“Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.” —The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
In an era in which social justice faces an increasing onslaught, the Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice at Loyola University Chicago School of Law stands strong. The Curt and Linda Rodin Center succeeded in 2018–19 in promoting social justice, and in so doing, helped its students and faculty in their commitment to making a career of humanity and engaging in the noble struggle for equal rights.
Loyola University Chicago School of Law, with its unwavering commitment to social justice, provides the ideal home for the Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice, which strengthens and develops programs that advance fairness, equity, and justice within the School of Law and in marginalized communities.

The Rodin Center helps students embrace a career-long commitment to social justice while teaching them how to use the law as a tool to achieve it.

The Rodin Center supports and enhances several School of Law clinics, programs, and initiatives that promote social justice:

- Child Law Policy Institute and its Legislation and Policy Clinic
- Civitas ChildLaw Clinic
- Education Law & Policy Institute
- Health Justice Project
- Experiential Learning
- Center for Public Interest

The Rodin Center supports meaningful social justice research to foster systemic change and eradicate gross inequities in fulfilling basic human needs.

Through the Rodin Center, the School of Law offers a Certificate in Public Interest and Social Justice for JD students. The Center prepares tomorrow’s leading lawyers to represent and protect the legal rights of Society’s most underserved.

The Rodin Center continued to provide a comfortable, modern space for students to convene, share stories, and study.

Tomorrow’s lawyers will look back at the Rodin Center as the place where they became committed to or strengthened their commitment to social justice.
Since the Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice was launched in April 2018, I’ve been excited by its potential—and now I’m excited about its accomplishments.

This annual report covers September 2018 through September 2019, and provides highlights of that academic year, including the work of the first cohort of Rodin Social Justice Fellows, and the activities of the Rodin Professors of Law and Social Justice, and of the advisors to the Center.

The first full year of Center activities included selection of our first cohort of Curt and Linda Rodin Social Justice Fellows. We selected three full-time second-year law students as Rodin Fellows, based upon leadership potential and commitment to social justice work. We also selected one Weekend JD student as a Senior Rodin Social Justice Fellow, based on her track record of social justice work.

The fellowship program supports students as they develop skills needed to work with underserved individuals and communities through litigation, legislative and policy reform, and other forms of advocacy. Criteria for selection included the student’s activities and/or life experiences before and during law school, and responses to two essay questions on the fellowship application. The selection process is competitive and we are making every effort to continue to engage those students who did not receive fellowships.

The fellowships began in January 2019 and are intended to support the recipients for the last three semesters of law school, including a summer internship. A second cohort of fellows will be selected during fall 2019. This report summarizes the experiences of the fellows, who were placed at Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Lawndale Christian Legal Center, and the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund.

The Center also held its inaugural symposium, “Journey to Justice: Eliminating Gun Violence” featuring author Alex Kotlowitz. The summit provided the opportunity to consider the issue of gun violence through the lens of research, community experience, activism, and government response. 210 people attended, including members of impacted communities, community activists, researchers, government representatives, and Loyola law students, staff, and faculty.

The Center’s space on the 11th floor of the law school is becoming a meeting point for students to visit and study. The space now houses an exhibit of art work by people living in vulnerable housing situations who participate in The Chicago Help Initiative. It’s our plan to change the exhibit at the start of each school year, and showcase work by different underserved populations. We held a reception in the fall for the artists, bringing together more than 40 individuals, including members of the artists’ communities, the Loyola neighborhood, and the law school community.

This year the law school also committed to setting aside 40-minute breakout sessions during orientation for incoming students to engage them in discussion on social justice, and introduce them to the Rodin Center’s students and faculty. The Rodin Center Fellows and director guided and facilitated these break out groups.

Thank you for believing in our work and supporting us.

Anita M. Weinberg (JD ’86)
Curt and Linda Rodin Clinical Professor of Law and Social Justice
Linda and I have long believed that everyone deserves quality legal representation, but many people cannot afford counsel. It’s our hope that the new Center for Social Justice at Loyola will help to serve those most in need who deserve equal access to the law.

—Curt Rodin (JD ’75)

The Center assures quality legal representation by offering several highly coveted Curt and Linda Rodin Social Justice Fellowships to School of Law students, as well as working with all interested students in developing their skills in litigation, and legislative and policy reform, to help underserved individuals and strengthen communities.

With their Rodin stipends, the Social Justice Fellows actively pursued several social justice initiatives in 2018–19, which provided them with practical legal training and the opportunity to make a difference in the community.
For Jacqueline, the Curt and Linda Rodin Social Justice Fellowship has made her Loyola School of Law experience “exciting, enriching, and empowering,” she said. It has provided her with a “unique and invaluable opportunity” to integrate the legal theory of the classroom with the practical experience of “touching and transforming the lives of the least, the last, and the lost through public policy,” Jacqueline noted. She is honored and privileged to participate in a program where she receives support and encouragement, “from a superb cadre of law professors who not only equipped me with the legal tools and skills to make a difference in the lives of others, but also reinforced my passion for social justice by their unwavering commitment to fairness, equity, and service to humanity,” Jacqueline said.

Brianna Hill spent the summer working with the Latinx community, particularly in Elgin and Joliet, IL, through the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF).

She provided “know your rights” trainings and community law clinics focusing on employment, education, and political access. Two days each week, she worked in the communities she served; during the other three days, she worked in the MALDEF office, evaluating the intakes she had performed in the field and working on case development. Through these activities, she gained invaluable experience in interviewing clients and learning about employment rights for low-wage workers.

“It was amazing to see the lack of resources and information for this population just outside of the city limits (of Chicago), and reinforced the importance of providing services to underserved populations and areas,” she said.
Imani Hollie

Imani worked in Chicago’s North Lawndale community at the Lawndale Christian Legal Center (LCLC) over the summer, representing individuals ages 18 through 24 in both juvenile and adult criminal proceedings. LCLC is located at 1530 S. Hamlin Avenue, which previously housed the Boys’ Brotherhood Republic - Chicago Youth Center as well, and is surrounded by residences. The building “is central to the North Lawndale community,” Imani explained, and “is nicknamed by the community as ‘BBR,’ known as a safe haven, unaffiliated with gangs.”

Imani visited clients’ homes or blocks to meet with them, and she gained much knowledge about client interaction and case management. “An example of how community lawyering differs from government-provided legal services is that community lawyers often assist with the social work side of a client’s needs,” she noted.

This work may include obtaining mental health services for a client and driving a client to court or school. “Community lawyers practice a holistic model,” Imani added, “providing resources that are in the clients’ best interests, and referrals to resources clients will actually engage with, such as mental health centers or drug treatment.”

In addition to legal skills, Imani gained skills that helped her serve the community well, including understanding the community’s language, connecting with clients, and providing resources.

At LCLC, she completed a motion to release a client from the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (the client later decided to plea bargain), a successful bond motion, and various legal research projects.

Kate Malcolm

Kate worked in the Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) criminal records and criminal defense divisions. She spent some of her days at the criminal records help desks at the Daley Center in Chicago and the Cook County Sixth Municipal District Courthouse in Markham, IL, where clients seek help expunging or sealing criminal records to improve their chances to obtain housing or employment. Services are free, and many clients also qualify for filing fee waivers.

The work gave Kate opportunities to use her 711 license in court to defend against objections to clients’ petitions. Service at the help desks developed Kate’s client interview skills in a fast-paced environment.

In the criminal defense division, she handled post-conviction petitions for gendered violence survivors serving long sentences. Kate refined her research, writing, and interviewing skills. “As a (dual-degree) social work and law student, I was excited about the opportunity to build relationships with clients in a more therapeutic way,” she said. She visited with female clients to discuss cases at the Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln, IL, and attended the Reunification Ride with CGLA’s social work team, which provides transportation to Logan for incarcerated mothers’ children. The program allows mothers and children to play together one day per month, providing more contact than the prison visiting room.
The Rodin Center makes the School of Law’s social justice commitment more visible, more tangible, more real, and more impactful. The Center is about bringing together those programs that already existed here that served basic human needs under one umbrella.

—Michael J. Kaufman, dean and professor of law, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Several School of Law faculty and staff have the honor to serve as Curt and Linda Rodin Professors of Law and Social Justice, including Professor Anita Weinberg, the director of the Rodin Center, others serve as advisors to the Center. Their leadership and passion allow them to provide unique mentoring and breakthrough teaching, scholarship, research, and advocacy in social justice through several programs. In 2018–19, they also supported the selection of Rodin Center Fellows and actively pursued many social justice teaching, research, and action initiatives.
Under the leadership of Professor Anita Weinberg, students in the Legislative and Policy Clinic study the legislative process, and develop skills by participating in, and often spearheading, policy and legislative development, analysis, advocacy, and implementation. Twenty students (including two policy graduate students) worked during the 2018–19 academic year on projects related to education, delinquency, child protection, healthy housing, and immigration.

The clinic spearheads initiatives as well as partners with a range of local, state, and national organizations. Clinic work may be done on behalf of community-based organizations, multi-party coalitions, task forces, the Civitas ChildLaw Center, or other entities.

Examples of the clinic’s 2018–19 accomplishments include:

- Passage of Public Act 101-0564, signed into law by Governor J.B. Pritzker in August 2019. The bill amends the Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. This legislation will strengthen training requirements for professionals required to report suspected abuse or neglect, and increase public awareness of the reporting hotline. Both Professor Weinberg and a student clinician testified on the bill.

- Development, in partnership with youth in the foster care system, of a legislative agenda to reform that system in Illinois. The clinic will continue to work with youth during the 2019–20 year to train them on advocacy, and guide them in pursuing their agenda.

- A white paper for stakeholders in the criminal justice system on the pros and cons of establishing a minimum age of criminal responsibility in Illinois.

- Public comments in response to the Illinois Department of Public Health’s proposed rule on lead poisoning and environmental inspections, and public comments in response to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s proposed rules on public charge.

- Distribution of a Guide for Parents in Illinois Who Are Undocumented, drafted by clinic students, to 47 of the 50 Chicago aldermanic wards and a broad range of advocacy organizations.

- The clinic also spearheaded a letter to all new Illinois state legislators on behalf of a coalition of advocacy organizations the clinic convened. The coalition is focused on improving the outcomes and care for children and families who come to the attention of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. The letter outlined the challenges to the child welfare system, and some suggested reforms.
Loyola’s social justice mission underpins Mary Bird’s work with law students and with communities. In her role as director of Public Service Programs, Professor Bird organizes a variety of public service and social justice programs, engaging law students in Chicago communities by working with schools, legal aid organizations, community organizations, and social service programs. She also works with law students to facilitate education around social justice concerns.

“I am energized by our law students’ social justice commitments and experiences, both personal and professional. Incorporating who they are into both our programming and teaching enhances the School of Law community,” Professor Bird said. Below are some programs she organizes and facilitates:

- **Law related education and mentoring of young people** – Loyola law students teach and facilitate law related education with young people. This opportunity informs law students regarding the legal needs of Chicago communities, improves law students’ legal research skills, enhances their public speaking skills, and improves relationships between Loyola Law and Chicago communities.

- **Street Law** – Through the Street Law program, Loyola law students engaged with over 1000 Chicago Public School students during the 2018–19 school year, teaching lessons in voting rights, criminal law, immigration law, and First Amendment rights.

- **Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC)** – In fall 2019, Loyola law students reached over 50 youth in the Cook County Temporary Detention Center with lessons concerning courtroom procedures, juvenile law, criminal law, and police accountability.

- **Loyola Law Academy** – Loyola law students hosted over 100 high school students in February 2019 at the School of Law for three Saturdays as part of a program that includes trips to law firms, mock trials, legal workshops on relevant legal issues, and a college panel. The program aims to increase minority students’ interest in the law.

- **Days of Service** – Days of Service inform the Loyola law community regarding legal and social issues affecting marginalized communities. Service days also build community and goodwill among Loyola Law participants.

- **1L Orientation Morning of Service and Engagement** – During orientation 2019, more than 140 Loyola law students and faculty participated in the Morning of Service and Engagement. The 2019 program took students and faculty to Englewood, Auburn- Gresham, West Humboldt Park, East Garfield Park, and Austin neighborhoods, as well as to downtown offices and courts. The Loyola Law community assisted with the expungement and sealing of criminal records; observed and analyzed immigration court proceedings; informed communities about the educational rights of children experiencing homelessness; learned about gentrification, food insecurity, and community disinvestment; and worked in food and clothing pantries, summer food programs for children, and urban gardens.
Dr. King Day of Service – To honor Dr. King’s work and educate the Loyola community about current civil rights challenges and economic inequities, law students participated in a community-based Day of Service at a South Side Chicago Public School on Dr. King’s birthday.

Amaker Midwest Public Interest and Social Justice Retreat – Professor Bird worked with a law student team to organize the Amaker Retreat which supports future generations of public interest lawyers by increasing awareness of inequities and human rights violations. Panelists discussed voting rights, immigration issues, working with community organizations, experiences of minority law students in law schools, and the role of progressive prosecutors. The Amaker Retreat also builds a network of resources by exposing students to social justice leaders.

Hunger Week – Loyola’s Hunger Week educates students, faculty, and staff about hunger and poverty issues on local, national, and international levels. Annual Hunger Week panels facilitated by Mary Bird highlight local poverty issues, typically by bringing an individual acutely affected by Chicago’s poverty to the School of Law.

John Howard Association (JHA) Prison Response Unit – Integrating social justice into extra-curricular activities, during the summer of 2019, Bird and students from the Public Interest Law Society began organizing monthly visits to JHA. Volunteers research questions from prisoners who are often cut off from obtaining critical information regarding court decisions, state agency reports, medical care, corrections policies, and relevant consent decrees.

Responding to Student Interests and Contemporary Legal Issues – Law students arrive at Loyola with particular social justice interests and develop additional interests and expertise through classes, clinics, and externships. Critical legal issues also arise that are not always part of a law school course. Professor Bird regularly promotes student interests and also introduces students to timely topics that she believes need attention. Some examples are listed below.

Voters’ Registration Drive – Bird supported the Black Law Student Association’s (BLSA) South Side voter registration in fall 2018, connecting BLSA members to Chicago Votes for all necessary materials and registration drive procedures.

Title IX Public Comments – Bird organized a workshop in January 2019 that provided a forum for students to make public comments on the Department of Education’s proposed rules regarding sexual harassment and assault under Title IX.

Race and the Law Symposium – Bird introduced the 2019 symposium and helped secure speakers on the topic of mass incarceration and re-entry challenges.

Immigration Advocacy – Consistent with the Jesuit commitment to immigrants, Bird develops programming to support student advocacy and involvement around immigration issues, including assistance at citizenship workshops around Chicago and attendance at immigration rallies. She also regularly advocates for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) students regarding access to programming.

Jackie’s Meal – Law students and faculty serve monthly meals at the former Lawson YMCA (now Holsten Management), providing the law community with an opportunity to learn about our shared humanity from low income residents in the Gold Coast community.

MARY J. BIRD (JD ’87)

MARY J. BIRD (JD ’87)
Clients ranged in age from infants to emerging adults, coming predominantly from communities suffering from high poverty and trauma rates. The Clinic’s strong advocacy focused on securing needed support and services, ensuring children could safely and appropriately interact with family, and achieving durable and permanent legal solutions to children’s problems.

Each semester, 16 to 18 students assisted the Clinic’s supervising attorneys with all aspects of client representation: interviewing, investigation, drafting pleadings and other documents, trial preparation, and advocacy both in and out of the courtroom.

The Clinic takes a holistic approach to client representation. For example, when a client presents with education issues, the Center’s students and attorneys will pursue remedies both in court and in school. Along with legal representation in child protection, education, and domestic relations cases, the Clinic’s work also encompasses educational advocacy, juvenile delinquency, public benefits, international child abduction, and adoption. The Clinic also regularly advocates for the broader development of child-centered policies and practices across a range of systems, through the submission of amicus briefs in both state and federal courts.

As a result, students learn a range of advocacy skills while exploring legal and ethical issues inherent in representing children.

“For our clients, coming from some of the Chicago area’s neediest communities, the Clinic’s work provides them with quality representation from trained advocates committed to addressing barriers to access to justice,” Professors Boyer and Platt said.
In spring 2019, Assistant Dean Josie Gough took the lead in creating the law school's new Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity. There, she develops programs and strategic initiatives that promote the law school’s mission, “to educate diverse, talented students to be responsible leaders.” She is there for the students in a way that encourages their well-being, in an environment that is diverse, fully inclusive, welcoming, and respectful.

Dean Gough is one of the lead faculty teaching the Professional Identity Formation Course, working with students directly and fostering cultural competence and humility in an atmosphere of respectful engagement. With the support of the Rodin Center, she has offered programming allowing students, faculty, and staff to join with the university and its neighbors as ‘one community.’ In September, her office held an event focusing on the Chicago 1919 race riots. In addition, a first of its kind program was held at the law school that brought together leadership from the majority and affinity bar associations and our Loyola law students.

To increase diversity at the law school, she has fostered a working relationship with Chicago State University, and she is developing opportunities and programs with Loyola University Chicago, including serving as a Pre-Law Advisor to diverse undergraduate students. She has taken on a mentor/sponsorship role as well with other diverse students in the Chicagoland area who are interested in a career in the law and Loyola’s law school in particular as a result of her involvement with the Council on Legal Education Opportunity program.

Her work continues with the law school’s Office of Experiential Learning and Professional Development. She develops opportunities and partnerships with non-profits and organizations working with underserved populations to add to the growth of field placements that focus on environmental sustainability, racial and gender justice and equality, and criminal justice reform. Each year this office hosts a day-long professionalism workshop bringing together the legal community with our students who will begin their field work as externs, volunteers, and clinicians in the legal workplace. Each semester students have the ability to enroll in course work that supports and trains them as they serve the community as legal professionals.
The School of Law expanded the scope of its education law representation through Professor Miranda Johnson’s work with the student-run organization Stand Up for Each Other, Chicago (SUFEO), which works to reduce suspensions in Chicago schools. Students run a hotline available to parents and students and provide legal information, advice, and representation on school suspension, bullying, and education issues.

The seven-member law student SUFEO board coordinated intake, outreach, and advocacy, and trained 20 other students. In 12 cases SUFEO, through the ChildLaw Clinic, provided legal representation and advocacy at meetings and hearings to contest school suspensions, develop plans to protect students from bullying, and help with Individualized Education Programs.

“SUFEO successfully advocated on behalf of a student who was repeatedly called the ‘n-word’ by peers at school, and clinic students obtained school-wide training for staff in social emotional learning and bias-based bullying,” Professor Johnson said. “In another matter, the school principal personally apologized to a student for the way she was treated by the school security staff, and the student was invited to offer her perspective to school staff on ways to more positively interact with young people.”

In another case, law students created a safety plan to protect a female high school student suffering from severe anxiety due to bullying.

The School of Law’s Presidential Medallion recipient, Allyson Thompson, was active in SUFEO, and noted the organization reduced out-of-school suspensions, therefore keeping young people in school and assuring they receive their entitled accommodations and services. She believes SUFEO helps law students recognize injustices in schools, the need for legal services in at-risk communities, and “the incredible impact that a lawyer, and even a law student, can make.”

Due to the significant community demand for SUFEO’s services and law student interest in participating, Loyola hired an additional faculty member in fall 2019, Jackie Ross (JD ’17), to supervise education law cases.
The Health Justice Project (HJP), directed by Professor Kate Mitchell, represented more than 20 clients referred by its medical partner, Erie Family Health Centers, addressing impoverished patients’ health-related legal needs with holistic legal services. Student attorneys assisted clients with advocating for improved housing, access to government benefits, special education support and translation services for Spanish-speaking parents, and navigating guardianship and divorce processes. They represented several undocumented children and pregnant women in Medicaid appeals, obtaining access to coverage for critical prenatal care and delivery services and emergency surgical care. They also won awards of more than $100,000 in long-term disability benefits for a hospice nurse injured on the job. They represented an undocumented mother of a developmentally complex adult in probate court to obtain guardianship. After five years of appeals, HJP students successfully obtained Social Security disability benefits and more than $20,000 in back benefits through a Federal District Court ruling for a man struggling with schizoaffective disorder and other mental health challenges. HJP students also engaged in policy projects and advocacy, including submitting comments concerning the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s new public charge provisions. The students outlined the negative impacts the changes would have on access to healthcare and overall health and well-being of immigrant families and children who are citizens or permanent legal residents. They also worked with housing and health advocates throughout Illinois to comment on the state’s Department of Public Health’s new lead inspection and intervention guidelines, successfully persuading officials to conduct lead inspections in dwellings where children have tested at five micrograms per deciliter, in line with new Centers for Disease Control lead poisoning standards.

“Through this work, HJP students are shaping the policies of governmental agencies into the future,” Professor Mitchell said.
With several projects underway, Professor Juan Perea had an extremely active research year.

He drafted a journal article placing President Donald Trump’s anti-immigrant activities into historical context. “While Trump’s overt cruelty and racism are noteworthy, he is repeating a patterned, cyclical expulsion of Mexican and Central American immigrants that occurred throughout the 20th century,” Professor Perea said. The *Georgetown Journal of Law and Modern Critical Race Theory* will publish this research article.

Professor Perea also wrote a book chapter describing the historical development of federal constitutional powers of expulsion and deportation, particularly concerning non-whites. The chapter traces these plenary powers over immigration, foreign affairs, and naturalization back to the American colonial period, when governments developed practices Professor Perea describes as “warning out” residents they deemed undesirable, particularly Native Americans and free blacks. The University of California Press will publish the chapter in a forthcoming interdisciplinary book on white supremacy.

His work continued on a long-term project tracing societal domination development from its beginnings in the colonial era through key times of potential transformation, including the American revolution, the U.S. Constitution’s adoption, and the drafting of reconstruction-era constitutional amendments.

Professor Perea also began work on the fourth edition of his acclaimed textbook *Race & Races: Cases and Resources for a Diverse America*, last published by West Academic Publishing in 2015.
Professor Alan Raphael taught roughly 100 students in two criminal procedure classes in addition to 70 more in a constitutional law class, aiming to acquaint them with the vocabulary, issues, decisions, and history relevant to these legal subjects.

“I teach about many subjects that make students uncomfortable, regarding which they do not wish to speak publicly,” Professor Raphael said. “I am conscious how difficult these conversations may be and try to deal with them sensitively, but insist that students articulate the arguments and issues involved in such questions.”

Professor Raphael wrote three articles regarding U.S. Supreme Court cases. One focused on racial discrimination in jury selection, co-authored with student Aidan Nutall. Specifically, this piece discussed the appeal of a murder conviction of an African-American defendant who was tried six times for the same crime. In jury selection for those trials, the prosecutor was found twice to have engaged in unconstitutional racial discrimination in use of peremptory challenges during jury selection and repeatedly used a disproportionate number of challenges against African-American potential jurors.

A second article written by Professor Raphael involved a challenge to a long-approved constitutional exception to double jeopardy law, which allows different jurisdictions to try and sentence a defendant for the same crime.

Finally, Professor Raphael wrote a third piece, assisted by student Sarah Sewell, which summarized criminal procedure decisions in the 2018–19 court term.
Professor Henry Rose teaches courses on social justice, including his Property Law class. He taught two courses focused strongly on public service, Civil Rights, and Law and Poverty—the latter of which he also taught in the summer semester. In the Civil Rights course, Professor Rose taught 27 students about laws at the federal, state and local levels that prohibit discrimination in education, employment and housing. In the Law and Poverty courses, he taught 29 students about the legal rights of low income Americans under civil law and the United States Constitution.

Professor Rose had an article published titled “Arlington Heights Won In The Supreme Court But The Fair Housing Act’s Goal Of Promoting Racial Integration Saved The Low-Income Housing,” 35 Touro Law Review 791 (2019). This article explains how a landmark decision of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, interpreting the federal Fair Housing Act, facilitated the construction of a low-income housing project that Arlington Heights, Illinois had initially opposed.

He also moderated two School of Law Public Service Convocations, which honors alumni who perform outstanding public service work in their careers. Alumni honored included Dennericka Brooks (JD ’07), Heidi Dalenberg (JD ’89), and David McKinney (JD ’11).

Professor Rose spoke at a law student Hunger Week program in November, focusing on the first increase in welfare benefits in Illinois in ten years. Alumna Niya Kelly (BA ’07, MA ’10, JD ’13) also spoke at the program.
The Rodin Center held its inaugural symposium, “Journey to Justice: Eliminating Gun Violence.” The well-attended event reached capacity at 210 guests, on April 15 in the Power, Rogers & Smith Ceremonial Courtroom at the Philip H. Corboy Law Center.

A stellar lineup of presenters at the event included:

Alex Kotlowitz, journalist, filmmaker, and author of An American Summer – Love and Death in Chicago, and the national bestseller, There Are No Children here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in The Other America, in conversation with Liz Dozier, founder and chief executive officer of Chicago Beyond, an organization that fights for youth equity and justice.
A panel discussion with leaders of Communities Partnering 4 Peace, a unique collaboration of nine of Chicago’s top outreach organizations that have joined together to positively impact nine Chicago communities most harmed by gun violence.

Julianna Stratton, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois, spoke on Governor J.B. Pritzker’s administration’s vision for its Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative.

Log on to LUC.edu/law/RodinCenter for information about future Rodin Symposia.

As part of its commitment to social justice and engaging students in developing an understanding of societal challenges, the School of Law initiated a book requirement for all incoming first year students. The book, The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America (2017) by Richard Rothstein, describes how governmental activity contributed to the residential segregation of racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. in the 20th century.

As part of first year student orientation in August, over 60 first year law students participated in small group book discussions led by faculty, including Rodin scholars and advisors, Josie Gough, Miranda Johnson, Alan Raphael, Henry Rose, and Anita Weinberg. Mr. Rothstein also returned to campus in November to speak to those interested, ultimately addressing a packed room of students and faculty.
God may call any one of us to respond to some far away problem or support those who have been so called. But we are finite and He will not call us everywhere or to support every worthy cause. And real needs are not far from us.

—C.S. Lewis, 20th century writer and theologian
As we move forward in the coming school year, we are looking forward to new initiatives as well as continuing those already in place. New plans include:

- Establishing a Lunch and Learn series. Students will have the opportunity to meet with attorneys and other activists from outside the law school in an informal setting to learn about the presenters’ work, challenges faced, and to network. The fall 2019 series focuses on black women organizers.

- Developing a lending library with social justice titles. Bookcases have been ordered and the books will be available in the Rodin Center for Social Justice. Approximately 40 titles have already been gathered.

- Peer mentoring. In addition to Rodin faculty being available to students, the Rodin Social Justice Fellows will assume a mentoring and advising role to students interested in social justice, and hold “office hours” in the Rodin Center.

These efforts will help to make the Rodin Center space one of the most popular facilities in the School of Law, providing space for studying, group learning, mentoring, discussing social justice issues, and contemplation.

Plans are underway for the second Rodin Social Justice Symposium, which we anticipate will be held in April 2020. The symposium will focus on voter rights and engagement.

A long-term goal for the Rodin Center is to establish an even greater presence in the communities most impacted by injustices. In addition to placing Rodin Fellows in the communities for their summer internships, and providing students with a broad range of opportunities to volunteer in the communities through our Public Interest programs, it is our hope that we will increase our responsiveness to community requests and expand our policy, legislative, and litigation efforts.

Loyola University Chicago School of Law remains grateful to Curt and Linda Rodin for the generosity and continuing partnership that help make the Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice a unique and special place for promoting fairness, equity, and decency in serving the underserved.
The Curt and Linda Rodin Center for Social Justice at Loyola University Chicago School of Law