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## INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR LINDSAY WILEY, NEW WCL HEALTH LAW PROFESSOR



**Professor Corrine Parver:** American University Washington College of Law's focus on Health Law and Policy, Program on Law and Government, really began five years ago. Significant growth has occurred over this time — for example, the Summer Health Law and Policy

Institute, the *Health Law and Policy* Brief, and the Health Law and Justice Initiative are just a few projects organized and run by the Program. Approximately twenty health law-related courses, including Food and Drug Law, Bioethics, Genetics, Health Care Legislative and Regulatory Process, Privacy and Health Information Technology, Medical Liability, Public Health, Current Trends in American Health Policy, and Reproductive Rights, are taught each academic year. A series of "Lunch and Learns" brings in specialists from various health law fields to discuss their areas of expertise, and several Symposia are held each semester on health care issues.

Given the success of the Health Law and Policy program and the importance of the health care industry to our nation's economy, the Dean concluded that it was time to engage a tenure track faculty member who would focus solely on health law and policy issues. We are extremely fortunate to have hired Professor Lindsay Wiley, who will begin teaching at WCL in the fall 2010 academic year.

**Interviewer:** Professor Wiley, can you tell us about your background and some of the activities that you will be involved in at WCL this fall?



**Professor Lindsay Wiley:** I have my Bachelor and Juris Doctor (J.D.) degrees from Harvard. After law school, I practiced at a law firm in Baltimore called Gordan, Feinblatt, Rothman LLC where I did primarily defense-side litigation on public nuisance suits and some product liability

claims. I also worked for the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics, where I focused on issues surrounding pain management and the law. I looked at a range of legal issues that influence physicians' decisions regarding palliative care, ranging from reimbursements to civil and criminal liability. It was very interesting to switch gears from doing defense-side litigation to working on policy issues with a non-profit organization.

After three years of private practice, I went to John Hopkins University to get my Masters in Public Health on a part-time basis, and I worked at a policy and research institute based at Hopkins called the Center for Law and the Public's Health. While at the Center, I worked on a range of U.S. health care policy issues such as access to care, health information privacy and expedited partner therapy as well as public health law issues like bio-security and public health preparedness. A theme that has united my work going back to that time is an effort to take into account the full social context of patient care. Expedited partner therapy, for example, is an approach that seeks to loosen regulations on prescription of medications to allow a doctor to provide not just enough antibiotics for the patient herself, but also enough for her to take to her sexual partner. The old way to handle this situation

was to provide the antibiotics to the patient and ask her to notify her partner and explain that he should come in for care. Research suggested that that was unlikely to occur. This is very dangerous for women that have sexually transmitted infections such as gonorrhea and chlamydia, because they are likely to get re-infected if their partner is not treated and frequent reinfection is associated with some pretty serious complications for women like pelvic inflammatory disease and infertility. The background in public health sciences like epidemiology and environmental health that I gained during my time at Hopkins has also strongly influenced my approach to a whole range of legal issues and prompted me to see health law not just as the law of health care, but as the understanding of law more broadly as a determinant of health.

I am currently the Global Health Law Program Director at the O'Neill Institute for Global and National Health Law, based at the Georgetown University Law Center. I have worked with the faculty to develop a comprehensive health law curriculum and I have also really enjoyed the opportunity to advise LL.M. and J.D. students about course selection and career options. In addition to working on academic programs, I have been involved in several research and policy projects at O'Neill.

Next fall I will be teaching Torts and in spring I will teach Health Law and a seminar on public health law. I am also looking forward to bringing some of my policy projects from my previous work to WCL where there may be opportunities for students to get involved.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, Professor Wiley. Is there anything else that you would like to say to the WCL Community?

**Professor Wiley:** I could not be more thrilled to be joining the faculty here. Dean Grossman has fostered a vibrant academic environment overflowing with opportunities for students and faculty alike. And for health law students, Practitioner-in-Residence Corrine Parver has created so many fantastic opportunities for students to hone their advocacy skills and gain invaluable insight into cutting edge developments in health law both domestically and internationally. I am looking forward to supporting the development of the health law program here over the course of my career on the faculty and I hope to add to the resources available for students interested in health law and related fields. WCL students are known far and wide for being a particularly engaged group and the faculty here is wonderfully collegial. I am really looking forward to making American University my new intellectual home.