of responsibility to social values much bigger than themselves---and to the fulfillment of those values in progressive social change."

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#### **CPIC Vision**

*Harvard College provides every student the opportunity to find a place for public interest in his or her life choices.*

#### **CPIC Mission**

*The Center for Public Interest Careers (CPIC) engages and supports Harvard undergraduates and recent graduates in expanding awareness of and exploring public interest careers. Working closely with university, alumni/ae, and community partners, CPIC develops public interest fellowships, internships, networks, and opportunities for personal and professional development.*

#### **To donate to CPIC...**

**Checks made out to CPIC can be mailed to:**

Center for Public Interest Careers  
Phillips Brooks House, 3rd Floor  
Harvard Yard  
Cambridge, MA 02138

#### **Alumni/ae Volunteers Needed!**

*Harvard alumni/ae who are interested in becoming involved with the Center for Public Interest Careers should contact Amanda Sonis Glynn at [asglynn@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:asglynn@fas.harvard.edu).*

*We are especially looking for volunteers to help us re-establish a CPIC program in Los Angeles.*

## **2008-2009 Participating CPIC Host Organizations**

*Advocates for Children  
American Constitution  
Society • Buckley School  
Campaign 4 Youth Justice  
Center for Public Interest  
Careers (CPIC) • City of New  
York Parks and Recreation  
Civic Builders  
DonorsChoose • Emergency  
Medicine Network  
History Makers  
I Have a Dream Foundation  
Jewish Child Care  
Association • John A.  
Hartford Foundation  
Lincoln Center for the  
Performing Arts • MDRC  
Medicare Rights Center  
Montefiore Medical Center  
National Black MBA  
Association, Inc. • National  
Quality Center, AIDS  
Institute, New York  
Department of Health • New  
Alternatives for Children  
North Star Academy • O-H  
Community Partners • Office  
of the Attorney General,  
Boston, MA • Patrons  
Program • Phipps  
Community Development  
Corporation • Project  
HEALTH • Research America  
SGA Youth & Family  
Services • ShoreBank  
Nonprofit Service Center  
Sickness Prevention  
Achieved through Regional  
Collaboration • Success  
Charter Network • UCSF  
Breast Care Center • Unite  
Here • WLIW*

*Note: We will have a final  
list of participating Host  
Organizations available  
on our Web site in the fall.*

# **Letter From The Center**

The past year has been an especially exciting one for CPIC---in addition to expanding our programs, we have been engaged in a strategic goal-setting process. With the help of consultants, Sophie Parker and Lee Bruder, we have examined CPIC's current state and have stretched our minds to envision what we want CPIC to be in the future. To say that this process has been helpful is an understatement. This process---this challenging, invigorating process---has been essential to our understanding of the role that CPIC does, can, and will play in working toward our vision: *Harvard College provides every student the opportunity to find a place for public interest in his or her life choices.* And how does CPIC work to achieve this vision? Our newly updated mission statement articulates CPIC's role: *The Center for Public Interest Careers (CPIC) engages and supports Harvard undergraduates and recent graduates in expanding awareness of and exploring public interest careers. Working closely with university, alumni/ae, and community partners, CPIC develops public interest fellowships, internships, networks, and opportunities for personal and professional development.* Those of you who have been involved with CPIC's programs know this mission to ring true. Perhaps most critical to our mission is the emphasis on relationships---relationships among students, alumni/ae, nonprofit organizations, and Harvard itself. And this strategic goal-setting process has, above all, reinforced the importance of those relationships. I want to thank everyone who has been a part of this process, including those who participated in interviews and, of course, the CPIC Advisory Board. I would like to thank, in particular, Judith Kidd, Nick Beilenson, Bill Wright-Swadel, Daniella Gilbert, Travis Lovett, Leanne Gaffney, Chris Stolte, and, of course, Sophie Parker and Lee Bruder ---your input, guidance, and support will, I have no doubt, ensure that CPIC continues to improve and grow for years to come.

*Amanda Sonis Glynn  
CPIC Coordinator*

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## **Lunch with the Liman Fellows**

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"I work at the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter, so I have some exposure to people who don't have homes and how difficult that can be. Whatever I can do to keep people in their houses seems like a good use for my summer."

Pawanpreet is working for Public Advocates in San Francisco, California, which focuses on education reform. "I have been interested in education issues for some time," said Pawanpreet. "I have worked with grassroots organizations in Cambridge and in my community that serve underprivileged students, and I have studied education policy. I am very excited about working with Public Advocates because they support litigation work with both grassroots organizing and policy advocacy in order to effect change. I look forward to gaining exposure to this model, and learning from such a passionate and distinguished group of people."

Melissa and Vinita were unable to attend the lunch, but they are nevertheless excited to learn about public interest law. Melissa is working with the New York City Bankruptcy Assistance Project at Legal Services in New York, and Vinita is in Washington, D.C., working with the Immigrant Justice Project.

Named in honor of Arthur Liman, a Harvard College and Yale Law School graduate who spent years practicing law in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, the Arthur Liman Public Interest Law Fellowship Program is run in conjunction with Yale Law School.

## 2007 CPIC Interns Reflect on Summer Experience

"Summer of 2007 was honestly an unforgettable experience," wrote Johan Hong '10 at the end of his CPIC Fund for Service Internship (FSI) at the Children's Aid Society in New York City. "Looking back at my ten weeks in New York City, I can't help but smile. I've learned so much about the health care system and the issues that need to be addressed... I've developed so many meaningful relationships with my supervisors and my coworkers, my alumnus mentor, and most importantly, my

peers in the CPIC FSI program."

In addition to introducing students to public interest careers, CPIC also seeks to give students the experience and tools to make a positive impact in their work environments. Sarah Wang '10 interned in Chicago with ShoreBank, an organization that helps nonprofits achieve financial stability. She appreciated the opportunity to learn from her colleagues, especially in thinking about her professional

development. "[The experience] taught me that changes in the world start with the people who are willing to make them," she said.

CPIC Fellows and Interns frequently comment on the substance of the projects they are assigned during the summer. Students, like Gillian Grossman '10, who interned with Facing History and Ourselves in Boston, were given the opportunity to work on challenging projects right away.

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### Meet the 2008 Steamboat Scholar

Nadia Gaber '09 is serving as the 2008 Steamboat Summer Scholar at Facing History and Ourselves (FHAO), an organization that engages teachers and students of diverse backgrounds in examining racism, prejudice, and anti-Semitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry. As a former student of the FHAO curriculum, Nadia is very excited to work with the organization in partnership with the Steamboat Foundation.

Nadia's passion for helping people motivates everything she does, from her academic interests to her extracurricular pursuits. Her commitment to social justice and community service was incited during her first week of college when she participated in the First-Year Urban Program. As President and Board Member of the Harvard Society of Arab Students, Nadia helped organize Harvard's first student-run recruiting trip to the Middle East. She has also worked for equal education reform in the Boston Public School system through the Harvard Progressive Advocacy Group.

Concentrating in Postcolonial History and Literature with a Women, Gender, and Sexuality secondary field, while also fulfilling her pre-medical requirements, Nadia's studies allow her to explore representations of race, gender, and identity in literature while keeping open the option of a career in public health.

As the Harvard Steamboat Scholar, Nadia will receive a \$12,000 financial award and will participate in intensive leadership development programming with Steamboat Scholars from other colleges.

### Steve Pershing on Mentoring with CPIC

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To all alumni/ae thinking about becoming mentors, Steve advises, "Get involved because it feels wonderful and because you will surprise yourself with your level of interest in the lives of people coming up behind you in your own field who are just beginning. It helps you understand the progress of your own life better. And it's the heart-warming experience of helping another person. Besides, it's easy. If you want to help a young person in your field, start by telling them about yourself--how you got where you are---and the rest flows naturally. These are remarkable people we're getting, and they'll benefit from hearing your story and what it means to you."

Steve enjoys the opportunity to teach and share his experiences with students. "I teach out of a sense of devotion to this end, that people coming up behind us deserve the best of what we can offer them... I believe we all have the capacity to do this, and to be moved by it. It's true for the freshman who escorts the high school senior around the Harvard campus; it's true of the four year-old who brings the three year-old into the sandbox; it's true of the volunteer in the nursing home. The simple truth is there is nothing more morally important in the world than helping other people."

*For more information about how you can become a CPIC mentor, please contact Amanda Sonis Glynn at [asglynn@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:asglynn@fas.harvard.edu).*

## Another Exciting Year for the CPIC FSI Program

This summer, the CPIC Fund for Service Internship (FSI) Program, which is generously funded by the Heckscher Foundation for Children, expanded to include 20 student Interns and 19 Host Organizations. This year's CPIC FSI Interns are working for leading New York City nonprofit organizations that serve children and youth. In addition to receiving ten weeks of summer

housing and stipends, the CPIC FSI Interns have been matched with Harvard alumni/ae mentors and have attended numerous spring and summer seminars. Everyone involved is enjoying another inspiring, productive, and educational CPIC FSI summer.

*Leanne Gaffney*  
CPIC FSI Program Coordinator



### *We congratulate this year's group of CPIC FSI Interns and Host Organizations!*

**Chioma Achebe '10**, Children's Defense Fund  
**Jessamin Birdsall '10**, Henry Street Settlement  
**Anthony Britt '10**, Agenda for Children Tomorrow  
**Denetrias Charlemagne '11**, Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center  
**Chongjia Chen '09**, Children's Aid Society: Health Care Access Program  
**Polina Dekhytar '09**, The Urban Assembly  
**Lucas Habte '11**, Agenda for Children Tomorrow  
**Amy Heberle '09**, Children's Rights  
**Weston Howe '10**, Advocates for Children  
**Jackie Hsieh '10**, New Alternatives for Children  
**Larissa Koch '08/09**, Project HEALTH

**Alice Lee '09**, The After-School Corporation  
**Jessica Luna '10**, FoodChange  
**Hoi Nguyen '10**, CitySquash  
**Catherine Sirois '10**, Harlem Children's Zone  
**Claire Totten '11**, Jumpstart  
**Adam Travis '10**, Phipps Community Development Corporation  
**Camden Vilkin '09**, Legal Aid Society: Kathryn A. McDonald Education Advocacy Project  
**Sarah Yun '10**, Global Kids  
**Luis Zambrano '10**, Legal Outreach

## Reflections from Summer 2007

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Gillian shares, "When I received my supervisor's email in the first week of June and discovered I would be helping to write a case study on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), I was amazed... The organization could not have immersed me any more thoroughly in its work and mission."

With organizations offering a wide array of positions, CPIC is able to help students integrate their experiences on campus with their summer internships. Martha Tesfalul '09 worked with Project HEALTH as a CPIC FSI Intern and said, "In the past, I had done both laboratory and clinical research to challenge my interest in the medical field, and this past summer allowed me to channel my interest in a totally different

manner than I had ever done. I went into my CPIC FSI Internship with the desire to learn more about how different organizations tackle public health issues in order to broaden both my skills and my understanding of the intricacies in the medical field. My work with Project HEALTH definitely fulfilled this desire."

Joanna Bronowicka '09, a CPIC FSI Intern with the Children's Law Center in New York, enjoyed the exposure to the nonprofit sector: "I really strongly believe in public service now. I have seen how it makes a difference in people's lives, both in those who help and those who need help. I am very grateful to CPIC for supporting internships like ours. Thank you for making service to others part of the Harvard culture."

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*The stories that appear in this newsletter were written by CPIC Intern Marisa West '10. Thank you, Marisa!*