Whittier Law School **study abroad** in Spain - 2010

Click here for information on Whittier Law School’s Sexual Orientation Law Curriculum as part of Summer Abroad Program Santander, SPAIN

**Program Dates:** May 30 - June 25, 2010

**Program Director:** Professor Calvin Peeler
cpeeler@law.whittier.edu

**Host University:** Universidad de Cantabria

**Location:** Santander

**Tuition:** $4,000 for 4 weeks (max 6 units); or $2,900 for 2 weeks (max 3 units)

**[Tentative] Courses:**

**Family Law Theme**
- Community Property (2U) - Professor Calvin Peeler
- Comparative Juvenile Criminal Adjudication (1U) - Professor Robert Somers
- Juvenile Law Advocacy (1U) - Professor Jacquelyn Gentry
- Intro to Spanish Law (Family Law) (2U) - Professor Sonia Martin
- Women, Law & Culture (2 units) - Professor Patricia Leary

**LGBT Theme**
- International Equality (2U) - Professor Darren Rosenblum
- Same-Sex Couples & Freedom to Marry (1U) - Professor Evan Wolfson
- Comparative Law & Sexuality (2U) - Professor Seval Yildirim
- Recognition of Lesbian and Gay Relationships (1U) - Professor Brad Sears
- Health Law (1U) - Dr. Kathy Anderson
- International Reproductive Technologies (1U) - Professor Judith Daar
- Transgender Law (1U) - Professor Shannon Minter

**Externship Opportunities:** Yes
Whittier Law School began the only summer law program devoted to the study of issues pertaining to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Whittier Law School’s Professor John Heilman created and developed the program in collaboration with the Williams Institute of the University of California, Los Angeles. Directed by Professor Brad Sears, the Williams Institute is the premiere center for research and study of sexual orientation and public policy. Professor Heilman’s unique program on Sexual Orientation Law will resume in the summer of 2011 in a new foreign location. However, in the interim, we will offer an impressive LGBT curriculum as part of Whittier’s 2010 Summer Abroad Program in Spain, which focuses on International Family Law.

We invite the LGBT community and interested students to join us in Santander at the University of Cantabria. Law students can earn up to six units of academic credit while studying in a small group environment with a diverse mix of academic experts and practitioners. Additional courses will focus on international Family Law issues.

**Faculty Members & Courses in Spain 2010**

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**Santander** is a beautiful resort community with breathtaking beaches and a very temperate climate. It is a financial center and home to the world’s fifth largest bank. The campus and program housing are a short walk from the beach and city center.

**FAMILY LAW PROGRAM IN SPAIN**

**Whittier Law School**

3333 Harbor Blvd.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

For more information, please contact Asst. Dean Calvin Peeler at cpeeler@law.whittier.edu or 714/444-4141 ext. 228, or the Summer Abroad Program Assistant Maria Harris at mharris@law.whittier.edu Ext. 265

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EMAIL: STUDYABROAD@LAW.WHITTIER.EDU
Faculty Bios

Seval Yildirim

Associate Professor of Law
Whittier Law School

Professor Yildirim joined the Whittier Law School faculty in 2005, following a year as Visiting Scholar at New York University’s Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies. She served as the Director of Whittier’s Center for International and Comparative Law during the 2007-08 academic year.

Professor Yildirim’s research focuses on secularism in comparative contexts, and issues of human dignity, specifically regarding minority religious and sexual identities. She was pro bono counsel to Kimberlie Webb in *Webb v. City of Philadelphia*, 562 F.3d 256 (3rd Cir. 2009), seeking recognition of Webb’s free exercise right to wear a religious headcovering under her police uniform hat. An account of Professor Yildirim’s experience litigating the appeal can be found in the forthcoming *Law and Religion* volume of *Cases in Context* series by Aspen Publishers. Her current research is centered on a critique of the ongoing legal and political changes in the post-9/11 world.

Professor Yildirim recently chaired the Islamic Law Committee of the American Branch of the International Law Association, and currently serves on the Executive Board of the Islamic Law Committee of the Association of American Law Schools. She is an active participant in a number of other academic and legal organizations.

Education:
B.A., Randolph-Macon Woman’s College; M.A., Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University; J.D., New York University School of Law; L.L.M., New York University School of Law

Brad Sears

R. Bradley (Brad) Sears is the Executive Director of the Charles R. Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy, a national think-tank at UCLA School of Law dedicated to promoting legal scholarship, public policy analysis, and education programs on sexual orientation law and public policy. In addition, he teaches courses in disability law and sexual orientation law at UCLA School of Law.

Sears graduated summa cum laude from Yale University and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School. During college and law school, he completed internships with the Center for Constitutional Rights, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Jamaica Plain Legal Services Center's AIDS Unit, the ACLU's National Gay and Lesbian and AIDS Project, and the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.

After law school, Sears moved to Los Angeles and clerked for the Hon J. Spencer Letts of the Central District of California. In 1996, he received funding from echoing green, the Kaufman Fellowship and Columbia Law School's Public Interest Law Fund to create the HIV Legal Checkup Project, a legal services program dedicated to empowering people living with HIV-disease to address and prevent legal problems. The HIV Legal Checkup Project provided preventive legal services to over 800 clients per year and over 100 UCLA School of Law students received training through volunteering with the Project.

In 1997, Sears also became the Discrimination & Confidentiality Attorney for the HIV/AIDS Legal Services Alliance of Los Angeles (HALSA). In this capacity, he litigated and settled HIV-discrimination cases, ending the discriminatory practices of a number of medical practices, schools, and residential care facilities. His work also included settlements that resulted in mandated HIV-training for 22,000
Los Angeles County employees, the overturning of the City of Los Angeles’ discriminatory denial of licenses to HIV-positive massage therapists, and the end of a major credit reporting company’s policy of disclosing consumers’ HIV-status on credit reports.

Sears has given hundreds of presentations to community groups, lawyers, medical practitioners, and advocates on HIV/AIDS and LGBT legal issues and has written a number of articles on these issues. He has also served on the board of directors or advisory boards for Being Alive Los Angeles, HALSA, USC’s AIDS Education Training Center, and CorrectHelp, an organization dedicated to the needs of incarcerated persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Shannon Price Minter

Minter is the Legal Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, one of the nation's leading advocacy organizations for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. He was lead counsel for same-sex couples in the California marriage equality case and has litigated many other impact cases throughout the country. Minter is the co-author of Transgender Rights and has been actively involved in the transgender rights movement for nearly two decades. He received his J.D. from Cornell Law School in 1993.

Darren Rosenblum

Professor of Law
Pace University, School of Law

Darren Rosenblum, Professor at Pace Law School, joined the Pace faculty after practicing international arbitration at Skadden and Clifford Chance in New York. Professor Rosenblum clerked for Judge Fusté in the U.S. District Court of Puerto Rico and holds advanced degrees from Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. Fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and French. Professor Rosenblum has studied, lectured and published on commercial, environmental and human rights issues in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France and Germany.

Education:
Masters in International Affairs, Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs; JD, University of Pennsylvania Law School; BA, University of Pennsylvania

Evan Wolfson

Founder, Freedom to Marry Project

Long-time lesbian/gay civil rights leader Evan Wolfson lives in New York City, where he launched Freedom to Marry, the gay and non-gay partnership working to end discrimination in marriage nationwide. Wolfson now serves as Freedom to Marry’s Executive Director. From 1989 until 2001, Wolfson worked full-time at Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, the nation’s preeminent lesbian/gay legal advocacy group. As director of Lambda’s Marriage Project, Wolfson coordinated the National Freedom to Marry coalition and lead the ongoing national movement for equal marriage rights for same-sex couples. He was a co-counsel in the landmark Hawaiian marriage case, Baehr v. Miike, which launched the current nationwide debate. Wolfson also contributed his expertise to the team in Baker v. Vermont, the Vermont Supreme Court ruling that led to the creation of “civil unions,” a new legal marital status for same-sex couples, and to the GLAD team in Goodridge v. Department of Public Health, which on May 17, 2004, led to marriage equality in Massachusetts.
On April 26, 2000, Wolfson became the first Lambda attorney to argue before the United States Supreme Court, urging the Justices to reject the Boy Scouts of America’s appeal of a unanimous ruling from the New Jersey Supreme Court striking down their ban on gay members and leaders. Wolfson has represented Eagle Scout James Dale since he was expelled from the BSA in 1990. Following the 5-4 vote, Wolfson helped shape the extraordinary national response from non-gay and gay people and institutions against the BSA’s discrimination, challenging their harmful message to youth.

In other cases, Wolfson championed lesbian and gay military personnel fighting for the right to serve; gay parents wishing to adopt children and preserve visitation rights; a Florida deputy sheriff fired for being gay (Lambda’s first-ever jury trial); a person with AIDS seeking life-saving medical treatment refused by his insurer; a woman denied work as a Dallas police officer because of the state anti-gay “sodomy” law; and New York City employees demanding equal health benefits and recognition for their partners.

Beginning with his 1983 law school thesis on gay people’s freedom to marry, Wolfson has published numerous articles on sexual orientation and civil rights, and is a frequent speaker on such topics. As a pro bono cooperating attorney for Lambda from 1984 to 1989, Wolfson wrote Lambda’s amicus briefs to the Supreme Court in Bowers v. Hardwick and NGTF v. Board of Education of Oklahoma City.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Pittsburgh, Wolfson graduated from Yale College in 1978. For two years, he worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in a village in Togo, West Africa. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1983, and teaching political philosophy at Harvard College, Wolfson served as assistant district attorney for Kings County (Brooklyn), NY. There, in addition to handling felony trials and appeals, he wrote amicus briefs that helped win the U.S. Supreme Court’s ban on race discrimination in jury selection (Batson v. Kentucky, and the New York State high court’s elimination of the marital rape exemption (People v. Liberta).

Immediately before joining Lambda, Wolfson served in Washington, D.C., as Associate Counsel to Lawrence Walsh in the Office of Independent Counsel (Iran/Contra). In 1992, he served on the New York State Task Force on Sexual Harassment. Wolfson is an adjunct professor of law at Columbia University, and also has taught at Rutgers University law school. He is a Senior Fellow at the New School’s Wolfson Center for National Affairs.

In 2000, the National Law Journal honored Wolfson’s civil rights leadership by naming him one of “The 100 most influential attorneys in America.” In 2004, he was named one of “The 100 most influential people in the world” by Time Magazine.