**Comenius University / International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference**

**ENCLE - IJCLE 2019 Improving the Future: Using Clinical Legal Education to Educate Lawyers for a Just Society**

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| Title | Professor |
| Lead Presenter First Name | Stefan |
| Lead Presenter Last Name | Krieger |
| Organisation of Lead Presenter | Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University School of Law |
| Name/s and details of other presenters |  |
| Title of Proposal | Oral History as a Method for Advancing Justice and Educating for a Just Society |
| Summary of Proposal | From 2004 to 2014, students in the Hofstra Law Clinic, under Professor Krieger’s supervision, successfully represented Latino immigrants in a Village on Long Island challenging its redevelopment plan to force them from their homes. After the victory in the case, Professor Krieger teamed up with a sociologist and a communications professor to develop an oral history of the case and its context. They are producing a podcast containing excerpts of the interviews they have conducted. In this presentation, Professor Krieger will describe the process of developing an oral history project for a major piece of impact litigation and will explore ways that oral histories can be used to educate attorneys and community activists. |
| Abstract Proposal | From 2004 to 2014, students in the Hofstra Law Clinic, under my supervision, represented Latino immigrants in a Village on Long Island challenging its redevelopment plan to force them from their homes. After protracted and highly-contentious litigation in a housing discrimination case in federal court, on the eve of a six-week jury trial, the village settled the case paying the tenants substantial compensation for the loss of their homes, committing to actively recruit developers to replace all the affordable housing destroyed in the redevelopment project, and agreeing to pay the Clinic’s attorneys’ fees for the nearly decades-long litigation. After this victory, I thought it would be helpful to reflect on the history of this litigation so that other community lawyers and advocates faced with similar problems could learn from the Clinic’s experience. To develop this history in a serious and critical manner, I teamed up with a sociologist at Hofstra’s National Center for Suburban Studies and a professor in the University’s Department of Radio, Television, and Film. Together, we developed a plan to investigate not only the narrow issue of the litigation of the case, but also to explore the life stories of the clients in the case; the effect of the case on the clients; the role the Clinic students who worked on the case and its effect on them; the role of community organizers and activists in assisting the tenants; the attitudes of other stakeholders in the Village about the redevelopment and the case; and the positions of the village officials who eventually agreed to settle the case. Our goal is to produce a six-episode podcast about the case and its context and create a website for other researchers, attorneys, and activists with relevant resources (interview transcripts, key case documents, public records, and newspaper and other media reports on the case).  For the past year-and-a-half, the other professors and our research assistants have interviewed a number of our clients, Clinic students, community organizers, and the other stakeholders. We have transcribed (and in some cases translated) these interviews and are now drafting scripts for each of the episodes in the podcast. In this presentation, I plan to describe the process of developing an oral history project about a major piece of impact litigation (including the serious confidentiality issues posed in such a project); the insights we have gained from this project about developing political/legal strategies in local communities for similar battles challenging redevelopment and displacement of subordinated people; and the ways that oral history can be used to educate other clinical teachers, attorneys and activists. |