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MESSAGE *from the* DEAN

The mission of Gonzaga University School of Law is “to provide an excellent legal education informed by our humanistic, Jesuit, and Catholic traditions and values.”

When I talk about this mission statement I always divide it into two parts. The first part, our promise to provide an excellent legal education, lies at the very core of why we exist. Our essential function is to turn law students into lawyers, and we do that primarily through our educational program. I am very proud of our efforts and results in this regard.

The second part of our mission statement lays bare those things that make the experience at Gonzaga Law School very different from what a student would expect to encounter elsewhere. It is our humanistic, Jesuit, and Catholic traditions and values that form the essential character of this institution and that provide a unique context in which our educational program unfolds.

In this edition of *The Gonzaga Lawyer* we celebrate the Jesuit nature of our program by celebrating our great tradition and current commitment to serving the public good. In our vision statement we profess that “[a]s a Jesuit institution, we are committed to educating the whole person to serve the public good, to engaging in a dialogue with all cultures and religious or ethical traditions, and to pursuing justice.” In the pages that follow we focus primarily on our work, and the work of our alumni, that advances the public interest and pursues social justice.

Evidence of this institution’s commitment to the public good is easy to find. Back in 1975, Professors Mark Wilson and Jeff Hartje had the vision to start our law clinic at a time when clinical legal education was in its infancy. They were driven in large part by a desire to do good for their indigent clients while doing well for their students’ education.

Over twenty-five years ago, Professor John Maurice conceived of our Thomas More Scholarship program as a means of providing financial support for students so they would be able to pursue careers upon graduation that would serve the public interest. A quarter century plus later, this institution has invested over \$7 million in these students and they have gone on to serve their communities as prosecutors, legal aid attorneys, judges, and in many other public spirited ways.

Today, in addition to our law clinic and our Thomas More Scholars, we honor our Jesuit character by continuing to find new ways to invigorate that part of our program that connects us to the public good. One of the most recent developments in this regard is the appointment of Professor Mary Pat Treuthart as our first-ever director of Public Interest Law. Professor Treuthart, who began her career as a legal aid attorney in New Jersey, has accepted the responsibility of making sure that our many diverse efforts in this area have the maximum positive effect possible. Those who know Professor Treuthart, know that she is the perfect person to take on this challenge.

Dean Earl Martin  
Gonzaga University School of Law

# PUBLIC INTEREST LAW

BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION

By Christianna Sharman  
Photos by Shane Young



## Professor Mary Pat Treuhart, our new director of public interest law

No one exemplifies Gonzaga's public service culture more than Professor Mary Pat Treuhart, our new director of public interest law. She requires students in her Women and the Law class to complete fifteen to twenty hours of service with an organization related to women or girls.

She doesn't hold herself immune, either. Just as all Gonzaga students perform thirty hours of public service before graduation, Treuhart's advocacy encouraged faculty members to make thirty hours of service a year part of their community citizenship commitment.

"Gonzaga has had a longstanding commitment to public interest and public service," she says. "The goal now is to let the students and the wider community know about what Gonzaga's been doing."

Treuhart sees her new role as a link between the two. She'll fulfill an information and referral function; guide students in seeking fellowships, internships, and mentoring relationships; facilitate conversations with other like-minded organizations; foster faculty involvement; and more — all while maintaining her classroom responsibilities.

"I'll act as a resource as much as a catalyst about twenty-five percent of the time," she says.

In the end, though, it's even more than that.

"It's huge," Treuhart says. "Most other schools haven't had that long-term uninterrupted service emphasis. Our work here reflects the larger Jesuit mission of social justice."

## Gonzaga Students Reach Out

At first glance, Gonzaga University School of Law differs very little from most law schools. All work to provide an excellent legal education in preparation for a successful career.

Scratch below Gonzaga's surface though, and you'll find a public service foundation that can alter the course of justice and change the world.

"The mission of the university is public service, service to the community," says Larry A. Weiser, director of clinical law programs and University Legal Assistance, a nonprofit clinical law program and law firm contained within the school's walls.

The clinic — as it's called — exemplifies that sense of responsibility. Students have cases providing services to low-income, elderly, and other underrepresented clients.

"And at the same time, we provide an excellent legal education," Weiser points out.

That combination characterizes the Gonzaga experience, says Rosanna Peterson, assistant professor and director of the externship program.

"Gonzaga certainly promotes public service values in curricular and extra-curricular activities," she says. "Each student performs thirty hours of public service before graduation."

Without a doubt, the requirement bears concrete witness to Gonzaga's long-time participation in the life of the community.

You'll find faculty responding to the same needs, while at the same time upholding the value it represents for a successful legal career.

"When you practice public interest law, you have to be more sharp," Weiser asserts. "You have to be better than anyone. The law and the facts do not always favor low income people."

Gonzaga's emphasis on public service within an academic context puts students in direct contact with their possible future clients.

"The clinic allows the opportunity for students to do more than paper cases for paper people," says Mary Pat Treuhart, director of public interest law. "There's a lot of student

energy. I'm seeing a real resurgence of commitment to do this service work."

Peterson believes the effects reach well beyond the student body.

"A lot of our students really do seek out jobs in the public service arena," she says. "Gonzaga can bring systemic change to Spokane, to Washington, and to the Intermountain West."

And that's exactly what Gonzaga has in mind. "Public service is part of being a lawyer," says Weiser. "You can't leave here without a sense you have an obligation to serve your community."

**Above:** Professor Larry Weiser working with a clinic student

**Below:** Professor Rosanna Peterson speaking with students about the externship program



*honduras*

## MISSION: POSSIBLE



### Rolling Up Our Sleeves

Gonzaga's students quickly catch the public interest fire here, joining existing groups or making up their own.

#### Mission: Possible

Students created this program, which raises money to take service out into the world. Mission Possible participants have turned up in Honduras, painting clinics and purchasing supplies; working with populations devastated by Hurricane Katrina; and in many other places where there is need.

"Going on these trips, for me, kept everything in perspective," says Christopher Church, Mission Possible's treasurer.

### Gonzaga Public Interest Law Project (GPILP)

Students ready to spend the summer in an unpaid public service internship can turn to the Gonzaga Public Interest Law Project (GPILP) for help.

Another student-led initiative, GPILP organizes a Jeopardy-like knowledge contest, a popular Halloween party, and an auction featuring student-worker lawn services, professor-hosted dinner parties, and much more. The proceeds fund \$2,000 grants for part-time summer interns and \$4,000 for full-time posts.

"We've sent people all over the world," says GPILP's president, Brian Brault. "I do it because I feel I should give back. Every little bit helps."

### Thomas More Scholarship Program

The law school itself certainly walks the walk — in a remarkably tangible way.

Through the Thomas More Scholarship Program, Gonzaga awards 100 percent tuition to scholars demonstrating a strong concern for the welfare of others. The program asks recipients to make a substantial commitment to public service after graduation.

While service takes many forms, few opportunities escape Gonzaga's attention. 🇺🇸

# EAST WEST STREET

## AT GONZAGA

Gonzaga graduates certainly blanket the Northwest. But their presence in Washington State is particularly noteworthy. The federal defenders in Eastern Washington and Western Washington, and the U.S. Attorneys on each side of the state all got their start at Gonzaga University School of Law. All four carry the school's belief in public service into their work every day.

"Oftentimes, the idea of public service conjures notions of self-sacrifice in noble undertakings," says Tom Hillier '73, federal defender for Western Washington, "But it is more. It can lead to lifelong, satisfying careers. My own work is an example."

Indeed, Hillier considers his work central to preserving a system with integrity.

"As a public defender, my work furthers a core value of our Constitution, assuring that justice — in substance and availability — is the same for everyone."

Just across the Cascade Mountains, Hillier's fellow Gonzaga graduate finds the same deep meaning in his role as federal defender for Eastern Washington.

Roger Peven '75 has devoted his career almost entirely to public criminal defense in service to vulnerable populations.

"It has been said that a society is judged by how it treats its most unpopular citizens and residents," he says.

"Providing excellence in criminal defense is, to me, the highest expression of society's obligation to this principle."

U.S. Attorney for Western Washington Jeff Sullivan '71, has also spent the lion's share of his career in public service, an enterprise shaped largely by his education.

"Gonzaga's emphasis on ethics and doing things the right way guides everything I have done as a public prosecutor," he says. "I believe you have a responsibility to use your position and expertise to improve the criminal justice system," he says.

Sullivan's counterpart, U.S. Attorney for Eastern Washington Jim McDevitt, '74, spreads that sense of responsibility a bit more broadly. "Public service to me is putting one's own self interest secondary to the interests of the nation or society in general."

Ultimately, these public servants credit Gonzaga for the preparation required to perform such good works.

"There was a deep commitment by the school to allow students to spend time working in public interest pursuits," Peven says. "This support made it possible to begin working at the public defender's."

Hillier echoes the sentiment "Gonzaga played a major part in my draw to public defense," he says. "It steeled me for work as a public defender — work as difficult as it is rewarding."

Sullivan succinctly describes Gonzaga's enduring influence on his career this way: "The education I received at Gonzaga was second to none."

As these Gonzaga graduates nobly serve others, Albert Schweitzer said they reap a benefit as well.

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." 🇺🇸

TOM  
HILLIER



ROGER  
PEVEN



JEFF  
SULLIVAN



JIM  
MCDEVITT

