TRIBUTE TO DEAN LARRY KRAMER
OVER THE PAST 8 YEARS, STANFORD LAW SCHOOL HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A PUBLIC INTEREST POWERHOUSE.
Endowed in early 2007, the Levin Center for Public Service and Public Interest Law now has five full-time attorneys on staff to focus on building a strong public interest community internally and externally.
With the expansion of public interest resources, our students and alumni have made a name for Stanford as an incubator of public interest talent.
Our Pro Bono Program now offers over 20 projects and sends students to serve clients in the local community and beyond.
With Dean Kramer’s support, we organized special events and symposia to bring public interest lawyers to campus and inspire reflection on the state of public interest law today.
During his tenure, Dean Kramer has redefined the Stanford Law School experience, including changing the physical landscape. Among the many new amenities is the fantastic clinical center on the ground floor of the new Neukom Building.
Under Dean Kramer’s leadership, the Mills Legal Clinic has expanded dramatically and also become a full-time immersion experience for our students.

“The Stanford clinical experience gave me invaluable practical perspective on classroom concepts. And working with clients kept me focused on why I came to law school in the first place.”

- Lauren Sun, JD ’08

“...I’ve had the opportunity to testify at state hearings and to argue a complex environmental case in the trial and appellate courts—experiences many fifth-year firm associates only dream of. The mix of practical and theoretical training is unparalleled; nobody should leave Stanford without doing a clinic.”

- Rhett Millsaps, JD ’07
“It’s wonderful for a law student to be able to serve members of the community and be exposed to the issues that people face right in Stanford’s backyard, from unpaid wages and sexual harassment at popular local restaurants to families living in essentially uninhabitable conditions. Having this opportunity to work with and empower our clients has been a transformative part of my legal education.”

- Laurel Parker, JD ’07
FACULTY, ALUMNI AND STUDENTS ALSO WANTED TO SHARE THE IMPACT DEAN KRAMER HAS HAD ON THEIR LIVES...
Dear Larry--

Thinking of your energy and efficiency and the public interest and clinical programs you have supported brings to mind the words of the great abolitionist, Theodore Parker: "All the noise and dust is only the wagons bringing the harvest home."

Congratulations and deepest thanks.

Barbara
"There is no Dean of any major law school in America who has been nearly as visionary in building a world-class clinical program. The Stanford community will be in Larry Kramer's debt for generations to come."

- Larry Marshall
“The English poet Philip Larkin wrote that ‘always it is by bridges that we live.’ That's the hallmark of Larry's deanship. Unlike people who think there's an unbridgeable gulf between a commitment to cutting edge scholarship and interdisciplinary work on the one hand and extensive clinical education on the other, or who tell students they need to choose between private practice and public-interest or public-service work, Larry has built bridges throughout the law school.”

- Pam Karlan
“Larry Kramer made being a public interest student at Stanford Law School a badge of honor...”

- Suzanne McKechnie Klahr, JD ’99
“Larry Kramer is alive to both law's inherent academic interest and the enormously thorny practical problems lawyers are asked to solve for the public, and he's built a school at that intersection. He's made SLS a better place and helped get me started as a public interest lawyer. He also used to hang around outside the school in a hoodie – a totally approachable Midwesterner who happens to be brilliant.”

- Craig Segall, JD ’07
“From my first cold call in his Civil Procedure class, to my onstage hug as he handed me my diploma, Dean Kramer guided me through law school, teaching me confidence, perseverance, and loyalty. I remain in awe of his generosity, energy, and kindness. Thank you Dean for everything. Law school would not have been the same without you.”

- Jessi Brooks, JD ’11
“SITTING IN CONFLICTS WITH DEAN KRAMER IS LIKE INTELLECTUAL CANDY.”

- ROSE EHLER, JD ’12
“Without Dean Kramer's unstinting support for public interest at Stanford, I wouldn't have the job I have today and the career I hope to have tomorrow.”

- Tommy Nosewicz, JD ’08
“Dean Kramer has an amazing knack for connecting with and caring for each of us - where we are at in our career, in our personal life, with our aspirations. He is an example of humble and visionary leadership for me.”

- Catherine Henderson, JD ’07
I can honestly say that my experience wouldn't have been what it was at SLS without Dean Kramer. He had this way of making me feel supported and always encouraged me to be a doer and keep rattling cages...even his cage. SLS won't be the same without him. But SLS and its vibrant public interest community is what it is because of him. He may be leaving, but Dean Kramer will always be Larry. My Dean.

- Tamika Butler, JD ’09
“My first memory of Dean Kramer is from the welcome reception for Admitted Students’ Weekend. He was wearing a baseball cap, and his entire presentation stood in stark contrast with the Deans of other schools I'd visited. I thought to myself: this is a man who doesn't need pretense to sell his school. His remarks that day were as honest and heartfelt as that baseball cap. And when he spoke about the public interest program, and his dedication to the Levin Center and to LRAP, I really believed he meant what he said. Three years later, I'm proud to say that's still the case, and that his support for those programs has not wavered.”

- Maggie Filler, JD ’12
“I thought it was quite brave of Dean Kramer to appear in the 2005 Law School Musical in his first year at SLS. He stole the show!”

- Amy Finkelstein, JD ’05 (and Musical Co-Director 2005)
“Thank you for always having time to discuss selection of judges, even in a remote country such as Argentina. Thank you for always being there to help, with accurate advice and ideas.”

- Demian Zayat, JSM ’09
“Stanford Law School was the best educational experience of my life, and this was due in large part to Dean Kramer's influence as a leader, mentor, and teacher.”

- Melanie Wachtell Stinnett, JD ’07
“SLS clinics, pro bono projects, and spring break trip solidified my commitment to a public interest career. LRAP makes it financially possible. Thank you Dean Kramer for continually supporting PI at SLS.”

- Jordana Mosten, JD ’10
“Dean Kramer presented an interdisciplinary vision of legal education that sought to give us practical, hands on experience in being effective lawyers, especially through the clinical program. I'm happy to have had him as a Dean throughout my 1L year and wish him all the best in the future.”

- Mariam Hinds, JD ’14
“My conversation with Dean Kramer during my Admitted Students' weekend inspired me to choose Stanford over Harvard Law School. His strong support and sincere encouragement helped inspire me to work for my nonprofit instead of for a big firm right after graduation.”

- Afam Onyema, JD ’07
“It is a real accomplishment to support public interest students by relieving law school debt. But Dean Kramer has done so much more: He has made Stanford an institution where students can find a true calling in serving the public interest. Thank you, Dean Kramer, for strengthening the bones of this institution and for helping us do the same for society.”

- Orion Danjuma, JD ’11
“Dean Kramer has been a visionary and leader when it comes to making Stanford Law School a law school for the 21st century, which includes as a key pillar a deep commitment to public service. His leadership and support, along with Stanford's culture of service to the broader community, enabled me to pursue a public service legal career that I'm proud of both while a student at SLS and today. I'm proud to be a Stanford alum and to consider Larry a friend. Congrats to Larry on a successful deanship, thanks for all you've done for public interest students, and best of luck in your own public interest work at the Hewlett Foundation.”

- Andrew Blotky, JD ’09
Larry: In 2004, shortly after you arrived, I introduced you like this -

Dean Kramer has led the law school only a brief time, but he has shown during his tenure a willingness to take risks and provide leadership that is admirable as well as courageous. While he might not (or perhaps he does) identify as a public interest lawyer himself, I would posit that he shares many characteristics of the best of public interest lawyers – a willingness to challenge the status quo, a confidence in his vision of how the world should be, and an open mind that encourages those around him to voice dissent in order to devise the most appropriate remedy for any wrong that has been identified. But perhaps most importantly... he has shown a commitment to the idea that the law is a place where public interest can call home.

In your new position (save for the income), I will point out to you, you are technically entering qualifying employment for our LRAP. Congratulations, you are officially a public interest lawyer.

- Diane T. Chin
Thank you for leaving such a wonderful legacy!