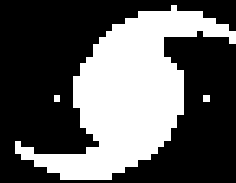


Student Hurricane Network

Law students working for justice in the Gulf Coast



WINTER BREAK 2005-06

In December 2005 and January 2006, over 240 law students from over fifty-seven law schools across the country converged on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and across Louisiana: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lafayette, Alexandria, and Covington to spend a part of their winter break volunteering with the SHN. Students worked with over eighteen diverse public interest organizations, assisting in a wide-range of tasks from physical cleanup and grassroots organizing to legal research and direct services.

The issues students worked on included criminal justice, housing, immigrant labor, FEMA claims, in placements with organizations as diverse as New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation, the People's Hurricane Relief Fund, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, the Louisiana Chapter of the ACLU, and the Mississippi Center for Justice. Some of their work is described below.

- SHN students helped lawyers at the Louisiana Capital Assistance Center win the release of 52 prisoners who had been detained since Hurricane Katrina in maximum-security prisons without being charged.
- SHN students discovered evacuees who were being prematurely evicted from a hotel where they were legally supposed to be able to stay for another month and a half. The students called attorneys to the site, staged a protest, and stopped the evictions.
- Working in the FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers across the area, SHN members staffed legal assistance tables and interviewed survivors to inventory their legal claims.
- After hearing about illegal bulldozing of homes in the Ninth Ward, without notice and in violation of an injunction, SHN students, along with attorneys from the People's Hurricane Relief Fund and others, raced to the site and successfully stopped the bulldozing. Soon after, the city reached a settlement with PHRF and promised to give notice to homeowners.

**To get involved in service opportunities or join the SHN,
email us or visit our website!**