



Strengthening Public Defenders. Transforming Public Defense.

For Immediate Release:

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Gideon's Promise 2020 Law School Partnership Project Fellow Spotlight

Welcome Emily Genzlinger to the Gideon's Promise Community

April 20, 2020 -- Atlanta, Georgia – Non-profit organization Gideon's Promise trains public defense professionals to improve the quality of legal representation in communities across the nation. Gideon's Promise is excited to announce a class of **12 new fellows** through our Law School Partnership Project (LSPP). This program provides law students with the opportunity to begin their career as a public defender and criminal justice reformer on the front lines of the effort to realize equal justice in America.

Emily Genzlinger, from the University of California, Irvine School of Law believes that, "In order to produce this change [in the criminal justice system], well-trained and determined [public defenders] need to be sent to places in the country that are the most resistant to change."

Our fellows will be placed in offices where mass incarceration plays a major role in underfunded and under-resourced communities. Emily Genzlinger will be joining our partner office, the 22nd Judicial District Public Defender of St. Tammany Parish located in Covington, Louisiana this upcoming summer.

Ms. Genzlinger was thrilled to be placed in the St. Tammany office due to their commitment to protecting their clients' rights. She says, "I was attracted to [this] partner office in St. Tammany's Parish, Louisiana because of the office's strong commitment to client-driven representation....I was also impressed with the office's willingness to push back against an aggressive Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's [office] and its insistence on taking cases to trial when appropriate."

In her choice to pursue a 2020 Law School Partnership Project fellowship she explains, "I chose to apply because Gideon's Promise supports a movement that is trying to change the criminal justice system by providing each [client] with holistic and quality representation at all stages of the process," said Genzlinger. "I want to be a

part of a larger movement to change the system and provide client-driven advocacy to every defendant regardless of income or circumstance.”

The Gideon’s Promise Law School Partnership Project introduces third year law students to the successes and challenges that come with doing public defense work in jurisdictions with the greatest need. Applications for the 2021 fellowship program class will open in late summer 2020. To learn more about Gideon’s Promise and the LSPP program, please visit our website www.gideonspromise.org. To apply for the Law School Partnership Project in 2021 please contact our Programs Team at programs@gideonspromise.org.

About Gideon’s Promise

Gideon’s Promise is a 501(c)(3) public defender organization whose mission is to transform the criminal justice system by building a movement of public defenders who provide equal justice for marginalized communities. Founded in 2007 by Jonathan Rapping, the organization has grown from a single training program for sixteen attorneys in two public defender offices in Georgia and Louisiana to a national enterprise with 1,000 participants in 104 partner statewide and affiliate public defender offices across 29 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The organization’s initial three-year program for new public defenders has expanded into a comprehensive program model that supports public defenders at all levels of their career.

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