



The Bernard and Audre  
**RAPOPORT CENTER**  
For Human Rights and Justice  
The University of Texas at Austin  
School of Law

*Annual Review*  
*2004 - 2005*

## Mission Statement of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice

To build a multidisciplinary community engaged in the study and practice of human rights that promotes the economic and political enfranchisement of marginalized individuals and groups both locally and globally.

## From the Director

In the summer of 2004, the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation awarded a five-year grant to the University of Texas School of Law to create a human rights center. As the first year of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice comes to a close, this Annual Review provides us an opportunity to reflect on and share with our many friends and supporters the Center's work over the past year. We have made great strides toward our mission: to build a multidisciplinary community engaged in the study and practice of human rights that promotes the economic and political enfranchisement of marginalized individuals and groups both locally and globally.

We officially launched the Center with our conference entitled "Working Borders: Linking Debates about Insourcing and Outsourcing of Capital and Labor" in February, but the Center was by then fully operational. Three second-year law students had been named "Human Rights Scholars" and were working hard to help administer and promote the Center. The Transnational Worker Rights Clinic was up and running, and the Immigration Law Clinic was in the midst of another busy year. Combined, the clinics provided opportunities for nearly thirty students to provide legal representation to about 150 of the most marginalized individuals in Central Texas.



PHOTO COURTESY WYATT MSPADDEN

In addition to the Working Borders conference, we hosted a workshop on indigenous and Black land rights claims in Latin America and brought in six speakers through our Human Rights Happy Hour lecture series. We supported three students to travel to the Texas-Mexico border over the winter break to study the situation of workers in maquiladoras and two students to go to Cambodia over spring break to write a report on working conditions in the garment industry. We awarded six summer fellowships to students to work in human rights during the summer of 2005, and announced the Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship on the Human Rights of Women.

In February, the School of Law hosted a dinner in Bernard and Audre Rapoport's honor to thank them for the generous gift to the School of Law that has made possible the Center. Approximately 200 people turned out to honor the Rapoports, not just for this gift but for their lifelong support of the some of the most marginalized members of society. As I listened to the words of people who know them well, I was once again in awe of B and Audre, as human beings and as philanthropists. It is a daunting and humbling task to direct a Center in their name, but fortunately, many people are committed to making it a success. As our new logo suggests, our strength comes from working together.

I hope you enjoy reading about our many activities over the past year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Engle". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Karen Engle

# Friends of Rapoports Gather to Celebrate Center



Molly Ivins, Master of Ceremonies

On Thursday, February 10, nearly 200 friends of Bernard and Audre Rapoport and the newly founded Rapoport Center gathered for dinner at the Headliners Club in downtown Austin. With city lights twinkling beneath the 21-story restaurant, dinner guests celebrated the Center's launch and honored Bernard and Audre Rapoport for making the Center a reality.

Political columnist Molly Ivins, long-time friend and political ally of the Rapoports, served as Master of Ceremonies. Ivins began by asking people to raise their hands who had never before been to an event to honor Bernard ("B") and Audre, making the point that the Center was but one manifestation of their generous spirit. She added that she considered the Center a far finer legacy for B and Audre than the Rapoport Institute for Digestive Studies. Abby Rapoport, a student at Wesleyan College and granddaughter of Audre and B, praised her grandparents to the audience, but noted that it was odd to think about "rights" and her grandparents in the same sentence, because "left" was the word that normally came to mind in thinking about them and their politics.

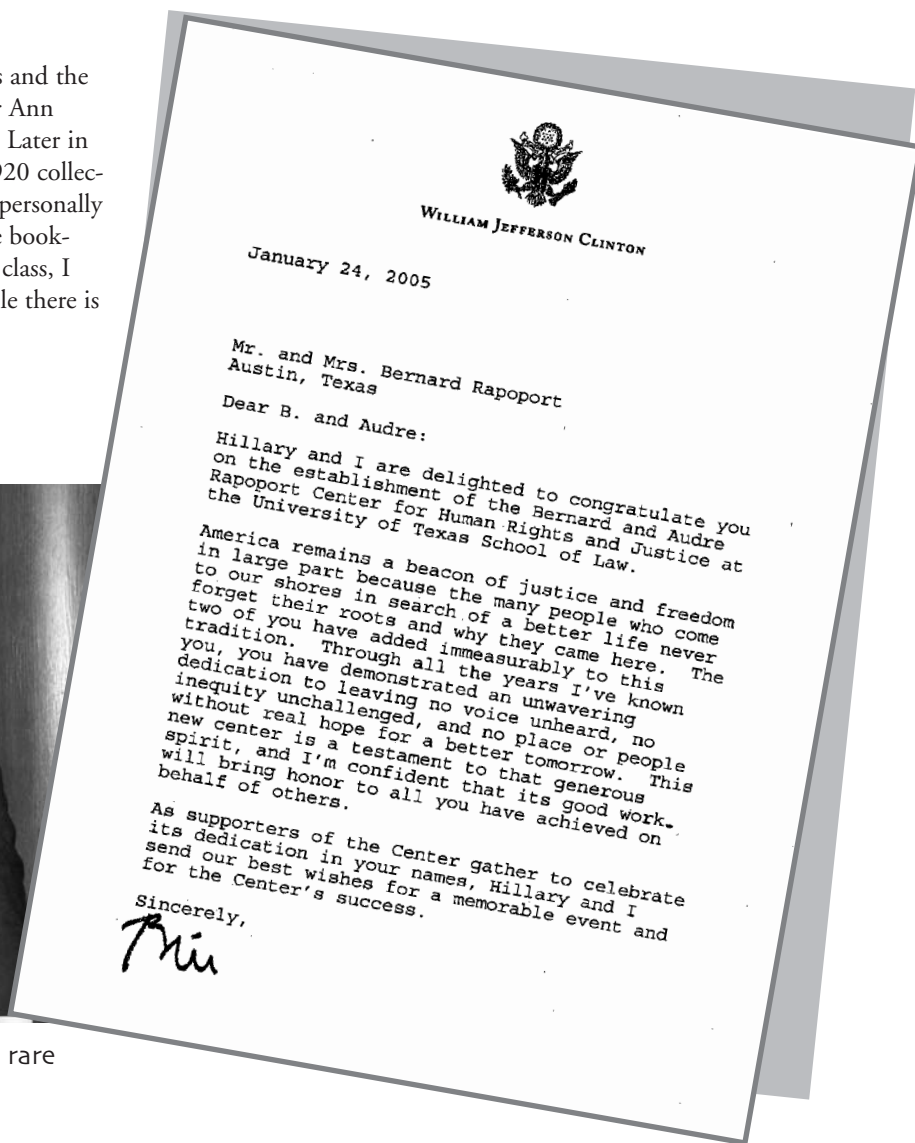
In his remarks, University of Texas School of Law Dean Bill Powers praised the Rapoports for their lifetime of commitment to social justice and their generous contribution to the Center. "For those of us who know Audre and B, their willingness to lend their names and support to this Center comes as no surprise," he wrote in the dinner's program notes. "We are proud to stand together with them now, and with so many others whom they have inspired

through the years, in this great enterprise."

Powers then read aloud letters of support for the Rapoports and the Center from President Bill Clinton, former Texas Governor Ann Richards, and Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn. Later in the evening, Powers presented the Rapoports with a rare 1920 collection of poems entitled *Debs and the Poets* with a bookplate personally signed by Eugene Debs from his prison cell in Atlanta. The bookplate contains the following words: "While there is a lower class, I am in it. While there is a criminal element, I am of it. While there is a soul in jail, I am not free."



Dean Bill Powers presents Bernard Rapoport with a rare book of poetry in appreciation for his support.



PHOTOS COURTESY DAVE MAYFIELD

# “Working Borders” Conference Launches The Rapoport Center

## Event Links Debates about Insourcing and Outsourcing of Capital and Labor



PHOTOS COURTESY JEREMY FREEMAN



Left: (l-r) Professors Sarah Cleveland, Bill Beardall, student Allen Cooper, keynote speaker Maria Echaveste, Bernard Rapoport, and students Ben Fleming, Kassi Tallent, and Paola Marusich-Blancarte.

Right: Maria Echaveste chats with Allen Cooper at the Working Borders Conference.

During his first term, President George W. Bush declared the U.S. immigration system “broken,” and proposed repairing the system through a new temporary worker program, which he argued would boost competitiveness and open the American Dream to foreigners. Meanwhile, in the last presidential election, Senator John Kerry proposed ways of discouraging or preventing U.S. companies from outsourcing their operations to foreign countries. What do these two hot-button political issues—immigration and outsourcing—have to do with one another?

On February 10 and 11, 2005, the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice hosted a conference with a novel purpose—to discuss the relationship between the migration of workers into the U.S. (“insourcing”) and the movement of jobs and capital overseas (“outsourcing”). The conference brought together lawyers, economists, historians, policy-makers, and activists from around the country and abroad to consider the effects of various proposed immigration reforms on outsourcing and vice versa. Attended by more than 100 people—including community groups, activists, concerned citizens, students, and faculty—the conference officially marked the Center’s launch, and was entitled “Working Borders: Linking Debates About Insourcing and Outsourcing of Capital and Labor.”

Maria Echaveste, a former Deputy Chief of Staff in the Clinton White House and a long-time immigration and labor-rights advocate, opened the conference with a keynote address on the topic of immigration policy. In her remarks, Echaveste asked: “How can we toler-

ate having millions of people, without status, without legal rights, working and living in our communities?” A roundtable on immigration the following day continued to respond to that and other related questions, while subsequent roundtables both considered and challenged contemporary understandings of and proposals to restrict outsourcing, and discussed whether international labor standards might be an appropriate response to the inequalities that stem from as well as encourage the movement of capital and labor.

The effects of immigration and outsourcing on the lives of real people were made particularly vivid through an innovative collaboration with the Department of Theatre and Dance. Two live theatrical performances, which revived the “Living Newspaper” genre of theater from the 1930s, literally set the stage for two of the roundtables. The pieces were directed by Shannon Baley, a doctoral student in theater, and performed by graduate and undergraduate students in the department. (*See Living Newspaper article, page 3.*)


The conference was co-sponsored by the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies. Proceedings of the conference have just been published in Volume 40 of the 2005 *Texas International Law Journal*. A streaming video of the entire event is available through our website.

In addition to Echaveste, conference presenters included Linda Bosniak (Rutgers School of Law); Dan Danielsen (Northeastern University School of Law); Tom Green (Dell Computer); David Kennedy (Harvard Law School); Alvaro Santos (Harvard Law School);

Harley Shaiken (University of California, Berkeley, Geography); and Chantal Thomas (Fordham University School of Law). Presenters from The University of Texas at Austin included James Galbraith and Ray Marshall from the LBJ School of Public Affairs; Sharmila Rudrappa from the Department of Sociology; and Sarah Cleveland, Karen Engle, William Forbath, and Barbara Hines from the School of Law.


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Working Borders: Linking Debates  
About Insourcing and Outsourcing  
of Capital and Labor

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Proceedings of the Inaugural Conference  
of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport  
Center for Human Rights and Justice  
February 10-11, 2005

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF LAW**

## Living Newspaper Goes on the Road

The “Living Newspaper” theatrical performances at the Working Borders Conference were originally scheduled for the conference only. But in the audience for the performances was Professor Emeritus of Economics Forest Hill, a friend of Bernard Rapoport’s since the two studied economics together at The University of Texas in the late 1930s.

Impressed by what he saw, and eager to build awareness of the Rapoport Center, Hill suggested restaging the performances for members of UT’s “Third Age” programs for retired adults.

On April 22, 2005, the event Hill envisioned took place. About 125 people

attended the performances, which were interspersed with talks about the Rapoport Center and the Transnational Worker Rights Clinic from Dean Powers and Professors Cleveland and Engle. The event was sponsored by UT LAMP (Learning Activities for Mature People) and UT SAGE (Seminars for Adult Growth and Enrichment).

In addition to becoming acquainted with the Center, audience members learned about immigration and outsourcing, as well as about a form of theater dating from the 1930s. Living Newspaper is a documentary-style theater that turns political debate into artistic expression. It briefly flourished as part of the Depression-era Federal Theatre Project, an

initiative by the Works Progress Administration to help re-employ thousands of unemployed actors, technicians, playwrights, and directors.

The performance for the Third Age programs created an unanticipated opportunity for the Center to extend its reach to new members of the university community and the community at large. According to Hill, the performance “paid off handsomely, spreading knowledge across the campus about this revived theatrical form and about the new Rapoport Center.” He added: “Let’s continue to promote these ties among our university groups, thus strengthening the lifeblood of the academy.”



PHOTO COURTESY SHAUN STEWART

Second-year students (l-r) Ashley Morris, Jeremy Freeman, and Paola Marusich-Blancarte were selected to serve as Human Rights Scholars.

## Human Rights Scholars Assist in the Direction of the Center

Three second-year UT Law students—Jeremy Freeman, Paola Marusich-Blancarte, and Ashley Morris—were critical to the functioning of the Rapoport Center this past academic year. The students, selected on the basis of their academic achievements, job experiences, and dedication to human rights, were designated as “Human Rights Scholars” and awarded \$5,000 scholarships. They were then called into service to coordinate the events of the first year of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice.

Jeremy Freeman assisted the Center with fundraising and with the Working Borders Conference. He holds a Master’s in International Affairs from Columbia University and has interned at the United Nations and the U.S. State Department. Paola Marusich-Blancarte helped plan the Working Borders Conference and developed a database of human rights job opportunities for UT Law students. (*See article, page 8.*) Marusich-Blancarte holds a Master’s in International Policy Studies from Stanford University. She has worked on criminal law reform in Mexico and was a resident fellow at UNESCO in Paris, France. Ashley Morris coordinated the Student Advisory Board of the Rapoport Center, a forum for students to influence the Center’s agenda, and assisted with a workshop on Black and indigenous land rights claims. (*See article, page 6.*) Her human rights experience includes work at the Political Asylum Project of Austin and directing an environmental education project in Ecuador for Fundación Galo Plaza Lasso.

# Transnational Worker Rights Clinic Protects Labor Rights at Home and Abroad



In an increasingly globalized labor market, many employers in developing countries are tempted to overlook the labor rights of their workers. Yet, the same problem extends to the U.S., where the availability of cheap migrant labor can be a recipe for worker exploitation. The Transnational Worker Rights Clinic, established by the Rapoport Center in 2004, addresses both sides of the issue by advocating on behalf of local immigrant workers as well as workers around the globe.



In the clinic's first year, fourteen students collaborated with the Equal Justice Center, an Austin-based non-profit, to help transnational migrant workers in the Austin area recover unpaid wages. Students also partnered with various non-profit international labor rights groups to pursue projects assisting low-income workers in other countries. The clinic was co-taught by Professors Sarah Cleveland and Bill Beardall.

At the local level students worked with approximately 90 clients on over 65 cases, recovering almost \$75,000 in unpaid wages. "I never lost hope," said Luis Ramirez, an Austin migrant worker who recovered his wages after persistent efforts by clinic students. "I struggled for a year, but truth was on my side. The

"I never lost hope," said Luis Ramirez, an Austin migrant worker. "I struggled for a year, but truth was on my side. The law students helped me regain my wages and my dignity."

Top: Clinic student Monica Jimenez strategizes with client.  
Bottom: Bernard Rapoport meets with clinic students (l-r)  
Adam Rothey, Jeremy Freeman, and Ben Fleming.

law students helped me regain my wages and my dignity."

In addition to litigating claims, students learned how to provide immigrant workers the knowledge and skills to protect their own employments rights. Students led a weekly seminar on basic labor rights, participated in "know-your-rights" street theater at day-labor corners, and provided legal support to organizing workers. Clinic students also participated in an Austin-wide campaign to protect the employment and civil rights of immigrant day laborers. More than 350 workers in the Austin area took part in the clinic's broad organizational and educational efforts.

Students simultaneously worked on a variety of projects to promote the rights of workers outside the U.S. One team of students drafted an amicus brief for a lawsuit against multinational corporations accused of committing human rights abuses abroad. Two other students investigated the effects of the phase-out of global textile quotas on working conditions in the Cambodian garment industry. A third team worked on the "Fairness in Flowers" campaign of the non-profit International Labor Rights Fund, investigating strategies for encouraging fresh flower retailers in the United States to promote better working conditions at flower plantations in Colombia and Ecuador.

Two projects led directly to opportunities to learn firsthand about conditions abroad. The students investigating the Cambodian garment industry travelled to Cambodia over spring break with Professor Sarah Cleveland to interview representatives of government, business, labor, and the non-profit sector. They recently reported their findings to the Worker Rights Consortium, a nonprofit that promotes better working conditions in the production of university apparel. Second-year student Allen Cooper continued working on the "Fairness in Flowers" campaign throughout the summer, making a trip to Ecuador in July to investigate working conditions in the flower industry.

By simultaneously pursuing projects for workers here and abroad, the students gained an understanding of common problems confronting working people everywhere, and ways in which local and global working conditions are intertwined.

"The clinic was a wonderful opportunity to make a real difference in workers' lives in Austin...but at the same time to be able to place those issues in a global context and see how they connect with global issues and human rights," said Cooper.

## Immigration Law Clinic Wins Asylum, Deportation Cases

The outcome of a proceeding in a U.S. immigration court can spell the difference between a path to U.S. citizenship and a traumatic deportation to a country that may no longer even feel like home. Although immigration courts have the power to declare the fate of people caught in their grip, many low-income immigrants show up with no legal representation and an uphill battle ahead of them.

The Immigration Law Clinic attempts to level the playing field by offering free legal assistance to low-income immigrants. The clinic handles asylum claims, provides deportation defense for long-time residents, and advocates for relief for immigrant victims of domestic violence.

Last spring, fifteen students participated in the clinic, which is taught by Professor Barbara Hines and has approximately 70 ongoing cases. In operation at the School of Law since 1999, the clinic has been re-designated as a Rapoport Center program due to the international legal and human rights issues involved.

Some of the clinic's most significant victories last semester were in claims for asylum. The clinic won the asylum cases of a Colombian labor activist who was persecuted by paramilitary forces, a Venezuelan political activist who had been threatened by pro-Chavez groups, and a Togolese victim of government persecution. Students also worked on the pending asylum claim of a Guatemalan man who received death threats after testifying regarding human rights abuses by the Guatemalan military, and on another asylum claim by a Honduran family whose relatives were murdered by gangs in Honduras.

As part of its deportation defense efforts, the clinic represented juveniles before the

San Antonio immigration court who had been detained and placed in deportation proceedings after attempting to come to the U.S. unaccompanied. Clinic students helped secure their release and reunification with family members in the U.S., while advising them on their ongoing deportation cases. Some of the juveniles were fleeing gang violence in Central America, and most were fleeing extreme poverty.

The clinic also won a procedural victory to suppress improperly obtained evidence in a deportation case in which a South Asian man was arrested based on racial profiling and in violation of his constitutional rights. In another deportation case, student Jenny Hughes assisted and accompanied Hines at oral argument before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Hines and Hughes attempted to prevent the separation of the defendant from her three children, who are U.S. citizens. A decision on the case has yet to be issued.

Hughes said she signed up for the clinic hoping to perform public service and use her Spanish-speaking skills. But she said the clinic affected her profoundly, making her more aware of the precarious status of some immigrants and increasing her appreciation of the value of U.S. citizenship. "[Citizenship] is just something that you take for granted when you are born in this country," she said.

# Academics and Practitioners Gather to Reflect on Land Rights Claims by Indigenous and Black Groups in Latin America

Lawyers, legal scholars, social scientists, and activists convened to consider the promises and pitfalls of using international legal arguments based on culture to obtain property rights

brought together about 25 lawyers, legal scholars, social scientists, and activists to consider the promises and pitfalls of using international legal arguments based on culture to obtain property rights. Because future cases before the Court will involve the adjudication of the meaning of culture itself, the workshop required a truly multidisciplinary approach, and, in particular, the participation of anthropologists. The organizing committee for the workshop consisted of law professors Torres and Engle, and UT anthropology professors Hale, Ted Gordon, and Shannon Speed.

One of the issues explored at the workshop was the comparison of claims made by indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. The workshop also provided an opportunity to hear about land rights struggles outside of the Americas. The opening talk at the workshop, attended by about 100 people, was given by Stanford University anthropology professor Amita Baviskar and was entitled “Law, Land and Citizenship: Claiming Indigeneity in India.”

The workshop was intended to create an ongoing network of interested academics and practitioners to continue dialogue as the law develops in this area. In addition to Baviskar, Torres, Engle, Gordon, Hale, and Speed, participants included José Aylwin (Universidad de la Frontera, Chile, Law); Joe Berra (Caribbean Central American Research Council); Ariel Dulitzky (lawyer for Inter-American Commission on Human Rights); Candis Hamilton (private attorney in Jamaica); Aída Hernández Castillo (CIESAS, Mexico, D.F., Anthropology); William Maurer (University of California, Irvine, Anthropology); Sally Merry (Wellesley College, Anthropology); Bettina Ng'weno (University of California, Davis, Anthropology); Eva Thorne (Brandeis University, Political Science); and Rebecca Tsosie (Arizona State University College of Law). Additional students and faculty from UT participated.



Workshop participants discuss land rights claims by indigenous and Black groups in Latin America.

Top: (l-r) Professors William Maurer and Aída Hernández Castillo, attorney Candis Hamilton, and Professor Charlie Hale.

Bottom: Professors Rebecca Tsosie and Gerald Torres.

In 2002, shortly after the Inter-American Court of Human Rights handed down a path-breaking victory to an indigenous group in Nicaragua, University of Texas law professor Gerald Torres, an expert in American Indian Law, and UT anthropology professor Charlie Hale, who had served as an expert witness in the case, hosted a successful conference to consider the impact of the decision. Three years later, as that decision began to be used as a basis for land rights claims by both indigenous and some Black groups all over the Americas, it became apparent that a new round of critical reflection and strategic planning was in order—and that the Rapoport Center could provide an ideal forum for the discussion.

On April 28-29, 2005, the Rapoport Center, along with the Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies and the Center for African and African American Studies, hosted a workshop on land claims by indigenous and Black groups in Latin America. The event



## From Kosovo to Brazil: Center Funds Human Rights Summer Fellows



PHOTO COURTESY SALLY EMERICK

Human Rights Summer Fellows (l-r) Allen Cooper, Melina De La Garza, Emily Jolly, Jane Collins, and John Tustin.

The Rapoport Center selected six students from The University of Texas School of Law to become Human Rights Summer Fellows for 2005. The students received financial assistance to pursue summer internships at organizations and institutions that promote international human rights. The organizations are based in the U.S. and abroad, and are both governmental and non-governmental.

News drifting back to Austin suggests that the internships are providing extraordinary learning experiences. "It is one thing to read about this in a journal but quite another to live and work here in the field," reports **Melina De La Garza**, who is interning at the Kosovo Law Centre, a legal think tank in Pristina, Serbia-Montenegro. "Had I not received funding from the Rapoport Center, I would not be here." De La Garza is assisting in the compilation of a legal annotation of Kosovo law for local and international judges.

Other Human Rights Summer Fellows are participating in human rights work related to issues including environmental protection, labor rights, and children's rights.

**Jane Collins** is in the Ministry of the Environment in Brasília, Brazil, working on issues of human rights and environmental law by focusing on biotechnology and bioprospecting, under the supervision of the chief legal counsel.

**Allen Cooper** is interning with the Fairness in Flowers campaign, a program administered by the International Labor Rights

Fund in Washington D.C. aimed at improving working conditions at flower plantations in Ecuador and Colombia.

**Emily Jolly** is serving as an associate with the Children and Armed Conflict program of CARE International in New York assisting in the development of a network of CARE members working on children's rights and protection during times of armed conflict.

**Gregory Krauss** is interning for the Rapoport

Center where he is drafting an annual review, assisting with grant-writing, and working on events and initiatives for the 2005-2006 academic year.

**John Tustin** is interning with the international program of the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C. performing legal research and writing on domestic and international law and policy related to the environment and sustainability.

### Conversations Continue with Human Rights Happy Hours

For three years now, faculty and students from around campus have gathered monthly at the School of Law to hear speakers on a range of topics related to human rights. The speaker series is entitled "Human Rights Happy Hour," both to indicate the usual afternoon meeting time and to evoke the hopeful and collaborative nature of human rights work. Many of the speakers also meet separately with students to discuss practicing in the human rights field.

The series continued this past year under the auspices of the new Rapoport Center, and with the audience expanded to include interested members from the community. Speakers addressed a wide range of topics, from the humanitarian crisis in Darfur to working conditions in U.S. meat and poultry plants.

In September, **Ralph Wilde**, a law professor from University College London, gave a presentation called "From Guantanamo Bay to Abu Ghraib: Extraterritorial State Action and International Human Rights Law." **Neville Hoad**, English professor at The University of Texas, presented a talk in October entitled "Disorientations: Sexuality Rights Claims and Imperial Geography". **Jules Lobel**, professor at the University of Pittsburgh Law School and Vice-President of the Center for Constitutional Rights, gave a talk entitled "Anticipating the War on Terror: Preventative Detention at Home and Pre-emptive War Abroad" in November. **Joanne Mariner**, Deputy Director of the America's Division of Human Rights Watch, gave a presentation in March on the "Crisis in Darfur." **Rebecca Lorins**, a graduate student in comparative literature at UT, offered comments on Mariner's remarks and discussed some of her own work in the Sudan.

Additionally, two visiting speakers came to UT Law and met with students in the Transnational Worker Rights Clinic and others to discuss innovative uses of international law to protect transnational workers in the U.S. labor market. **Michael Dale**, Director of the Northwest Workers' Justice Project, discussed his work on a pioneering complaint being brought pursuant to the NAFTA labor side agreement. **Lance Compa**, a senior lecturer at Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations, led a discussion in April on the 2005 Human Rights Watch Report he authored entitled "Blood, Sweat and Fear: Workers' Rights in U.S. Meat and Poultry Plants."

## UT Students Participate in Border Delegation

The Rapoport Center provided financial assistance over winter break to law students Parisa Fatehi, Elizabeth Wagoner, and Fabiola Flores to participate in a delegation to Piedras Negras, Mexico. Organized by Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera, a project of the American Friends Service Committee, the delegation met with maquiladora workers along the Texas-Mexico border. Delegates listened to stories about the hardships of maquiladora work and discussed how the Austin community might support the efforts of workers in the border region who are attempting to defend their labor rights.

## Center Develops Human Rights Jobs Database

In coordination with the Career Services Office at The University of Texas School of Law, the Rapoport Center has developed a database of human rights employment opportunities for UT Law students. Building on the wealth of human rights experience at the School of Law, the database catalogues internships and job opportunities that have been pursued by UT Law affiliates. Entries include personal commentary by those who pursued a given job experience.

## Center Administrator Wins Award

Katrin Flechsig, Faculty Assistant and administrator for the Center, was selected as The University of Texas School of Law's Employee of the Month for April. Our many events this year would not have been possible without her talented support. Please join us in congratulating her on a job well done.

Deadline July 1, 2005

# Audre Rapoport Prize

For Scholarship on the Human Rights of Women

Sponsored by the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice at The University of Texas School of Law

- The \$1,000 prize will be awarded to the winner of an interdisciplinary writing competition on international human rights and women.
- The winning author will have the opportunity to publish the paper in the *Texas Journal of Women & the Law*.
- Law students and graduate students are eligible.

For complete competition rules, visit [http://www.utexas.edu/law/academics/centers/humanrights/rapoport\\_prize.html](http://www.utexas.edu/law/academics/centers/humanrights/rapoport_prize.html)

## Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship on the Human Rights of Women Announced

Last spring, the Rapoport Center announced that it will award an Audre Rapoport Prize for Scholarship on the Human Rights of Women. The prize honors the work of Audre Rapoport, a dedicated advocate for the advancement of women both nationally and internationally, particularly on issues of reproductive health.

The winner of the prize will be chosen based on an essay-writing competition on the topic of international human rights and women. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 plus the opportunity for publication in the *Texas Journal of Women & the Law*.

Over 20 students and recent graduates from over a dozen different universities in the United States and abroad submitted papers. The papers cover most geographic regions of the world and span a broad range of topics pertaining to women, including abortion, land rights, trafficking, violence against women, and the treatment of refugees. They will be judged by a multidisciplinary and multinational team of experts that includes Richard Battistoni (Providence College, Political Science), Hilary Charlesworth (Australian National University, Law), and Ambreena Manji (University of Warwick [England], Law). Judges from the University of Texas will include professors Karen Engle (School of Law), Barbara Harlow (English), Shannon Speed (Anthropology), Gretchen Ritter (Government, Chair of Women's and Gender Studies), and UT Law student Catherine Kimberley, co-editor-in-chief of the *Texas Journal of Women & the Law*.

# The Year to Come

The Rapoport Center has a full agenda for the coming year. In the area of service-learning opportunities, the Immigration Law Clinic and the Transnational Worker Rights Clinic will again be offered. For next summer, the Center hopes to expand the number of Human Rights Summer Fellows who receive stipends for work with human rights organizations. Part of the Center's task will be to continue to identify organizations, both nationally and internationally, that might provide meaningful internship experiences.

The Center is also busy planning a multidisciplinary conference entitled "Representing Culture, Translating Human Rights" to be held on Nov. 3 and 4, 2005. The event, co-hosted by the *Texas International Law Journal*, will bring in speakers from across the globe—from Brazil to India to the United Kingdom—to consider how international law and discourse migrate. Does "human rights" have the same meaning for an activist arguing for economic and social reform in Rio de Janeiro as it does for the U.S. government when justifying foreign policy decisions? Panelists will consider various representations of both human rights and culture in multiple settings, including grass roots activism, foreign policy, and asylum litigation. The Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies and the South Asian Studies Institute have signed on as co-sponsors for the conference.

The Human Rights Happy Hour Series will continue. In the fall, the series will be combined with a student seminar entitled "Human Rights and Justice" taught by Professor Karen Engle. Students will have the opportunity to read and engage scholarly work by the speakers before they visit and then lead some of the discussion during the happy hour. Fall happy hour speakers will include (in order of appearance) Susan Marks (University of Cambridge, Law), Laurel Fletcher (University of California, Berkeley, Law), Florian Hoffman, (Pontificia Universidade Catolica, Rio de Janeiro, Law), Ryan Goodman (Harvard Law School), Derek Jinks (University of Texas School of Law), and Nathaniel Berman (Brooklyn School of Law). Please see our website for dates and times.

## "Mr. Human Rights" Papers Come to UT Center to Explore and Honor Legacy of George Lister, Career Diplomat

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He was once called "Mr. Human Rights."

A career foreign service officer, George Lister worked behind the scenes in the early 1970s to shake conventional wisdom that human rights concerns did not belong in the foreign policy decision mix. Lister played a key role in the creation of an influential new State Department bureau dedicated to human rights.

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When Lister died in 2004 at the age of 90, he left behind him the paper trail of a long career as a government official—boxes and boxes of letters, speeches, newspaper articles, essays, and other documents. In July, 2005, those papers arrived at The University of Texas, where the Rapoport Center will collaborate with the Benson Latin American Collection in turning them into a centerpiece for study and debate. Already, the Rapoport Center and the library are considering ways to honor and explore Lister's distinguished career. In addition to cataloguing the papers and making them accessible to the public, they are contemplating a conference on the papers to be held in 2006. The Center is also considering other initiatives that would honor Lister, such as a law clinic focused on human rights in Latin America or an expansion of funding for student internships.

The papers themselves, it is believed, will provide a window into the evolution of human rights in U.S. foreign policy and the ability of one government employee to shape history. Lister's foreign service career, which spanned half a century, included assignments in Moscow, Warsaw, Rome, Germany, and Bogota. In the 1960s and early 1970s, Lister served in the State Department's Bureau of Latin American Affairs, his work centering on egregious human rights violations in Latin America. In 1974, at his urging, and with leadership from Rep. Don Fraser and Rep. Tom Harkin (now Senator), Congress created what is now the Bureau of Human Rights, Democracy, and Labor. Lister officially retired in 1982, though he continued to work as an unpaid consultant until 2002.

Upon Lister's death in 2004, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson commented to *The Washington Post*: "There are probably a lot of people who have human rights in their titles, but the conscience of human rights is gone." Other admirers include historian and former Kennedy advisor Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., who once told a reporter that Lister was "Mr. Human Rights."

One part of Lister's legacy that is evident from initial glimpses at his papers is his willingness to discuss and debate human rights in a university setting. Stacks of letters from universities thank him for speaking to students about his career and the struggle to promote human rights in Latin America and the rest of the world. The Center hopes to use the occasion of the arrival of the papers to foster more of the human rights discussion that Lister so enjoyed—and to help students prepare for their own human rights careers.



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The University of Texas at Austin  
School of Law

## Get Involved in the Rapoport Center!

- ✓ Attend a lecture, conference, or other event.
- ✓ Connect students to clinical and internship opportunities.  
If you are aware of a human rights advocacy project suitable for a clinic, or of a valuable internship experience for students, the Center wants to know.
- ✓ Donate.  
In addition to major sources of funding from the Rapoport Foundation and the School of Law, the Rapoport Center depends on individual donations.
  - \$200 sends a student to work with maquiladoras over winter break.
  - \$500 funds a speaker visit.
  - \$4,000 funds a three-month student internship.
  - \$50,000 funds a clinic for ten students over the course of the year.

Please contact Karen Engle  
for more information.

### Contact Us

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Please join our mailing list  
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### Who We Are

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