

ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS CIVIL LIBERTIES PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT

1977-1978 (re-created)

The Hays Fellows this year were Ellen M. Barry, Anita Cava, Edward Copeland, Michael P. Florio, Margaret Fong and Marianne Stecich (Robert Marshall Fellow).

Ellen Barry worked for the Center for Constitutional Rights with Rhonda Copelon, the Reproductive Rights Project of the ACLU directed by Janet Benshoof, and Sylvia on the Medicaid abortion challenge. Highlights included seeing a very pregnant Janet argue before Judge Dooling, who later won the “Man of the Year Award” from Ms. Magazine for a decision on behalf of poor women in another case. Immediately on graduation Ellen obtained a small public interest grant that enabled her to found Legal Services for Prisoners with Children in San Francisco.

Anita Cava worked at the NYCLU Reproductive Freedom Project documenting the public and private costs of raising a child. She worked with Tom Stoddard on a case involving obscenity and prior restraint. She recalls that “it was meaningful to have a group of colleagues whose commitment to the law went far beyond corporate transactions and such . . . The Hays Fellows made law school quite wonderful. Needless to say, having a core group of professors with a passion for protecting core values made all the difference.”

Ed Copeland worked with Rabinowitz, Boudin and Standard, representing James Peck, who had been seriously injured by Klan members while he was participating in the first freedom ride, as FBI agents looked on without intervening. Ed also helped to launch the NYU Law School Public Interest Law Foundation.

Michael P. Florio worked at the National Employment Law Center where he helped with a large sex discrimination suit against J. Walter Thompson, an advertising agency in New York City.

Margaret Fong worked much of the year with Bruce Ennis at the ACLU, drafting a model complaint and sample briefs to defend the rights of immigrants in a variety of settings, including challenges to discrimination in the workplace.

Marianne Stecich wrote, “My best recollection is that I worked on two projects for Lambda Legal Defense Fund – one was a pamphlet I wrote for the New York City Council as part of the lobbying effort for the Gay Rights bill in the City Council. The other was a brief in Virginia state court on reversing the decision of a court that granted a divorced father custody of a child solely because the mother was a lesbian. I don’t recall the outcome of the case.”