

# Friday, September 7, 2018 University of Texas School of Law

## Program

#### 12:00-1:10 Check-in and Lunch – Jamail Pavilion

#### 1:20 Welcome and Keynote – Eidman Courtroom

- Welcome: Marissa Balonon-Rosen 3L Willy Forbath, Associate Dean for Research
- Introduction: Laura Tucker 2L
- Keynote: Blake Strode, Executive Director, ArchCity Defenders, St. Louis, MO

#### 2:20 Break

#### 2:30 Paths and Models – Eidman Courtroom

- Introduction: Nat Fine 2L
- Moderator: Lawson Konvalinka, Career Services Office Panelists:
- Chris Larson '15, Staff Attorney, Employment Practice Team Lead, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Dallas
- Erika Lopez '17, Assistant City Attorney, City of Austin, Austin
- Briana Perez '17, Fellow, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), San Antonio
- Lochlin Rosen '17, Staff Attorney, Colorado Public Defenders
- Claire Vaho '16, Law Office of Claire Vaho, Austin

#### Closing

- Eden Harrington, Associate Dean for Experiential Education; Director, William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law
- Natalie Neill 2L

#### 3:30 Reception – Jamail Pavilion

Join returning students, alumni, faculty and staff for cookies and conversation

#### 4:15-? Student Happy Hour – Haymaker, 2310 Manor Rd.

Cosponsored by Getting Radical in the South (GRITS), the Human Rights Law Society (HRLS), and the Public Interest Law Association (PILA)

## **Keynote Speaker**



#### **Blake Strode**

Blake Strode is the executive director of ArchCity Defenders, a nonprofit civil rights law firm in St. Louis, Missouri, providing holistic legal advocacy and combating the criminalization of poverty and state violence against poor people and people of color. Strode is a native of the St. Louis region and joined ArchCity as a Skadden Fellow

and staff attorney following his graduation from Harvard Law School in 2015.

Prior to becoming executive director, Strode helped to establish the Civil Rights Litigation unit at ArchCity, which has brought challenges to a variety of unlawful and predatory practices, including debtors' prisons, police misconduct, and inhumane jail conditions, among others. In the past few years, Strode and his colleagues have filed more than 30 civil rights cases in state and federal court, impacting upwards of 40,000 people in the St. Louis region. Strode also played a significant role in the class-action debtors' prison case against the City of Jennings, Missouri that reached final settlement in December 2016. The landmark case provides a blueprint for permanent legal reform in the region's courts, and afforded monetary relief to hundreds of individuals who were jailed because of their inability to pay court debts.

## **Reception Tables**

- Civil Rights, Community Development, & Environmental Justice
- Criminal Justice
- Family Law, Domestic Violence, & Children's Rights
- Immigrant Rights

- Human Rights
- · Labor & Employment Rights
- Legislature, Government, & Policy
- Where do I start?: Justice Center, Pro Bono, & Career Services

## Hosted by



TEXAS | William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law

### in conjunction with:



THE BERNARD AND AUDRE RAPOPORT CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY of TEXAS SCHOOL of LAW





Getting Radical in the South (GRITS) Human Rights Law Society (HRLS) Public Interest Law Association (PILA)

The Justice Center promotes equal justice through legal education, scholarship and public service. Our work includes:

- · Teaching students about the need to increase access to justice
- · Supporting students and alumni engaged in public service
- · Researching legal issues affecting the underserved
- Informing students, faculty and attorneys about public interest legal issues
- · Creating opportunities for the Texas Law community to serve the public

## Upcoming Events

- GRITS: Getting Radical In the South Conference, Sept. 28-29
- Intro to Public Service Law, Oct. 2, 11:45 12:45 pm, Eidman Courtroom
- Public Service Expo, Oct. 18, 11:00 1:30 pm, Atrium
- Lives in the Law with Sunu Chandy, Nov. 13, 11:45 1:45 pm, Eidman Courtroom and Jury Room