



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW

Civil Rights Clinic receives CLEA Award for work on prisoner's rights cases

On Friday, April 15, 2016, the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Board of Directors announced that the University of Denver Sturm College of Law Civil Rights Clinic is one of two recipients of the 2016 CLEA Award for Excellence in a Public Interest Case or Project. The award will be presented at the AALS luncheon at the Clinical Conference on Monday, May 2nd, 2016.

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Civil Rights Clinic, Decoteau v. Raemisch

This class action lawsuit, litigated by student attorneys and professors with the University of Denver Sturm College of Law Civil Rights Clinic, as well as attorneys at the Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center (CREEC), resulted in the provision of outdoor exercise for prisoners at Colorado State Penitentiary. For over twenty years, the close custody prisoners who occupy CSP – the vast majority of whom were held in conditions of solitary confinement – were only permitted to exercise in a cell similar to their living cell, with a narrow slit of a window that opened directly to the outdoors. As a result, these prisoners went months, years, or even decades without feeling the rain or sun. As a result of this case, which arose from an earlier individual lawsuit also litigated by the Civil Rights Clinic and CREEC (*Anderson v. Colorado*), the Colorado Department of Corrections will construct three outdoor exercise yards at CSP. The outcome in *Decoteau* has meaningfully contributed to the advancement of civil rights, because a group of students, their clinic professors, and a small civil rights nonprofit – along with the incarcerated men who served as named plaintiffs and constituted members of the class - took on the Colorado Department of Corrections, ultimately obtaining for some 500 prisoners the ability to exercise outdoors.

Congratulations to Denver Law students, supervising faculty and co-counsel who worked on the *Decoteau* case (class action re: outdoor exercise) as well as the *Anderson* case (individual outdoor exercise):

Decoteau v. Raemisch

Supervising Faculty

Asst. Professor Lindsey Webb, Clinical Fellow Lauren Fontana, Visiting Professor Lisa Graybill

Co-Counsel

CREEC Co-Executive Director Amy Robertson (Lauren Fontana joined the staff of CREEC after her fellowship) www.creeclaw.org

Student Attorneys

2015-2016: Casey Shea, Michael LaGarde, Kevin Benninger

2014-2015: Jenny Vultaggio, Kevin Benninger

2013-2014: Ryan Burchell, Rachel Martin, Amelia Blyth

2012-2013: Kim Smith, Carrie Mohr, Stuart Rubenstein, Tracy Ostlie

Anderson v. Colorado**Supervising Faculty**

Professor Laura Rovner and Clinical Fellow Brittany Glidden

Co-Counsel

CREEC Co-Executive Director Amy Robertson www.creeclaw.org

Student Attorneys

2011-2012: Maha Kamal, Katherine Hartigan, Brenden Desmond, Lauren Carboni, Lindsey Dusti

2010-2011: Courtney Longtin, Lee Knox, Matthew Court, Keenan Jones

2009-2010: Patrick Curnalia, Ashley Wheeland

2008-2009: Rachel Proctor, Katie Stevens