



**Forty Years of Clinical Education at Yale:
Generating New Rights, Remedies,
and Legal Services**

*Celebrating the Innovations of Dennis Curtis,
Francis X. Dineen, Carroll Lucht, and Stephen Wizner*

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This year's Liman Colloquium, Forty Years of Clinical Education at Yale: Rights, Remedies, and Legal Services, marks the anniversary of the founding of the clinical program, and honors the contributions of four Yale clinical faculty members:

Dennis E. Curtis

Clinical Professor Emeritus of Law

Francis X. Dineen

Clinical Lecturer in Law

Carroll L. Lucht

Clinical Professor of Law

Stephen Wizner

William O. Douglas Clinical Professor of Law

Dennis Curtis

Dennis Curtis is Professor of Law Emeritus at Yale Law School, where he teaches courses on sentencing and professional responsibility. He also directs a clinical course in which students work with Connecticut's State Disciplinary Counsel to prosecute lawyers who violate rules of professional conduct.

Professor Curtis was one of the pioneers of clinical education in the 1970s. In the programs that he created, faculty supervise students who represent indigent clients in a variety of contexts. Some of the clients are in settings such as prisons and mental hospitals. By working within institutions, students learn an area of substantive law in an administrative-regulatory context. His students were also active in a variety of legal service programs on behalf of aliens, the elderly, the homeless, the developmentally disabled, and clients of legal aid societies, representing clients in legal settings ranging from negotiations and administrative hearings to appellate arguments in the federal circuit courts. Students often engaged in research that resulted in law review articles and monographs -- illustrating the relationship between becoming lawyers and understanding substantive legal regimes.

In 1997, Professor Curtis developed a new clinical offering in which students appeared in hearings before the Statewide Grievance Committee, the agency charged with administering the lawyer disciplinary process in Connecticut. Under this model, students worked to prosecute cases alleging violations of Connecticut's Code of Professional Responsibility.

Professor Curtis has written several essays on clinical education and the legal profession and has joined sitting federal judges and other law professors in shaping courses on the law of sentencing. Currently, the sentencing class at Yale Law School that he teaches with the Honorable Nancy Gertner and Professor Kate Stith focuses on sentencing guidelines in the United States as well as methods of sentencing in states and in countries around the world.

He has testified before congressional and judicial committees on sentencing, parole, and post-conviction remedies. From 1990 to 1995, he served as the first President of the Los Angeles City Ethics Commission, created when the voters in Los Angeles approved a change in the City Charter. The jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission included campaign finance laws and regulations and governmental ethics, and the Commission distributed millions of dollars in matching campaign funds to eligible candidates for city elections.

In 2007, Professor Curtis was appointed to serve on the Democracy Fund Board, which is the government entity in New Haven charged with distributing public funds for campaigns. He is a member of the American Law Institute and serves as a consultant for law schools through the Association of American Law Schools. He also chaired the AALS's Committee on Clinical Legal Education and served as a director of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

Stephen Wizner

Stephen Wizner is the William O. Douglas Clinical Professor of Law at Yale Law School. He has been on the Yale Law School faculty since 1970. He also has a Special Appointment as the Sackler Professor of Law at Tel Aviv University, where he serves as consultant and advisor on clinical legal education.

Professor Wizner received his A.B. from Dartmouth College in 1959, and a J.D. from the University of Chicago in 1963. From 1963 to 1966 Professor Wizner served as a Trial Attorney with the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice (Honors Program) in Washington, D.C. From 1966 to 1970 he was a legal services lawyer in New York City, first as a Staff Attorney at the Columbia University Center on Social Welfare Policy and Law, and then as a Managing Attorney at Mobilization for Youth (MFY) Legal Services. At Yale, Professor Wizner has taught and supervised students in the Law School's clinical program, and has taught non-clinical courses in Trial Practice, Evidence, and Ethics.

Professor Wizner is the recipient of the William Pincus Award for "outstanding contributions to clinical legal education" from the Association of American Law Schools Section on Clinical Legal Education, the Richard S. Jacobson Trial Advocacy Teaching Award from the Roscoe Pound American Trial Lawyers Foundation, the Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award from the Connecticut Bar Association, The Connecticut Law Tribune Award "for distinguished service to the State Bar," and the Theodore I. Koskoff Award "for outstanding contributions to trial law specialization and certification" from the National Board of Trial Advocacy, and, just recently, the Society of American Law Teachers' "Great Teacher" award.

Among his many professional and community activities, Professor Wizner is a Member of the Criminal Justice Act Advisory Committee for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, a Special Master of the Connecticut Superior Court Regional Family Trial Docket, and Dean of the Faculty of the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification.

Professor Wizner is the author of numerous articles on legal education, legal services, ethics, juvenile justice, and poverty law. He currently teaches and works with students in the Immigration Legal Services and Legal Services for Immigrant Communities Clinics, and in Legal Ethics and Trial Practice arenas.

Francis Dineen

Francis X. Dineen is a clinical lecturer in law at Yale Law School. He has an A.B. from Dartmouth and an LL.B. from Yale Law School.

Frank Dineen is the longest serving legal services lawyer in the country. In 1962, the Ford Foundation funded Community Progress, Inc., as a model for the Kennedy administration's Office of Economic Opportunity. With the involvement of the late Yale Law School faculty member Joseph Goldstein, who was a Ford Foundation consultant, the program included a legal component. Jean Camper Cahn and Frank Dineen were the two lawyers hired for the program. A year later, because of political problems resulting from representing an African-American man accused of raping a white woman, the legal component was spun off as New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. Jean's Cahn's husband, Edgar Cahn, became Sargeant Shriver's chief of staff at OEO, and was instrumental in getting a federally funded legal component into OEO. That ultimately became the Legal Services Corp.

However, Dineen's involvement actually goes back further. Thanks largely to the involvement of Yale Law School students, New Haven established a municipal legal aid bureau in 1927, one of the first five in the country, with Dineen as its first student chair. After NHLAA was formed, he had the title of Director of the Municipal Legal Aid Bureau, one of only three people to have held that title (the others being Grace Bossie and Robert Solomon, Yale Law School Clinical Professor and Director of the School's Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization).

Dineen was involved in many landmark cases, including the Supreme Court case of *Boddie v. Connecticut*, establishing the right to free access to the courts in cases of fundamental rights. As a result, every state and the federal system have established fee waiver mechanisms. Dineen is also credited with literally reinventing landlord/tenant practice in CT.

Dineen is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from Yale University and Yale Law School in 1981, for his work in legal services and with law students; and the Charles J. Parker Legal Services Award from the Connecticut Bar Association for his work in legal services. He was also designated a James W. Cooper Fellow by the Connecticut Bar Foundation in 1994. He is currently teaching and working with students in the Landlord/Tenant and Legal Assistance clinics.

Carroll Lucht

Carroll Lucht is a Clinical Professor of Law at Yale Law School. His subject areas are disability law, poverty law, and refugee and asylum law.

Professor Lucht received a B.A. and a J.D. from the University of Nebraska and an M.S.W. from the University of Michigan. He has been worked with legal services organizations in Colorado, Nebraska, Georgia, and Iowa, where he was Clinical Professor of Law at the University of Iowa College of Law from 1981 until 1989, when he joined the Yale Law School faculty.

Students in the Immigration Clinic work with Professors Lucht, Stephen Wizner, and Jean Koh Peters on affidavits and briefs on behalf of their clients and represent them in interviews with immigration officials and in oral arguments before judges in administrative proceedings and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Professor Lucht also works with Professor Wizner in the newly created Legal Services for Immigrant Communities Clinic, which fuses traditional civil legal services representation with collaborative, community-based strategies for solving community problems and empowering clients. The clinic provides a broad range of legal services to the two largest immigrant communities in New Haven: the Spanish-speaking Latin American and Caribbean community, and the French-speaking West African community, and offers students the opportunity to represent immigrant clients in a wide range of cases, often including not just immigration law, but employment law, benefits, family law, mortgage foreclosures, landlord-tenant law, and consumer fraud.

Professor Lucht is the author of numerous publications on legal services, children with special needs, and disability rights issues.