



  
**CLEA**

**30th anniversary**



**Throughout its history, CLEA has advocated for clinical faculty and their students to have the autonomy and necessary resources to provide crucial legal support for individuals and communities.**


**CLEA's advocacy before the ABA has had a crucial impact on the standards of experiential education, employment protections for clinicians and addressing systemic racism and other equity issues across the legal academy.**

**CLEA continues to facilitate robust mentorship of new clinicians through the New Clinicians Conference, facilitation of mentorship programming and offering workshops and webinars including the Teaching Justice series.**


The logo for CLEA consists of the letters 'CLEA' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'C' is a dark blue color, while the letters 'L', 'E', and 'A' are a dark red color. The letters are closely spaced and have a slight shadow effect.

CLEA exists to advocate for clinical legal education as fundamental to the education of lawyers.


# HIGHLIGHTS OF CLEA'S ADVOCACY




CLEA started the “**Best Practices Project**” in **2000** to define the best practices essential to preparing students to practice law. The Project later evolved into a book and a blog.



In **2002** and **2003**, CLEA filed a series of **amicus briefs in support of the University of Michigan Law School's** admissions process with the Sixth Circuit and the Supreme Court in *Grutter v. Bollinger*.




In **2005**, CLEA and AALS created a **Katrina Task Force** in response to the manufactured humanitarian crisis that followed Hurricane Katrina. The Task Force provided practical support for legal aid and other organizations serving survivors of the hurricane.




In **2020**, CLEA joined SALT and other organizations in **advocating against requiring students to take the bar exam**, given the mental and physical health concerns, which are ongoing.


# HIGHLIGHTS OF CLEA'S ADVOCACY




CLEA filed an **amicus brief supporting clinical professor Gary Palm** and argued that the University of Chicago had failed to follow standard 405(c) in its treatment of clinical faculty.



CLEA filed an **amicus brief supporting students in the University of Denver's Civil Rights Clinic** who had been denied access to visit their clients in prison because of their status as students.



CLEA filed an **amicus brief opposing the Louisiana Supreme Court's rule** that would make it more difficult for students to practice law in clinics. The rule was created in retaliation against the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic for their successful advocacy for environmental justice.



CLEA filed an **amicus brief in support of the Rutgers Environmental Clinic** after a developer who had been sued by the clinic tried to obtain privileged information about the clinic through public records requests.

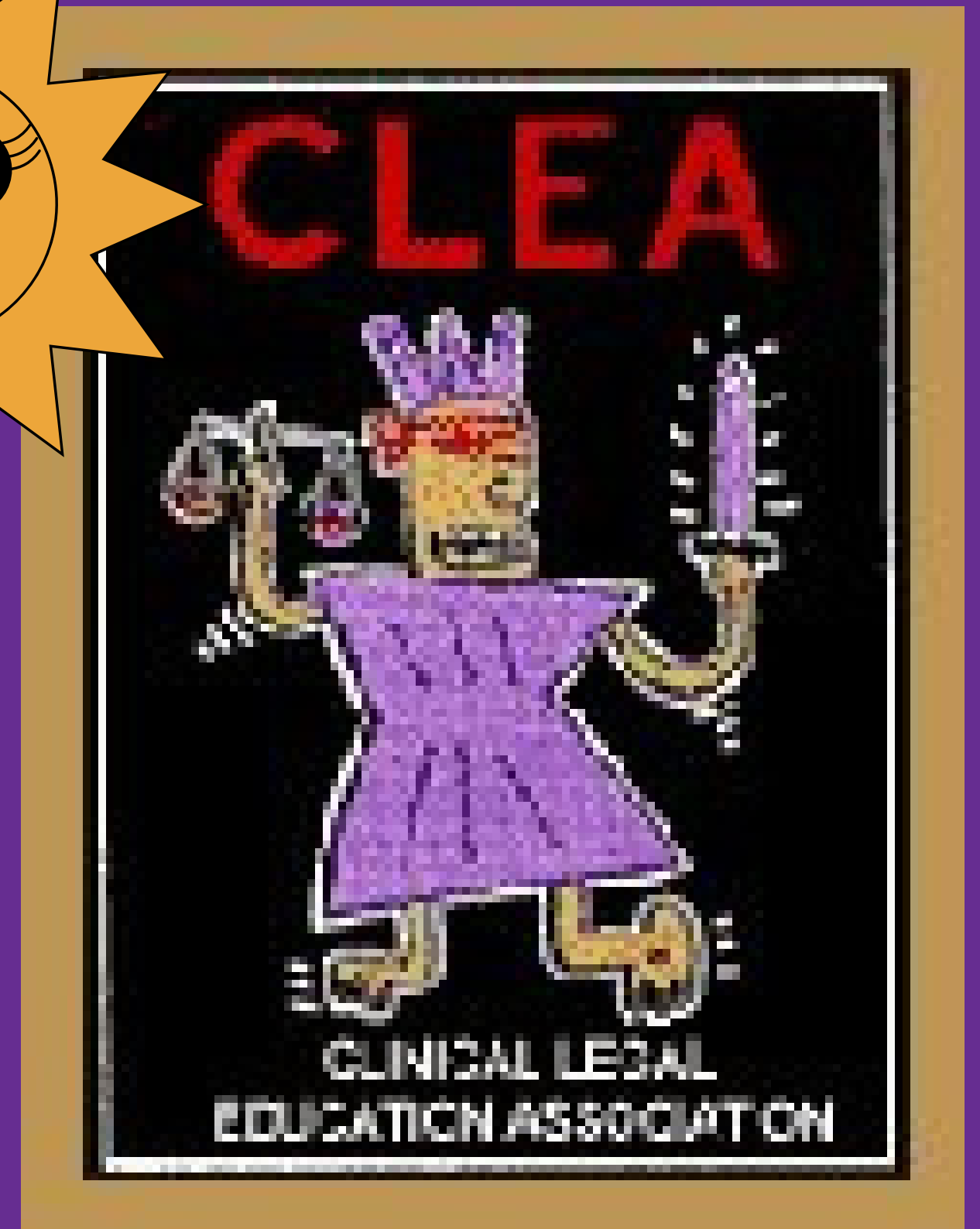
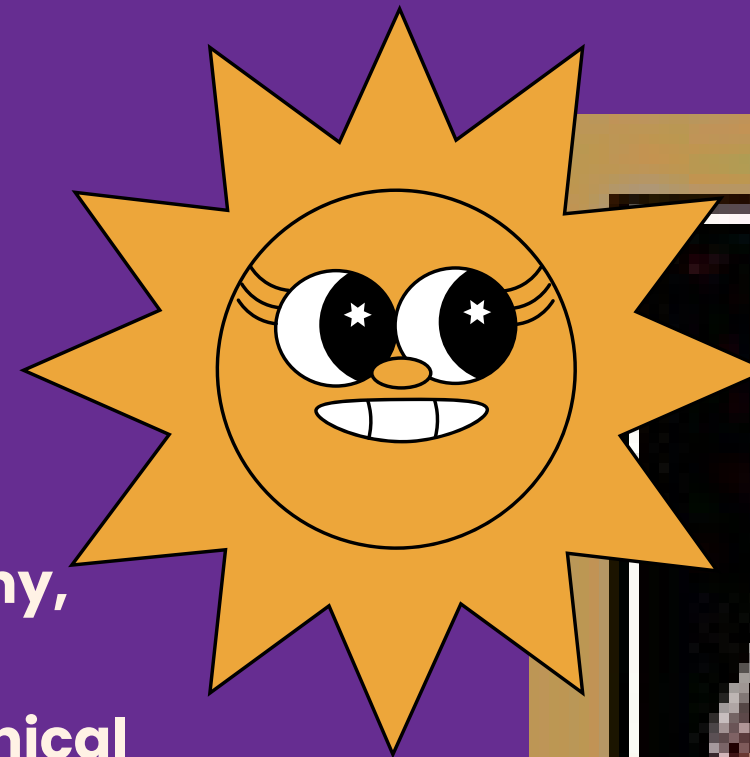
# ORIGIN STORY OF CLEA

CLEA evolved as a result of several years of efforts by many, many dedicated clinicians to address systematic and institutional issues that affected clinical teachers and clinical education both within and outside of the academy.

In the Spring of 1992 an invite was mailed out and, within a month, there were 225 members of CLEA.

The first president of CLEA was Liz Ryan Cole from Vermont, the first Vice-President was Richard Boswell from Hastings.

The first board included Beryl Blaustone, Charles Calleros, Isabelle Gunning, Jeff Hartje, Charolette Googart, John Kramer, Bob Seibel, and Nina Tarr. The second board included three new members, Nancy Cook, Shanara Gilbert, and Gary Bellow.





**"One time when Jenny and I were co-Presidents, at the clinical conference someone asked what's the difference between the AALS Clinical Section and CLEA, and someone in the audience said that the main thing was that CLEA had an open bar at its meetings, and that made all the difference!" - Donna Lee, CUNY Law**



# **CLEA Board Retreat in 2009**





**New  
Clinicians  
Conference  
in 2015**





**Presentation  
of the CLEA  
Award for  
Outstanding  
Advocate for  
Clinical  
Teachers to  
Elliot Milstein  
in 2017**

**CLEA Town  
Hall on Racial  
Justice with  
Law for Black  
Lives and the  
Network for  
Justice in  
2018**



# CLEA's 25th Anniversary Party





**Presentation of  
the CLEA Award  
for Excellence in  
a Public Interest  
Case to the  
Health Justice  
Project at Loyola  
Law for their  
work to  
eliminate lead  
poisoning in  
federal housing  
2018**



**Presentation of  
the CLEA Award  
for Outstanding  
Advocate for  
Clinical  
Teachers to the  
late Stephen  
Ellman, 2019**



**The New Clinicians Conference was one of the most impactful things about the clinical conference both because I learned a lot but also because I made connections with people who are still among my most trusted partners in clinical teaching. The fact that CLEA has been running that workshop for so many years speaks to the investment that this community has decided to make in itself and in bettering our ability to serve students and clients. Many years later, I got to work with CLEA board members to fight for an experiential education requirement (as part of an AALS committee) and it reminded me of how important this organization is in legal education.**

**Ragini Shah, Suffolk Law**



**In 2006, I came into clinical education not having ever taken a clinic or worked in one, joining a newly accredited school with a very small clinical program. It was CLEA and its community of generous clinical professors who provided rich and vital guidance and support. The movement for clinical education generates professors who truly want their peers and colleagues to thrive, without any concern for degrading hierarchies of perceived privilege or false competition among schools. Across the next seventeen years, CLEA has continued to nourish and prepare me for this work through its deep relationships and opportunities. CLEA makes us better teachers and lawyers, and it has real, tangible effect on our status and roles in the academy and the profession. I'm profoundly grateful for its gifts to me and the immense privilege of life and work in its community.**

**Jeff Baker, former CLEA President**



**I remember my first New Clinicians Conference hosted by CLEA in 2009. The community was so diverse and welcoming with rich and deep resources to freely exchange. I remember thinking this is the best job in the world. Since then CLEA has fostered that continued sense of well-being in being a clinical teacher, and I am so grateful for CLEA. Now, I seek opportunities to work with CLEA, and my teaching, scholarship, and especially my relationships with other experiential folks have blossomed. Thank you, CLEA, and Happy Anniversary!**

**Tanya Cooper, CLEA Board Member**





**I was the CLEA president the year we launched the Best Practices book with Roy Stuckey as the lead author. CLEA should be enormously proud of its major role in pushing legal education to where it is today—with an ABA mandated experiential requirement for every law student, and with a Next Gen Bar on the horizon, focused more on lawyering than ever before. It started as an upstart tiny organization, and today is seen as a major player in the ongoing evolution of legal education and the legal profession. We have grown up in the 30 years of existence, and are just hitting our stride.**

**Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, former CLEA President**



**Happy Anniversary, CLEA!! My favorite CLEA memories involve the New Clinicians Conferences. Beth Schwartz and I co-chaired the event in Puerto Rico. This conference was a tropical snapshot of what makes the NCC so great- knowledgeable seasoned veterans of clinical legal education taking the time to share the essentials of clinical teaching; small group leaders instructing and mentoring new legal educators, and fun, fun, fun with colleagues from around the country (salsa dancing in the evening)! CLEA's impact as a leader in legal education lives on and I have been honored to a small part of its history.**

**C. Benjie Louis, former CLEA President**



**Serving on the CLEA Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee and co-writing the 2019 article on clinical hiring has opened up an entire branch of my scholarly agenda and led to multiple speaking engagements and public advocacy on this vital topic. I am pretty confident that had I not worked on that project a central part of my work would never have come to pass.**

**Gautam Hans, CLEA Co-President**



**I attended my first clinical conference in 1999, when Roy Stuckey told me that the most important thing I had to do at the conference was go to a meeting of this thing called CLEA. I loved serving the CLEA community, and moving into the even-greater honor of becoming president! Happy 30th birthday CLEA! TLDR version of what CLEA has meant to me can be summarized in five words: friendship, community, advocacy, justice, and learning (on all dimensions). Roy Stuckey was right – CLEA is a community with some of the most important people to the future of legal education and the legal profession as a whole.**

**Kim Diana Connolly, former CLEA President**



**Here are some reflections:**

- **CLEA's amicus brief on behalf of the Rutgers-Newark Environmental Law Clinic, in a case that involved a developing seeking access to several clinic documents pursuant to NJ's Open Public Records Act, authored by Robert Kuehn on only a few days notice**
- **CLEA's "Sweet Sixteen" Party**
- **Forming the Law School Clinics and Rankings Committee, which explored whether—and if so, to what extent—the design and structure of clinical programs should impact U.S. News & World Report rankings. The Committee ultimately draft a statement that set forth attributes and values of clinical legal education that CLEA believed should be considered when ranking clinical program**

**Michael Pinard, former CLEA President**



**I am so grateful to Praveen Kosuri for telling me about CLEA and inviting me to join. In CLEA I have found a community of teachers, advocates, mentors, and friends. Also, I adore my ride-or-die co-pres forever, Caitlin!**

**Shobha Mahadev, former CLEA Co-President**