

FALL 2009 NEW FACULTY

Chinwe Esimai

J.D., Harvard Law School
B.A. in political science from the
City College of New York, *summa
cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*

Chinwe Esimai has been appointed to the School of Law faculty. Esimai brings an impressive academic and professional record, most recently from Goldman, Sachs & Co. in New York City where she served as vice president of Regulatory Audits and Inquiries. In this role, she handled complex regulatory inquiries in connection with various businesses within the firm, including investment banking, equity sales and trading, and global investment research.

“Students will benefit from Chinwe’s professional experience and she is poised to contribute significantly to the scholarship of our faculty,” said Tom Mengler, School of Law dean. “She is also a wonderful person who will contribute much to the entire community.”

At Harvard Law School, where she obtained her J.D., she was primary editor of the Human Rights Journal.

Following her graduation, Esimai practiced as a corporate associate in New York City at Dewey & LeBoeuf, L.L.P. (formerly LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae, L.L.P.), where she worked primarily on capital markets transactions, mergers and acquisitions, project financing, and securities regulation. Subsequently, she advised the financial services arm of MetLife Inc. on compliance with securities regulations set forth by the U.S. Securities and Exchange



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Commission and the National Association of Securities Dealers.

Utilizing her expertise in U.S. corporate law and securities regulation, her research and scholarship focus on the interaction between law and finance in emerging markets, specifically, how securities regulation may be used as a tool to promote efficiency and sustainability in Africa’s capital markets. She has presented and lectured at conferences discussing various issues impacting African development, including the growth of Africa’s capital markets and private equity in Africa. Her work has been published in *Current History*, a *Journal of Contemporary World Affairs*.

She will teach Securities Regulation, Business Associations and an international and comparative law seminar on Law and Finance in Emerging Markets.

Sarah Solz Brenes

B.A., George Washington University
J.D., University of St. Thomas
School of Law

The Legal Services Clinic of the Inter-professional Center for Counseling and Legal Services has named Sarah Solz Brenes as the Legal Services Clinic Fellow for 2009.

Brenes ’08 was chosen from a field of 14 outstanding applicants.

“We were once again blessed with the enviable challenge of selecting from an excellent pool of well qualified candidates so clearly committed to the center’s mission of providing services based on the principles of social justice and Catholic social teaching,” said Virgil Wiebe, associate professor of law and co-director of the center. He added, “Among Ms. Brenes’ many qualifications which impressed the selection committee [were] her demonstrated commitment to public service and social justice work, prior experience in immigration law as a paralegal and intern, international experience and demonstrated potential as a teacher and supervisor of clinic students.”

The fellowship is designed for recent graduates of the University of St. Thomas School of Law who have shown a demonstrated commitment to public service and social justice. Appointments are for one year, with the expectation that appointments will be renewed for up to three years.

NOTABLE FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

In spring, three School of Law professors had books accepted for publication.

Joel A. Nichols, editor, *Marriage and Divorce in a Multi-Cultural Context: Reconsidering the Boundaries of Civil Law and Religion* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming)

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, caused a substan-

tial stir in February 2008 when he called for a “plural jurisdiction” over some disputes within the United Kingdom. The archbishop specifically proffered a system wherein Muslims could choose to resolve family law disputes (and some other civil matters) in either religious tribunals or in British courts. In July 2008, Lord Chief Justice Lord Phillips (the most senior judge in Britain) seconded the archbishop’s sentiment and,

in public remarks, signaled his approval of the application of Islamic law (*shari’a*) so long as divorce rulings complied with the law of the land. These strong statements came only a few short years after quite public discussions in Ontario, Canada, about the propriety of religious courts operating as arbitration tribunals in family law matters. Currently in South Africa, both the legislative and judicial branches continue to