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Reframing Public Service Law: Innovative Approaches  
to Integrating Public Service Into the Legal Profession*

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# A Foreword - The Ben J. Altheimer Symposium: Reframing Public Service Law: Innovative Approaches to Integrating Public Service into the Legal Profession

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## A FORWARD—THE BEN J. ALTHEIMER SYMPOSIUM: REFRAMING PUBLIC SERVICE LAW: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO INTEGRATING PUBLIC SERVICE INTO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

The *University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law Review* hosted the annual Ben J. Alzheimer Symposium<sup>1</sup> March 31, 2011 at the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law. The symposium is the law school's signature scholarly conference to promote discussion of, and scholarship on, a chosen topic. This year, the Bowen School of Law partnered with the Clinton School of Public Service to present *Reframing Public Service Law: Innovative Approaches to Integrating Public Service into the Legal Profession*.

Public Service Law encompasses lawyering that has an impact beyond the immediate case or client, and the aim of this year's symposium was to re-conceptualize traditional notions of public service and its implications for the legal profession. As a concurrent degree student with both the Bowen School of Law and the Clinton School of Public Service—the only JD/MPS program offered in the world—the choice of topic for this symposium was intuitive and particularly significant to the law school's core values of access to justice, public service, and professionalism.

It is clear that the topic of public service extends across many legal focuses and is relevant to a diverse range of individuals—lawyers and non-lawyers alike—whether working with local, state, national or international concentrations. For example, pro bono representation, cause lawyering, and government subsidized legal services continue to present timely challenges for public service-minded professionals. Through the symposium's expert presentations and discussion, this year's event highlighted current and relevant issues in public service law academia, as well as new and innovative approaches for facing the challenges of integrating public service into the legal profession.

More than 250 attorneys, academics, and students attended the event, which included four topic-specific sessions throughout the day and a keynote lunch address given by one of Arkansas's most popular and legendary public servants: **Senator David Pryor**. In the first session, **Professor Russell Pearce of Fordham Law** presented on the "The Healing Power of Public Service" followed by a response presentation from **Professor Kenneth**

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1. The Ben J. Alzheimer Foundation initially endowed the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law in 1978 to fund the Ben J. Alzheimer Symposium, an annual forum hosted by the Law Review for prominent speakers and timely, relevant legal issues. For more information about the Symposium Series see <http://ualr.edu/lawreview/index.php/home/symposium-series/>.

**Gallant of UALR Law.** The second session of the day spotlighted **Professor Scott Cummings of UCLA Law.** His topic was “The Future of Public Interest Law” and featured three responders: **Dean John DiPippa of UALR Law, Professor Louise Trubek of Wisconsin Law, and Professor Russell Pearce of Fordham Law.**

In the afternoon, **Bettina Brownstein** of the law firm Wright, Lindsey & Jennings moderated the third session entitled “Reframing Public Service.” The panel focused on a range of topics given by **Professor Susan Jones of George Washington Law, Mary Greer of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, and Professor Louise Trubek of Wisconsin Law.** **Lucie White of Harvard Law** submitted her presentation in hard copy form as she was unable to attend.

The final session of the day revolved around the topic of “21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges Facing Access to Justice” with **Arkansas Bar Association President Jim Julian** serving as the moderator. The panel began with an Arkansas practitioner focus, featuring former **Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Annabelle Imber-Tuck**, Executive Director for the **Arkansas Access to Justice Commission Amy Johnson**, and Executive Director of the **Center for Arkansas Legal Services Jean Carter** concurrently. Then, expanding the issues to a broader national focus, **Alan Houseman**, Executive Director of the **Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)** in Washington D.C., addressed the audience before both **Stephen Daniels** and **Joanne Martin** from the **ABA Foundation** discussed their current research.

What an honor for our law school and for the state of Arkansas to host such a large gathering of the nation’s leading academics and practitioners in the field of Public Service Law. Indeed, their participation made this event one of the premier conferences on this topic in the country, and the following published articles demonstrate some of the excellent scholarship and research presented during the symposium. It is my hope, and our intention, that the connections gained and shared between and among the law school, faculty, students, and the local and national presenters and practitioners during this event are just the beginning of a sustainable network for future scholarship and discussions serving to promote the law school’s aims towards access to justice, public service, and professionalism.

*Chanley Painter<sup>2</sup>*  
*Symposium Editor 2010-11*

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2. JD/MPS Candidate May 2011. She would like to thank Dean John DiPippa, Faculty Advisor Kelly Terry, and the 2010-11 UALR Law Review Board for their support with the symposium.