

**8TH ANNUAL TRINA GRILLO PUBLIC INTEREST AND SOCIAL JUSTICE LAW RETREAT  
MARCH 11–12, 2006  
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA**

***Social Justice in a Transactional World***

In a widely discussed article in the New York Review of Books, “Selling Washington” (June 23, 2005), journalist Elizabeth Drew details “the intensified buying and selling of influence over legislation and federal policy.” Drew describes a potential chilling effect on debate, as policy makers feel pressure to support the current administration. Drew also reports the comment from “the head of a public policy strategy group,” who said, “It’s not about governing anymore. The Congress is now a transactional institution. They don’t take risks. So when a great moral issue comes up—like war—they can’t deal with it.” As Drew explains, the democratic system of one-person-one vote was supposed to overcome the financial advantage of the wealthy. But one of Drew’s sources comments that “it doesn’t work that way.”

Often cultural changes at the national level impact social justice work regionally and locally. Money has always mattered. But if Drew is right and even Congress is “transactional,” what implications does this new emphasis on deal making and financial clout hold for social justice advocates? Do we make ourselves irrelevant by ignoring money issues or do we think about them too much? Have we also stopped taking risks? How can one be a social justice entrepreneur, funding social justice work? The Trina Grillo retreat will provide a forum for practitioners, students, and academics to discuss today’s challenges to social justice lawyering.

**Saturday, March 11**

8:00 a.m. Registration and Buffet Breakfast

9 a.m. ***Welcome and Remembering Trina Grillo***

**Dean Donald Polden** (Santa Clara)

**Stephanie M. Wildman** (Santa Clara)

**Margaret Russell** (Santa Clara)

9:15–10:45 a.m. ***Plenary I: Social Justice and the Business of Law***

Do social justice lawyers ignore money issues or pay too much attention to them? What role does money play in choices of legal practice or in strategic choices in their work? Is law a business? If so, what impact does business and concerns about money have on social justice aspirations?

**Lia Epperson** (Santa Clara University, formerly NAACP Inc. Fund)

**Joan Graff** (Legal Aid Society/Employment Law Center)

**Malcolm Yeung** (Asian Law Caucus)

**Moderator:** Catherine Sandoval (Santa Clara)

**Saturday, March 11 (cont'd.)**

10:45-11 a.m. Break

11 a.m.–Noon ***Ralph Santiago Abascal Memorial Address***  
**James Head** (San Francisco Foundation)  
**Moderator:** Hon. Cruz Reynoso (UC Davis)

Noon–1:15 p.m. ***Career Strategies Lunch***

Join these social justice lawyers to discuss their work and how they came to do it. Talk about your own strategies for entering social justice practice.

**David Ackerly** (Legal Aid Foundation of LA—Legal Services)

**Joan Graff** (Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center—employment law)

**Heather Jarvis and Kashyap Choksi** (Equal Justice Works—choosing a career path)

**Danielle Jones** (Stanford—housing law)

**Sonia Mercado** (Mercado and Associates—social justice work in private practice)

**Hon. Cruz Reynoso** (UC Davis—private practice-civil rights)

**Lida Rodriguez-Taseff** (Duane Morris LLP—social justice work in private practice);

**Connie de la Vega** (USF—international human rights)

**Moderator:** Alexandria Bullara (Santa Clara)

1:30–3:30 p.m. ***Plenary II: Social Justice Entrepreneurs***

Becoming a lawyer interested in social transformation means facing issues about money in a transactional world. How do social justice lawyers face these issues and remain true to their sense of self. In this interactive session panelists will discuss how their own vision of themselves as professionals fits with a sense of working for social change.

[This session will include small group discussions, exploring some of these issues]

**Zeena Batliwalla** (Rai & Associates)

**Ritu Goswamy** (Law Foundation of Silicon Valley)

**Beto Juárez** (St. Mary's)

**Patricia Massey** (Law offices of Patricia Massey)

**Moderator:** Margalynne Armstrong (Santa Clara)

Cookies available at 2:45 for the small groups

3:45–5:15 p.m. ***Concurrent Panel I: Social Justice and Legal Education***

Equal Justice Works Panel – Heather Jarvis and Kashyap Choksi

This interactive session, led by Equal Justice Works, examines how to integrate public interest and social justice into the law school experience.

***Concurrent Panel II: Practitioner's Caucus: Sustaining a Public Interest Practice: Planning Your Life to Stay in the Game for the Long Haul***

**Moderator:** Chris Daley (Transgender Law Center)

**Saturday, March 11 (cont'd.)**

5:30 p.m. No host reception

6 p.m. Dinner

***After Dinner Address***

**Bernida Reagan** (Port of Oakland)

**Moderator:** Ida Bostian (Santa Clara)

**Sunday March 12, 2005**

8:15 a.m. Buffet Breakfast

9:30–10:45 a.m. ***Plenary III: A Case Study in Social Justice Entrepreneurship: Preserving Democracy: Elections and Access to Voting***

Following a disastrous election in September 2002 which denied access to many voters in Florida yet again, the Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition formed, vowing never again. Come learn how these social justice entrepreneurs built the diverse coalition, almost completely without funding for the first three years, bringing together civil rights and electronic voting technology issues to make a contribution with national impact.

The Miami-Dade Election Reform Coalition is a non-partisan grassroots organization that brings together representatives from a broad spectrum of community organizations, civil rights and civil liberties groups, and citizen activists. The Coalition formed after massive problems during the first use of the electronic voting system in September 2002 once again put Miami-Dade County at the center of a national firestorm over election reform. The Coalition has worked for change in many areas, including independent observers at elections, mailing of sample ballots in three languages, confronting and addressing problems with electronic voting, opposition to the use of inaccurate voter purge lists, rights restoration for people with felony convictions, and tracking the true costs of elections.

In recent months, the Coalition's report on the 2004 election revealed electronic ballot stuffing and failures in auditing elections. This report led to changes in the Florida recount rule and other procedures. Another Coalition study proved the discriminatory racial impact of new Florida election laws, including photo identification requirements. The Coalition continues to push for legislative change and improved auditing of elections. The demands and achievements of the Coalition have been extensively covered in national media. Among its participating groups are the Florida ACLU, the Miami-Dade NAACP, Haitian Women of Miami, the League of Women Voters, the Miami Workers Center, the National Women's Political Caucus, SEIU Local 1199, South Florida Jobs with Justice, and the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. More information is available on the Coalition website, [www.reformcoalition.org](http://www.reformcoalition.org).

**Martha Mahoney** (Miami)

**Lida Rodriguez-Taseff** (Duane Morris LLP)

**Moderator:** Angelo Ancheta (Santa Clara)

**Sunday, March 12** (cont'd.)

11 :00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ***Plenary IV: Show Me the Money: Funding Social Justice Work***

Money remains an issue on the personal level for attorneys seeking to fund social justice work, for the non-profits they work with, and for legal organizations. Panelists will address fundraising options and ideas.

**James Head** (San Francisco Foundation)

**Gail Hillebrand** (Consumers' Union)

**Benjamin Todd Jealous** (Rosenberg Foundation)

**Sudha Shetty** (Seattle)

**Moderator:** Barbara Aldave (Oregon) [invited]

12:15- 12:30 ***Concluding Remarks***

**Sudha Shetty** (Seattle)