Ms. Griffin is the Executive Director of the Disability Law Center (DLC). She also served as the Executive Director of DLC from 1996 to 2005. After Ms. Griffin’s first tenure as DLC’s Executive Director, she served as Commissioner at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). She then was the Acting Vice Chair of EEOC. During her time at EEOC, Ms. Griffin established the Leadership for Employment of Americans with Disabilities (LEAD) Initiative, which is a national outreach and education campaign to address the declining number of employees with severe disabilities in the federal workforce. Ms. Griffin next served as Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management and was responsible for implementing President Obama’s Executive Order on Increasing Employment of People with Disabilities in the Federal Government and for establishing the first government-wide initiative on Increasing Diversity and Inclusion in the Federal Workforce. Prior to her current tenure as Executive Director of DLC, Ms. Griffin was the Assistant Secretary for Disability Policy and Programs at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. As the Assistant Secretary she provided leadership and supervision to management of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Developmental Disability Services, Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Soldiers Homes in Holyoke and Chelsea. For this and more information on Ms. Griffin, please go to: http://www.dlc-ma.org/news/newed.htm

This year’s retreat featured nearly twenty practitioners in various fields of public interest law, including immigration, child welfare, education advocacy, and criminal law, among others. Students participated in roundtable discussions with practitioners, a keynote speech from Disability Law Center director Christine Griffin, and a few rousing rounds of parlor games during the evening hours.

The annual Public Interest Retreat is a keynote speech delivered by Christine Griffin, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Disability Law Center. Ms. Griffin shared her experiences advocating for the disabled, as a Commissioner on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and as Deputy Director of the US Office of Personnel Management. Later, students gathered in small groups with practicing attorneys from different public interest areas to learn about their experiences. I attended the Legal Services roundtable, where I learned from attorneys working for legal aid organizations that provide free legal services for individuals who are elderly, low income, or living with HIV and AIDS. I also attended a second roundtable where I conversed with an assistant attorney general and legal counsel for a Massachusetts state senator. The weekend retreat allowed attendees to envision a career in public service while challenging at times, can be a rewarding experience full of diverse professional opportunities. Additionally, I had a lot of fun with other students passionate about a career in public service and forged valuable relationships with them that I continue to enjoy.
**SPECIAL FEATURE: EJW CONFERENCE AND CAREER FAIR**

**Students Attend EJW Conference in DC**

By Graham Markiewicz

Four of us carpooled down to Washington D.C. to attend the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair this October. While 18 hours of Top 40 music on the radio was challenging the experience and opportunity we had was irreplaceable. To best make the trip a success it was important to carefully plan every moment of the weekend. The dominant feature was pre-scheduled interviews with the public interest employers, who represented over 100 organizations. Because much public interest work is very niche or geographically constrained, this conference was a good chance to get many likely employers in one place. Those that I did not interview with were available to meet through “table-talk,” a free form discussion of what employer and employee have to offer each other. I even discovered two new potential placement opportunities at organizations I hadn’t previously considered. Outside the formal conference, DC is a great place to meet with others in the Government/Public Interest field and get advice from senior experts. I made contact with BCLS alumni through professors and social networks and even reached out to previous colleagues who may not be practicing in my interest areas, but still provided significant mentorship, to schedule “coffee chats” (i.e., informational interviews). Although it was tiring after five “coffee chats” on Friday, possibly the most important lessons I can pass on are that it’s OK to order Decaf and it’s well worth the time to meet with contacts in-person while traveling.

**Upcoming Public Interest Events**

**Monday, November 17**

Public Interest Designation & Pro-Bono Nuts and Bolts

12:00 - 1:00 pm in EW 200

Come learn about the Public Interest Designation Program and Pro Bono Program at BC Law. What are these programs? How do you participate in them? What requirements must you complete before graduation? 1Ls, 2Ls and 3Ls, all your questions will be answered at this program! Pizza will be served.

**Tuesday, November 18**

PILF Holiday Talent Show

6:30 pm in Barat House

Join faculty and students as they share their talents at this annual talent show.

**Saturday, November 22**

Boston Bar Association Event: Volunteer at Cradles to Crayons

10 am - 12 pm at 155 N Beacon St., Brighton, MA

[Click here for more information and to register to attend](http://equaljusticeworks.org/law-school/conference-and-careerfair/keynote)

**Summer Opportunity: Rappaport Fellowship**

The Rappaport Summer Fellowship is a 10-week summer fellowship with a law and public policy focus and a generous stipend. Placements are available in state and local government agencies.

**About the Fellowship:**

Each year, the Rappaport Fellows Program brings together a cadre of highly qualified law students from Boston-area law schools who demonstrate exceptional commitment to public service and an interest in law and public policy issues affecting the Greater Boston region. Twelve fellows are selected from J.D. candidates attending any of the six Boston area law schools. The fellowship funds students to engage in a ten-week paid summer internship, and also includes a weekly summer seminar series and mentoring opportunities designed to enhance the fellow’s understanding of public policy and public service.

**For more information on these and other pro bono opportunities at the VLP, please go to:** [http://www.vlpnet.org/students/](http://www.vlpnet.org/students/)

**For more information, contact:** Michelle Grossfield, Associate Director of Public Interest and Pro Bono Programs, at [michelle.grossfield@bc.edu](mailto:michelle.grossfield@bc.edu) or (617) 552-4345

**For internship, job and pro bono postings, visit:** [https://law-bc-csm.symplicity.com/students](https://law-bc-csm.symplicity.com/students)