

Legislature changes Pennsylvania's HIV-testing law

Pennsylvania lawmakers this summer passed an amendment to Pennsylvania's HIV-testing law, commonly known as Act 148.

The AIDS Law Project believes that, though well-intentioned, the Legislature's action diminishes the ability of Pennsylvanians to be in control of their healthcare decisions.

Here are the highlights of the new law:

- **Written informed consent is no longer required for an HIV test.**

Instead, the new language says that the health care provider shall "document" the patient's consent or refusal to the test, without specifying how the documentation shall be made.

- Also, the test may now be offered in an **"opt-out" format**, which means that the subject is advised that the **HIV test will be given unless the patient specifically declines it.**

- The other major change is that **negative test results no longer need to be given in person.**

"We're concerned that the changes reduce the level of proof necessary to prove that the patient consented to an HIV test," said Executive Director Ronda B. Goldfein, Esq. "That said, it is now the law of Pennsylvania.

"People need to be even more aware that they need to question their doctors," she added. "If you have your blood drawn, ask what you're being tested for."

The intent behind the changes is laudable. The idea is that the more HIV-positive people who know their status, the better they can prevent further transmission of the virus.

In 1988, Pennsylvania's legislature passed the Confidentiality of HIV-Related Information Act (otherwise known as Act 148) to prevent

"OLD" ACT 148

You must initiate an HIV test by asking for one.

You must give your consent in writing before you can be given an HIV test.

You must be given negative and positive HIV test results and counseling in person ("face to face"). Results may not be given by mail or by phone.

You must get pre-test and post-test counseling.

"NEW" ACT 148/ACT 59

An HIV test may be offered in an "opt-out" format, meaning that the patient is advised that an HIV test will be performed unless she or he specifically declines it.

Written informed consent is not required for an HIV test. Instead, the health care provider shall "document" the patient's consent or refusal to the test.*

Negative test results no longer need to be given in person. (Positive test results still must be given in person.)

Counseling before you get an HIV test isn't required, though the test must be explained to you, including its purpose, how it could be used, its limitations and the meaning of the results.

* The new law does not specify how the documentation shall be made

unauthorized HIV testing and disclosure of HIV-related information without the individual's consent.

Then, in 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued HIV-testing recommendations designed to increase testing. But not all of the recommendations were allowed under Pennsylvania law. The amendments that passed this July allow the CDC recommendations to be legally implemented in Pennsylvania.

The changes took effect on Sept. 6, sixty days after Governor Corbett signed the amendment into law. All changes affect section 7605 of the law, which concerns patient consent to HIV-related testing. The other sections of the law concerning the confidentiality of HIV-related information are unchanged.

The staff of the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania will remain vigilant to ensure that Pennsylvanians are aware of their right to give consent to be HIV-tested.



The AIDS Law Project saved the house – and garden – of a Pennsylvania man who was heading for foreclosure. See the full story on page 3.

NEWSLETTER OF THE
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Good Counsel is published semiannually by the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania for our friends, volunteers and colleagues committed to protecting the rights of people with HIV/AIDS.

The AIDS Law Project works on more than 2,000 legal matters a year, nearly all from people with HIV/AIDS, many of whom have nowhere else to turn for help. We help people navigate the legal system, the welfare system, the housing system and the worlds of public and private insurance. We provide education and training to thousands of professionals who work with people with HIV/AIDS.

MESSAGE FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As you'll read in this issue's cover story, the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania didn't carry the day when we tried to caution state lawmakers on amending Pennsylvania's HIV-testing law. We pushed to preserve the requirement of "written informed consent" in HIV testing because we believe that a patient's signature is the best proof of consent to testing. Although the majority of legislators didn't agree with us, we still believe that ensuring that a patient has consented to an HIV test, before the test occurs, is a fight worth fighting. We will continue to do our part to counsel Pennsylvanians on the importance of being diligent and asking questions so they can be partners in their own care.

A stand worth taking remains important regardless of the outcome. We may not know how an issue will resolve, but we will still pursue what we believe is important for our clients and the community.

Just like it was important for us to help a client save his family home and vegetable garden (page 3), assist a dying woman provide for the future care of her children (also page 3), and fight for a single mother of four who was fired from her food-services job after her supervisors found out her HIV status (page 4).

And if you agree that these issues are important, there is no better way for you to help than by donating to us now.

The Independence Foundation, a longtime friend of the AIDS Law Project, has issued a challenge grant. **The foundation will generously match contributions by new donors or increases by current donors, up to \$10,000 this year and the next.** Simply put, your contributions now go twice as far. So please give today. Thank you.

Good Counsel, by e-mail

Want to receive Good Counsel electronically?

Send your e-mail address to tiffany.hair@aidslawpa.org.

Remember us at workplace giving time.

When you donor-designate in your workplace giving campaign, remember your neighbors served by the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania.

United Way of SE PA Specific Care Option #09067

IN THE FACE OF SORROW, THE SYSTEM WORKED

It's difficult enough when a client dies, but often an even greater challenge to help a client immediately facing death who needs to provide for the care of her children.

That was the position **Meryl Katz**, now an AIDS Law Project attorney, found herself in when she started working here as an Earle Mack School of Law Public Service Fellow last year.

One of her first cases as a fellow was that of a woman who called last December seeking help with "permanency planning" for her two boys, aged 8 and 10. Pennsylvania's Standby Guardianship law, which the AIDS Law Project authored, helps terminally ill parents make plans for the future care of their children.

Meryl made repeated appointments with the woman, but the woman was never able to keep an appointment because she was in and out of the hospital.

Finally, in March, the woman's case manager called to say that she wanted to make sure her children were taken care of, but that she was back in the hospital and nearing death. Upon receiving the call, Meryl made an emergency visit to the hospital with paralegal **Katy Feniello**.

Meryl began drafting the necessary paperwork to file with Philadelphia Family Court but the woman died soon after the hospital visit. Meryl then found herself representing the woman's uncle designated as the stand-by guardian for her children.

As the designated guardian, he had emergency custody for 60 days but needed a court hearing to make it permanent. The judge granted guardianship to the uncle, and the woman's final wishes were granted.

"It's unimaginably sad, but the system worked," Meryl says. "While mourning the death of their mother, my client's sons moved into the home of a devoted relative, instead of foster care. Despite all their sadness, they are lucky to have a caring great-uncle, and stay together, as their mother wanted."

PROACTIVE LAWYERING PREVENTS HOMELESSNESS FOR A DAD AND HIS DAUGHTER

A client found out earlier this year that he and his 9-year-old daughter had only a few days before the sheriff was coming to lock them out of their apartment, in the Germantown section of Philadelphia.

Because his name was not on the lease, he hadn't known about a court date that had come and gone. Worse yet, his mother – whose name was on the lease – went to court and signed a non-appealable Judgment By Agreement, which allowed the landlord to schedule the lock-out.

The man tried to go to the court, but because his name wasn't on the lease and a resolution had already been reached, the court would not help him. He was simply told to get ready to be locked out.

He contacted the AIDS Law Project, and staff attorney **Rafiah Davis** was given the case. She and housing paralegal **Kevin Manuel-Bentley** soon learned that the pair had nowhere else they could live.

"There are no shelters for fathers and daughters, so we didn't know what would happen to him and his daughter if we didn't help," Rafiah says.

Rafiah took "a shot in the dark" and filed a Petition to Intervene. Filing the petition put the lock-out on hold.

The court granted her petition the day the lock-out was set to happen. This meant that Rafiah would get an opportunity to argue the case in court, and our client would remain in his home at least until after the case was heard.

When Rafiah got to court, she made an agreement with the landlord and his attorney that allowed the client and his daughter to stay in the apartment for another month. Shortly afterward, the two found a new place to live.

The upshot: The client and his young daughter didn't have to go through the trauma of a lock-out, and there was no period of homelessness.

"This would not have happened without our help," Rafiah says.



NAVIGATING THE SYSTEM

A CLIENT FACES A TOUGH CHOICE – PAY FOR HEALTHCARE, OR THE MORTGAGE?

With roughly one in every 600 American homes foreclosed on, the home-loan crisis is still very much with us here in Pennsylvania, and even among our clients.

"George" came to us after getting a foreclosure notice on the Philadelphia home he lives in with his partner, one he grew up in and inherited from his mother.

"I take responsibility" for the foreclosure, he says. "I was very delinquent and the bank was just doing its job."

But George has been fighting cancer over the last few years. "Sometimes you have to choose between (paying for) health and a mortgage payment," he says. "I had to choose health."

George tried to deal with the bank himself, but it demanded the \$6,000 past-due amount – and nothing less.

"They don't even want to talk to you," he says. "It got to the point where I would look out at my back yard garden and say to it, 'I may not have you this time next year.'"

Frustrated and confused, he turned to the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania for help, and his case was given to Consumer Paralegal **Lauren Kluz-Wisniewski**. Lauren negotiated several repayment arrangements and loan modifications with his mortgage company when he began falling behind.

Unfortunately, because of George's recurring health problems, he was unable to stay current. Eventually, the mortgage company informed Lauren they were unwilling to negotiate any further on George's loans.

Katy Feniello, who replaced Kluz-Wisniewski when she left for law school, took over the case. George was behind on the mortgage, and feared he had lost his last chance to keep his house. His health had stabilized, and he had recently finished reorganizing his finances. He knew he could stay current, but the last words from the mortgage company were discouraging. Katy, however, was determined.

She called the mortgage company and negotiated with the representative who had been handling George's mortgage for years. He said that with so many broken agreements in the past, they simply could not agree to another plan.

Katy explained that she and George understood the mortgage company's position, but now that George was better, he was determined to get back on track and stay there.

His house and his stability were too important to him. Katy persisted until the representative agreed: George could have one more chance.

Katy says. "That kind of excitement is contagious, I just had to make this mortgage rep feel it too."



Katy negotiated terms George was able to meet and he has not had any mortgage problems since. And once spring returned, he revived his backyard herb and vegetable garden.

"It's tremendous therapy for me ... when the weather is good, I am back there working on it,"

he says. "I have the four 'G's going for me: God, gardening, garlic and greens."

With the stress of losing his home off his mind, he focused on his health – and is now cancer-free.

"I could not have done this on my own," George says. "We are truly blessed to get connected with people that really care. It's a professional relationship, but it's also personal because the other person actually cares."

A perfect combination: Getting justice and preventing future harm

After a 4-year-long legal struggle, a financial settlement for an HIV-positive snack-food factory worker was the classic kind of “win-win” for the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania: Righting a wrong for a client,

There’s this misconception that’s been out there for years that people with HIV can’t be food-service workers.

Sarah Schalman-Bergen

and helping to ensure that the wrongdoer and others wouldn’t repeat the mistake.

Our client, a single mother of four in Lancaster, Pa., was placed at the snack-food factory by a national staffing agency. With a staffing agency representative present, a factory supervisor fired our client because she has HIV.

We filed suit, and the snack-food manufacturer and the staffing agency agreed to settle the case. In addition to the financial compensation,

the staffing agency also agreed to distribute posters to all the food-service businesses at which it places workers.

The posters remind the businesses that federal and state law prohibits discrimination against workers with HIV, and that HIV/AIDS is not on the list of diseases that can be transmitted through food handling.

“Not only did this victory benefit the client personally, but we also made sure others will be educated so that this kind of discrimination doesn’t happen to others,” said **Ronda B. Goldfein**, Esq., the AIDS Law Project’s executive director and the lead attorney on the case.

“Both legal work and education are really the heart of what we do here,” Ronda added.

The story began in 2007 when the agency placed her at the factory to clean the snack-food manufacturing equipment.

Later that year, she was fired and told that federal law prohibited people with HIV from working around food.

In fact, the opposite is the truth.

“There’s this misconception that’s been out there for years that people with HIV

can’t be food-service workers,” said **Sarah Schalman-Bergen**, *of counsel* with the AIDS Law Project. Sarah also worked on the case.

“You can’t fire someone because they have HIV, but I’m amazed that there are restaurant owners, caterers, and apparently even large manufacturers that haven’t gotten the message,” said Sarah, an associate at Berger & Montague, P.C., in Philadelphia.

The snack-food case is one in a long line of HIV-discrimination matters that the AIDS Law Project has fought over the years involving food preparation.

Most notably, a sandwich-shop owner in eastern Pennsylvania settled a similar bias case in 2008. The owner had fired a worker upon finding out she had HIV.

In that case, the sandwich shop paid an undisclosed amount and agreed to include a nondiscrimination policy in its employee handbook and train its workers on universal precautions.

“There, as in this case, it was an opportunity to get the word out,” Ronda said. “Of course, as a result of the snack-food case, the message will go out to dozens if not hundreds of workplaces around Pennsylvania. That’s the biggest win.”

Temple Law graduate **Carolyn Kumah**, who was a legal intern at the time, assisted in the case, as did **Arlene Vasquez**, our administrative assistant.

Latest edition of Public Benefits Manual still on sale

We still have copies for sale of our Public Benefits Advocacy Manual. The manual is a comprehensive but easy to use guide on eligibility for public benefits in Pennsylvania. Each chapter provides detailed instructions, practice tips, flow charts and examples for case managers and other advocates to ensure that clients get the benefits to which they are entitled. For your own copy, go to our website at www.aidslawpa.org or call our office at **215-587-9377**. Each manual costs \$75.

Law review article on AIDS Law Project now online

An article on the pioneering work of the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania that recently was published in the Temple Law Review is now on the Web. It was written by Executive Director Ronda B. Goldfein, Esq., and Sarah R. Schalman-Bergen, Esq., *of counsel*, and entitled “From the Streets of Philadelphia: The AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania’s How-to Primer on Mitigating Health Disparities.” The Temple Law Review is a student-edited, quarterly legal journal published by the Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia. The article is available at <http://bit.ly/rt2Z2G>.



Housing Attorney **Rafiah Davis**, takes in the sights in Rome, Italy. She was selected to participate in the International Development Law Organization’s yearly Consultation on HIV-Related Legal Services and Rights, held in Rome this July. Rafiah joined a discussion on how to strengthen and expand HIV-related legal services.

Still available: AIDS and the Law Handbook

The 2011 edition of our eagerly-anticipated handbook, *AIDS and the Law: Your Rights in Pennsylvania*, is available for purchase. The 85-page guide has answers to questions across each of our practice areas. Take advantage of the distilled wisdom of our in-house legal experts on matters from discrimination and health insurance to public benefits and permanency planning for child custody. To buy your copy, go to our website at www.aidslawpa.org or call our office at **215-587-9377**. Each handbook costs \$25.

New Quality Assurance Report Published

The AIDS Law Project is always concerned with improving the quality of our services. That's why we created a Quality Assurance Team to internally monitor our performance. Given the attorney's duty of confidentiality to clients, and the sensitive nature of the attorney-client privilege, all quality reviews are done strictly in-house.

To assess how we are performing, every year we review the public benefits cases we completed and closed in the 3rd quarter of the year (July 1-Sept. 30). The report examines the outcome of all public benefits cases that were closed in July, August, or September of 2010.

Benefits cases include the Department of Public Welfare and the benefits it oversees (food stamps, cash assistance, medical assistance); the Social Security Administration and its benefits (Supplemental Security Insurance, Social Security Disability Insurance); and other Public Benefits programs.

In the 3rd quarter 2010 we closed 85 files of people who contacted the AIDS Law Project requesting legal assistance with public benefits. We are happy to report that we successfully provided direct representation, legal advice and/or referrals to 88% of them.

Thanks to former paralegal **Jacob Eden** for organizing and drafting the report, and to database consultant **Robert Levesque** for his research assistance. The full report is available on our website at <http://www.aidslawpa.org/about-alpp/quality-assurance-studies/>.



Jeffrey Crowley (center), Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, visited the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania's office in October with policy advisor Chantelle Britton (second from left). With them is Housing Attorney Rafiah Davis (left), Managing Attorney Yolanda French Lollis (right), and Executive Director Ronda B. Goldfein. The Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP) coordinates the continuing efforts of the government to reduce the number of HIV infections across the country.

TAKE A SEMINAR, TAKE CONTROL

Life can be a little easier with the right information at your fingertips. Our AIDS and the law experts give you the lowdown on how to leave your job, go back to work or handle your landlord. These free seminars are held at our offices at 1211 Chestnut St., Suite 600, just a short walk from the Broad Street and Market/Frankford SEPTA lines, Market East trains and many bus lines. (All dates below are for 2011-2012.)

BACK TO WORK

Your medications are working and you're ready to get a job. This seminar covers the rules of returning to work so you won't lose the benefits that got you healthier in the first place. You'll also learn how to improve your credit rating with your new income.

Second Tuesday of the month, noon-2 p.m.

Nov. 15 Dec. 13 Jan. 10 Feb. 14 March 13 April 10 May 8 June 12

LEAVING YOUR JOB

Making a smooth transition from the working world onto disability benefits takes planning. This seminar lays out a step-by-step timeline so you know what to expect when it's time to make the move. You'll also learn how to avoid some of the common debt pitfalls leaving a job can entail and how to handle the debt you may take with you into retirement.

Second Wednesday of the month, noon-2 p.m.

Nov. 9 Dec. 14 Jan. 11 Feb. 8 March 14 April 11 May 9 June 13

HOUSING: TENANTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Before you sign a lease or offer a security deposit, learn what to expect of your landlord and what your landlord can legally expect of you. This program covers protecting and retrieving your deposits, record keeping, qualifying for subsidies, dealing with utilities, and all aspects of the landlord/tenant court process.

Second Thursday of the month, noon-2 p.m.

Nov. 10 Dec. 8 Jan. 12 Feb. 9 March 8 April 12 May 10 June 14

Fun in the Summertime

The AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania knows how to suspend its usual gravitas for a little summer fun.

More than 100 supporters and camp-film lovers came out in August for the Summer Movie Party, held this year at the William Way Community Center in Center City. We screened "Look In Any Window" from 1961, starring then-pop idol Paul Anka as a teenaged peeping tom. Thanks to Secret Cinema's **Jay Schwartz** for the movie, to guest speaker and film historian **Richard Barrios**, Chef **Tim Bellew** of **Fare Restaurant** for his gourmet creations, to

Flying Fish Brewing Company and board member **Avi Eden** for providing craft beer, and to our staff and volunteers for setting up.

And on another hot summer night, Executive Director **Ronda Goldfein** (right) enjoyed an evening out with AIDS Fund director **Robb Reichard** (center) and **Joshua Lang** of El Dorado Rum. The three took part in the second annual "Bar AIDS," a fundraiser in late August for four AIDS-related organizations: ActionAIDS, AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia FIGHT and Mazzoni Center. More than a dozen bars and coffee shops agreed



Photo by Kristina Hill

to donate a share of their night's profits. Attorney **Meryl Katz**, paralegal **Kevin Manuel-Bentley** and intern **Francesca Fiamingo** volunteered at different venues.

AIDS Law Project leader receives award at Outfest

Executive Director **Ronda B. Goldfein**, Esq. received the 2011 "Outproud Friend" award, given by Philly Pride, organizers of the PrideDay Parade and Festival, OutFest and other Philadelphia Pride events. The award recognizes contributions made by allies on behalf of the LGBT community. Ronda was formally presented her award on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2011, at Outfest, held in Center City.

AIDS Law Project back at GayBINGO! in 2012

The AIDS Law Project will be the Featured Partner at the GayBINGO! on June 9, 2012. Mark your calendars now, and save the date! The theme is "Under the Boardwalk." GayBINGO! is an irreverent and campy monthly event that raises money for people in the Delaware Valley living with HIV/AIDS. The event will be at the Gershman Y (401 S. Broad) at the intersection of Broad & Pine, in Center City Philadelphia. Tickets are \$25 for reserved floor seats, and \$20 for balcony. Doors open at 6 p.m.; games begin at 7 p.m. and last about two hours. You can follow GayBINGO! on Facebook; go to www.facebook.com/gaybingophilly.

Thousands lace up their shoes for AIDS Walk Philly 2011

Staff, clients and friends of the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania attended the annual AIDS Walk Philly in October, which raised \$350,000 for organizations that help people with HIV/AIDS. More than 15,000 people walked or ran a route in the Art Museum area.

TRAINING AT A GLANCE

In the second and third quarters of 2011, the AIDS Law Project offered several opportunities to learn about AIDS and the law, including in-house seminars on topics vital to our clients and many others. Here's a snapshot of our training:

TRAINEE DEMOGRAPHICS

April-September 2011

Who attended

30 clients*
60 medical students
196 case managers and other health professionals

Off-site locations

Cranberry, Pa. (western Pennsylvania)
Danville, Pa. (northeastern Pennsylvania)
New Cumberland, Pa. (central Pennsylvania)
Various locations in Philadelphia (southeastern Pennsylvania)

Most-requested topics

Public benefits
Pennsylvania HIV-confidentiality law

Sponsors

Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia
Einstein Internal Medicine Community Practice Center, Philadelphia
Health Federation of Philadelphia, a network of the community health centers in Southeastern Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania/MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center, Philadelphia
Philadelphia Department of Public Health, AIDS Activities Coordinating Office (AACO)
Quality Progressions, a support-coordination organization for people with intellectual disabilities in southeastern and northeastern Pennsylvania
Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia

*30 people identified themselves as AIDS Law Project clients. Other attendees may be clients, but choose not to identify as such.

Changes...

A Departure, and a Promotion

We bid a fond farewell to **Cathryn Miller-Wilson**, Esq., our deputy managing attorney, who leaves us after more than a decade to teach full-time in Villanova Law School's Civil Justice Clinic. Taking over for Cathy as deputy managing attorney is our own **Asha Ramachandran**, Esq. Asha will continue to specialize in all areas of public benefits, as well as assume Cathy's administrative responsibilities. We wish Cathy good luck and we'll miss her, and congratulations to Asha!

Welcome new staffers



Anna Kastner joins us as our newest intake advocate. She comes to us already having experience assisting clients, having most recently worked as a benefits-outreach specialist and also as an outreach coordinator. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, and intends to pursue a law degree in the future. "What's been most striking to me is the interconnectedness of the issues we help clients with," Anna says. She recently assisted a client whose Social Security benefits changed, which then affected her food stamps and medical assistance. "It's challenging, but interesting and rewarding work."



Jacqueline Hair is our new administrative assistant and in-house technology specialist. Jacqui, a business student at Strayer University, enjoys spending her free hours playing video games and being with pets. After she graduates, she hopes to open her own technology business geared specifically towards not-for-profit organizations like the AIDS Law Project.

Back to School

The "education bug" has bitten two of our staff. Paralegal **Jacob Eden** departed this summer to pursue a law degree at American University's Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C., and paralegal **Katy Feniello** is switching to part time as she takes prerequisite courses to attend nursing and midwifery school. We wish them well in their studies.

Welcome interns

The AIDS Law Project welcomes a new group of student interns who will be assisting us as part of this year's Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University's Civil Practice Field Clinic:

Francesca Fiamingo, a third-year law student, is working on immigration and Social Security disability cases with Managing Attorney Yolanda French Lollis. Francesca graduated from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va., with a degree in history. She most recently interned at the Dauphin County (Pa.) District Attorney's Office. Francesca is a self-described "foodie," Scrabble aficionado, grammar buff, and she knits elaborate blankets and shawls.

Alex Holmquist, a third-year law student, is working on housing cases with attorney Rafiah Davis. He comes to the Law Project with some housing experience after working a summer internship at the Neighborhood Legal Services Association in Pittsburgh. Before coming to Philadelphia, Alex was in Des Moines, Iowa, earning a degree in marketing and business management.

Gloria Maeng, a second-year law student, is working on consumer-finance cases with attorney Meryl Katz. She is a native of Washington state, with an interest in public-interest and government law. She graduated college from Drexel University, where she studied chemistry. She enjoys running, traveling, and learning different languages.

Matt Mossman, a third-year law student, is working on confidentiality and discrimination cases with Executive Director Ronda Goldfein. He graduated from Ohio University with a degree in political science. He spends his free time cooking elaborate meals and exploring vegan food options in West Philadelphia restaurants.

Lewis Ouksel, a third-year law student, is working on housing issues with staff attorney Rafiah Davis. He graduated from Emory University in Atlanta with a degree in history and economics. Prior to law school, he worked in commercial real estate in Chicago. He most recently interned at the Complex Litigation Center in Philadelphia.

Irena Shiloh, a third-year law student, is working on public-benefits cases with Deputy Managing Attorney Asha Ramachandran. She was born in Kiev, Ukraine, and grew up in Skopje, Macedonia, and Belgrade, Serbia, and speaks or understands five languages. Irena got a business administration degree from IFAM Business School in Paris, France. She has previously interned with Common Pleas Court Judge Sandra Mazer Moss. Irena also is a singer-songwriter; her music can be found at www.myspace.com/irenasongwriter.

Also, thanks again to our summer 2011 interns: **Kat Lawrence, Adrian Lowe, Colleen Masker, Alicia Merrill, Beverly Perrone and Christina Smith.**

In Memoriam

The AIDS Law Project mourns the loss of the Rev. Dr. **Robert V. Hanrahan**. Rev. Hanrahan, who volunteered with us in the early 1990s, passed away on June 18 at the age of 76. We extend condolences to his family.

Congratulations

The AIDS Law Project proudly congratulates our former interns and summer associates who passed the July 2011 administration of the Pennsylvania Bar examination:

Daniel Baltuch, Earthen Johnson, J. Nicole Martin, Wayne Nguyen, Tanesha Readom, Anette Thomas, Zoe Tsien.

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**The AIDS Law Project is the convener of the HIV Policy Collaborative of Pennsylvania, a consortium of AIDS service organizations active in dozens of counties across the Commonwealth. Collaborative members work together to develop and recommend medically-sound and legally-equitable policies for the management of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the treatment of people with HIV/AIDS.*