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# BRIEFS

## Innocence Clinic secures first exonerations

After more than a year of poring over documents, conducting long interviews, and spending late nights debating, the attorneys and students from the Law School's Innocence Clinic secured the exonerations of Marvin Reed and his nephew DeShawn.

The Reeds had spent about nine years in prison for assault with intent to commit murder in a 2000 shooting, for which they were sentenced to 20 years. But Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Patricia Fresard ruled that they would get a new trial, and on July 31 they were embraced by family and friends after regaining their freedom when prosecutors decided not to retry them.

"I knew one of these days it was going to come to an end because I believe in the Lord. It was just a matter of time," Marvin Reed said, and TV cameras filmed DeShawn as he cut off his prison bracelet.

The Reeds' fortunes turned when the shooting victim, Shannon Gholston, recanted his trial testimony that had implicated them, and when the Innocence Clinic took up their cause. Other evidence that was presented this year—but was absent from the trial—showed that the police found the gun in possession of Tyrone Allen, identified by witnesses as the real shooter. Allen was shot to death by Detroit police while attempting a carjacking before the Reeds went to trial.

**Watch a video about the Innocence Clinic at [www.law.umich.edu/innocenceclinic](http://www.law.umich.edu/innocenceclinic)**



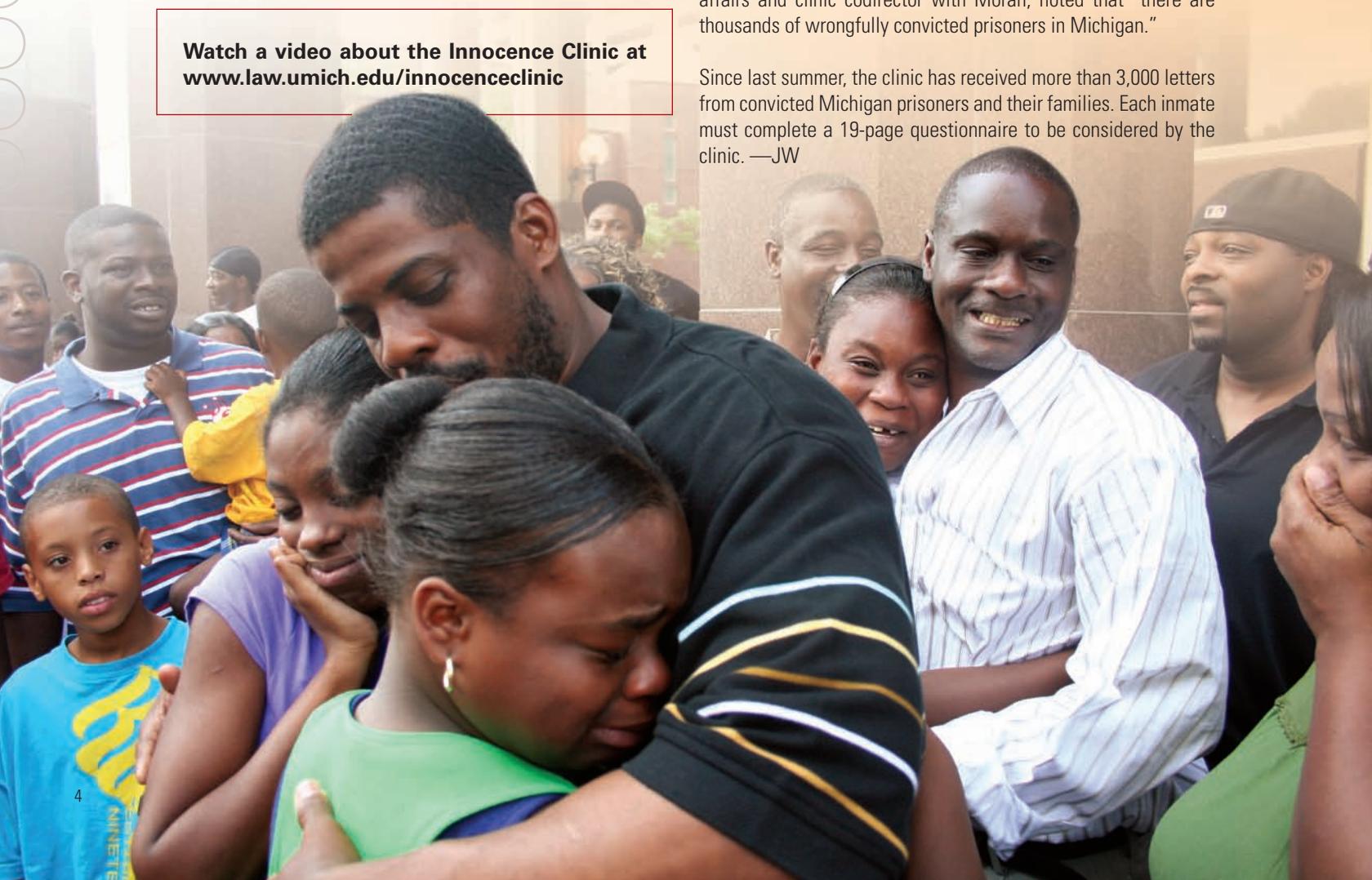
PHOTOS BY JARED WADLEY

The Innocence Clinic represents inmates like the Reeds, whom the clinic believes to have been wrongfully convicted in cases where biological evidence like DNA does not exist. Other innocence clinics throughout the country specialize in DNA-based exonerations, notes David Moran, '91, codirector of the clinic (pictured above).

The ruling gave the clinic its first victory since it opened in January. Recent graduate Zoe Levine—who worked on the case as a 3L—said she learned "what it means to advocate zealously on someone's behalf, because so much is at stake."

Bridget McCormack (pictured above), associate dean of clinical affairs and clinic codirector with Moran, noted that "there are thousands of wrongfully convicted prisoners in Michigan."

Since last summer, the clinic has received more than 3,000 letters from convicted Michigan prisoners and their families. Each inmate must complete a 19-page questionnaire to be considered by the clinic. —JW



## Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, Human Trafficking Clinic Open

Two new experiential learning offerings will allow students and faculty to have an impact on the lives of people from as nearby as Detroit and as far away as the other side of the world.

First, with a mightily stressed child foster care system, one-third of the state's foster kids, and fully half of the state's permanent court wards, Wayne County's Department of Human Services is getting help from the Law School's **Detroit Center for Family Advocacy (CFA)**, which opened in July.

The three-year pilot program will serve the Osborn neighborhood on Detroit's east side, an area that carries one of Wayne County's highest rates of children being removed from their families. Vivek Sankaran, '01, clinical assistant professor, is directing the project, and Don Duquette, '75, clinical professor, coordinates the careful evaluation of the project. Students in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic will help to manage cases. The CFA hopes to include faculty and students from other disciplines and volunteer attorneys in the future.

The Center is helping families with two types of cases. The first are cases in which legal assistance can help a parent, guardian, or extended family member provide a safe, stable home for a child whose family has been investigated and substantiated for possible abuse or neglect. The second are cases in which legal services to a potential permanent caregiver could help a child exit the foster care system completely. Altogether, organizers project the Center will help 600 children over the three-year course of the pilot program, which has been specially designed to be easily replicated.

Additionally, the CFA plans to offer much more than just legal counsel. A specially trained attorney will team up with a social worker and a parent advocate to help a parent or potential guardian build a plan to address safety risks while still keeping the child with the family.

The CFA is funded with grants from the Skillman Foundation, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and the McGregor Fund; a grant from retired Washington State Supreme Court Justice and CEO of the Center for Children and Youth Justice Bobbe Bridge, along with husband Jon Bridge; matching funds from the Wayne County Child Care Fund; and support from U-M.

Second, students in Bridgette Carr's new **Human Trafficking Clinic**—among the first of its kind at a U.S. law school—can expect to learn a lot this fall about the world's second-largest industry: slavery. In working directly with clients who have been victims of modern-day slavers, Carr's students will also learn about the fear, loneliness, and frustration of captives being held far from home.

During their clinic experience, those students are likely to see victims of human trafficking from locations around the world, says Carr, '02, adjunct clinical assistant professor.

They are children and adults, and they're forced into jobs in cities and towns as hair braiders, landscapers, restaurant workers, farm laborers, hospitality workers, and prostitutes—"almost anyplace," Carr said, "where people can be exploited for profit."

Apart from the direct legal work helping to represent such victims, Carr also expects her students to conduct community education and training for local law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, and other first responders.

In the last academic year, the Juvenile Justice Clinic, International Taxpayer Clinic, International Transactions Clinic, and Michigan Innocence Clinic all opened. In all, the Law School now offers 14 clinics, in addition to several programs and centers. —JM



## Our Social Network: Amicus, Facebook, Twitter

We've recently begun publishing the *Law Quadrangle* twice yearly, rather than three times. And for those months when the magazine does not arrive in alumni mailboxes, we've encouraged an upstart electronic newsletter, *Amicus*, to fill the information gap with a selection of original stories about the Law School and Internet links to stories published elsewhere.

You'll find stories in *Amicus* about Moot Court winners, the student v. faculty hoops game, and even sharks in the library. You can also read about the International Transactions Clinic, the annual Student Funded Fellowships auction, rainmaking, an alumnus's "Courtoons," and the Student Hurricane Network, or watch videos of the Headnotes serenading their professors.



Michigan Law has taken to the Interwebs in other ways as well: on the social networking sites Facebook, where we've established an official presence, and Twitter, where we've been tweeting breaking news about Michigan Law and its faculty.

We're easy to find in both places: on Facebook, search on "Michigan Law Alumni and Friends," and on Twitter, sign up to follow "UMichLaw." —JM

# BRIEFS

## Four Alumni Clerk for the High Court



**Joshua Deahl** took a road trip to the Supreme Court in 2006 to hear Professor Richard Friedman argue for the petitioner in *Hammon v. Indiana*. He and his classmates showed up at 5:30 a.m., and waited several hours to go inside the Corinthian-columned building.

Today, he walks into the Court every weekday without delay. As retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's only clerk, Deahl, '06, assists her with writing

speeches and with her work on federal circuit courts. O'Connor also has loaned him out to Justice Anthony Kennedy. During the summer, Deahl worked on the cert pool for Kennedy—the group of clerks who work together to summarize and make recommendations about which petitions the Court should hear.

"It's a tremendous experience," he says. "Justice Kennedy is very hands-on; he talks to his clerks typically every day. I usually talk to Justice O'Connor every day if she's in town. I've learned a great deal from both of them."



Down the hall from Deahl, **Hyland Hunt**, '08, is clerking for Justice John Paul Stevens. She has been writing memos about cert petitions for the justice.

"I'm getting a sense of how the Court works, how Justice Stevens views the law," Hunt notes. "It's pretty amazing that I can talk to him directly about his legal views."

Next year, two more Michigan Law alumni will clerk for the Supreme Court: Sam Erman, '07, will work for Justice Stevens, and Matt Owen, '08, will clerk for Justice Antonin Scalia.

The clerkships highlight Michigan's longstanding position at the forefront of public law schools in the number of Supreme Court clerkships secured by alumni, notes Joan Larsen, counsel to the associate dean for student and graduate activities.

"This is an exceptional group of young alumni," she says. "They are all highly regarded by their professors and classmates, and I have no doubt they will represent Michigan Law very well at the Supreme Court."—KV



PETER SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

*Atsushi Kinami, a visiting professor from Kyoto University, was in the Faculty Lounge earlier this year when he unearthed the diploma and thesis of Gisan (Gizo) Hashimoto, a prominent 1890 graduate who hailed from Japan. Kinami, LL.M. '84, also found photographs and a file documenting two visits by Hashimoto's business associates who, in the 1950s and 1960s, gave the documents to U-M.*

*By coincidence, Toshihiro Hashimoto—the son of Gisan Hashimoto's nephew—traveled to Michigan Law in April with the goal of seeing mementos from the life of his ancestor. He was given copies of his relative's dissertation and diploma, as well as photographs.*

*Here, the younger Hashimoto is shown with Associate Dean Mark D. West, Nippon Life Professor of Law and director of the Japanese Legal Studies Program; Margaret A. Leary, director of the Law Library; and Virginia B. Gordan, assistant dean for international affairs.*

*The elder Hashimoto, sometimes known by his adoptive surname of Kasuya, returned to his home country after graduating from Michigan Law to become a prefectural assembly member in 1892 and a member of the House of Representatives (lower house of the Diet) in 1898. He later was appointed vice-speaker and then was elected to preside over the House of Representatives.*

*Between 1878 and 1900, nearly 30 Japanese students graduated from the Law School, Leary notes.*

## 'Giant of a man': Professorship named for Rickey

New York Mets principal owner Fred Wilpon, a benefactor of the Branch Rickey Collegiate Professorship, celebrated the memory of his old friend at a reception April 30 at the Mets' new Citi Field. Rickey, '11, was remembered as epitomizing the values for which Michigan Law stands. "Branch Rickey was a giant of a man, not in stature, but with a great intellect, creativity, and total honesty," Wilpon noted.

As an executive with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Rickey brought Jackie Robinson onto the team 62 years ago to break the sport's color barrier.

"He was baseball's greatest front-office executive, and more importantly, I believe he was the greatest executive in American sports history," Bud Selig, commissioner of Major League Baseball, said at the event.

Rachel Robinson, Jackie Robinson's widow, shared memories of Rickey and of the early days of her husband's signing with the Dodgers, when the two men "met, strategized, and most importantly, developed a profound and lasting relationship," she said.

"They seemed to understand, as great soldiers do, that there was a crucial interdependence between them," Robinson recalled. "Thanks to Fred Wilpon, we proudly salute Mr. Rickey and the University of Michigan through the establishment of the Branch Rickey Professorship."

Rickey's grandson Branch B. Rickey, also a baseball executive, commended Dean Evan Caminker for accepting the challenge of being the first Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor.

Professor Rich Friedman was master of ceremonies for the program, and was delighted to meet one of his heroes: Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax, a high school baseball teammate of Wilpon. (See the June issue of *Amicus* for Friedman's article about meeting Koufax: [www.law.umich.edu/newsandinfo/amicus/archive/june2009/index.html](http://www.law.umich.edu/newsandinfo/amicus/archive/june2009/index.html).)

Rickey also is the subject of a documentary called *A Matter of Fairness*, which was screened at the Sesquicentennial Celebration (see p. 8 for more about the sesquicentennial). Film producer Christopher Cook, writer and sports historian John U. Bacon, and Friedman discussed the film and Rickey's significance. —RF



*Dean Evan Caminker and Rachel Robinson, widow of Jackie Robinson, along with Branch B. Rickey (top) and Mets principal owner Fred Wilpon (middle). Below, Rich Friedman meets one of his heroes, Sandy Koufax.*

