Margaret Martin Barry Receives 2009 William Pincus Award

Margaret Martin Barry, associate professor of law at Catholic University’s Columbus School of Law, Columbus Community Legal Services, has been awarded the 2009 William Pincus Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment to Clinical Legal Education from the Association of American Law Schools.

One of the most prestigious recognitions in legal higher education, the Pincus Award honors individuals or institutions involved in clinical legal education that have demonstrated excellence in service, scholarship, program design and implementation, and other activity beneficial to clinical education or to the advancement of justice.

“Professor Barry exhibits these qualities in abundance,” said Peter Joy, professor of law at Washington University in St. Louis and chair of the AALS selection committee. “She has been a tireless advocate for clinical legal education, and she has fought to protect and enhance the role of clinics and clinical faculty in law schools in numerous ways.”

A member of CUA’s faculty for more than 20 years, Barry has been a frequent speaker at professional workshops and seminars on legal education and on the law school accreditation process. She has served as chair of the clinical section of the American Association of Law Schools, as president of the Clinical Legal Education Association and as co-president of the Society of American Law Teachers.

As part of her effort on behalf of clinical education, Barry has testified before the ABA and the AALS many times. Through her work in CUA’s Families and the Law Clinic, she has helped to expand the legal rights of victims of domestic violence, trained law students about the importance of representing disempowered communities, and has helped to
coordinate systemic changes in the criminal and civil justice systems in the District of Columbia.

Barry has published extensively about the role of clinics and the future of legal education, as well as authored articles on family law, affirmative action, and alternative dispute resolution. In addition, she is involved in many aspects of international legal education. She has been a Fulbright Scholar to Moldova and India, and will be presenting at the 5th International Conference of the Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE) in Manila, the Philippines in December 2008.

The AALS is a non-profit association of 168 law schools. Its purpose is to improve the legal profession through education. The Pincus Award will be presented to Barry at the AALS Annual Meeting in San Diego in January 2009.

The Pincus Award has previous connections to The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Barry’s colleague, Professor J.P. "Sandy" Ogilvy was honored with the award in 2003; and Clinton Bamberger, former dean of the law school, was the 2000 recipient. In addition, the AALS’s Clinical Law Review won the award in 1995. Catholic University law professors Leah Wortham and Margaret Martin Barry have served on the board of directors of the peer-edited law review.

William Pincus, the former president of the Council on Legal Education for Professional Responsibility, is credited with helping to establish clinical education as a curricular staple in many American law schools. In 2004, he was awarded the Catholic University of America President's Medal for a lifetime of contributions to the field.

Past recipients of the Pincus Award include:

1981 David Barnhizer (Cleveland State)
1982 Hon. Neil Smith (D. IA)
1983 William Greenhalgh (Georgetown)
1984 Robert McKay
1985 Dean Hill Rivkin (Tenn.)
1986 Tony Amsterdam (NYU)
1987 Gary Bellow (Harvard)
1988 William Pincus
1989 Gary Palm (Chicago)
1990 Bea Moulton (Hastings)
1991 Sue Bryant (CUNY)
1992 Elliott Milstein (American)
1993 Roy Stuckey (S. Carolina)
1994 Harriet Rabb (Columbia)
1995 Clinical Law Review
1996 Wally Mlyniec (Georgetown)
1997 Edgar Cahn (DC School of Law) and Jean Cahn (Antioch, posthumously)
1998 Steve Wizner (Yale)
1999 Katherine Shelton Broderick (U.D.C. School of Law)
2000 E. Clinton Bamberger (U. of Maryland, Emeritus)
2001 Peter A. Joy (Washington U. at St. Louis)
2002 Louise Trubek (Wisconsin) and Bernida Reagan (East Bay Community
   Law Center/Boalt Hall)
2003 J.P. “Sandy” Ogilvy (Catholic University of America)
2004 Randy Hertz (NYU)
2005 J. Michael Norwood (New Mexico)
2006 David Binder (UCLA)
2007 Anthony V. Alfieri (Miami)
2008 John Elson (Northwestern)

Members of the Pincus Award Committee:
   Baher Azmy, Seton Hall
   Gordon Beggs, Cleveland State University
   Deborah Epstein, Georgetown University
   Peter Joy, Awards Committee Chair, Washington University in St. Louis
   Zelda Harris, University of Arizona