American University Washington College of Law
Claudio Grossman Hall, Terrace Level, Yuma
4300 Nebraska Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016

October 8, 2019

American University Washington College of Law and the ABA Commission on Disability Rights

Present

Creating Opportunities for Law Students with Disabilities in the 21st Century:
Inclusivity on Campus and in the Workplace

10:00-10:15am  Welcome: AUWCL Dean Camille Nelson; ABA President Judy Perry Martinez

10:15-11:15am  Panel I: Facilitating Mental Health and Disability Accommodations at School and in the Workplace
Professionals who work with law school students are witnessing a rise in the number and complexity of accommodations sought for anxiety, mental health and other non-visible disabilities, as well as increasing calls to work through psychiatric challenges. Panelists will provide an overview of the recent trends in accommodations requests, and then discuss how law schools can best address these situations, both internally and with disability services, other administrators, faculty, and students. How do we facilitate a fair accommodations process while preparing students for the bar exam and the legal workplace? How do we determine, in collaboration with students, which requests can be reasonably accommodated? How can we work with faculty to ensure that the law and OCR’s guidance inform our implementation of reasonable accommodations?

Bob Dinerstein, Professor, American University Washington College of Law (Moderator)
Julia Garrison, Fellow, Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Mark Gross, Legal Consultant and Of Counsel, Law Office of Brian K. Gruber, P.C.
Lindsay Northup-Moore, Director, Disability Support, Academic Support and Access Center, American University

11:15-11:30am  Break

11:30am-12:30pm  Panel II: Pros and Cons of Disclosure: Working with Prospective Employers
Law school professionals are frequently asked by students with visible and non-visible disabilities whether they should disclose their disability to a prospective or current employer, and if so, when, what, how, and to whom they should disclose. Law firm and corporate staff experience similar challenges while seeking to employ best practices regarding accommodations. Our panel of experts will provide an overview of employee and employer rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. They will then work through various scenarios, offering what students, as future lawyers, should expect, and hearing from employers on how essential the interactive process is to providing the best accommodations.
Katherine Perez, Director, Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation, Loyola Law School (Moderator)
Mark S. Goldstein, Counsel, Labor & Employment Group, Reed Smith LLP
Jennifer Mathis, Director, Policy and Legal Advocacy, Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Haley Moss, Associate, Zumpano Patricios
Annabrooke Temple, Director of Professional Development, Career Development Office, UC Hastings College of Law

12:30-1:30pm        Lunch: Why the ADA and the Need for People with Disabilities on the Bench?
                    Hon. Tony Coelho, former member of Congress

1:30-2:30pm        Panel III: Helping Our Students Help Themselves in Making Career Choices
Law students with disabilities often face a unique set of challenges in seeking their ideal career path, and frequently seek help from career services personnel. This panel will discuss these challenges, and provide career services personnel with best practices to ensure that students are fully prepared to find the best fit for them, free from bias. Panelists will also discuss the importance of teaching self-advocacy skills to students with disabilities entering the workplace.

                    Andy Imparato, Executive Director, Association of University Centers on Disabilities (Moderator)
                    Eve Hill, Partner, Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP
                    Tiffany J. Tucker, Assistant Dean for Career Development, University of Houston Law Center

2:30-2:45pm        Break

2:45-3:45pm        Panel IV: From the Frontlines: Learning from Recent Graduates and Their Experience
Hearing from law school graduates about their experiences, both in law school and the legal workplace, is vital to understanding their needs and calibrating our approaches to meet them. This panel of graduates, both recent and those with extensive time in the workplace, will provide firsthand perspectives on their experiences, including which areas for improvement would have the greatest impact.

                    Marissa Ditkowsky, Litigation Fellow, AARP Foundation (Moderator)
                    Lydia X. Z. Brown, Justice Catalyst Legal Fellow, Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
                    Silvia Calderon, Policy Advisor, US Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy
                    Victoria M. Rodriguez Roldan, Senior Policy Counsel, Trans/GNC Justice and Disability Justice Projects Director, National LGBTQ Task Force
                    Hannah Sydnor-Greenberg, Education Fellow, National Women’s Law Center

3:45pm        Closing Remarks

The Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law (JGSPL) is pleased to invite paper submissions on the theme “Assisting Law Students with Disabilities in the 21st Century,” to be published concurrently with the JGSPL/ABA co-sponsored Fall symposium’s transcripts. Please contact us at jgsplsa@gmail.com.

Registration fee is $25 (waived for students):
Please go to http://www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration
For further information, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education
Phone 202.274.4075, E-mail: secle@wcl.american.edu