

About the Faculty

BETSY GWIN is a Senior Economic Justice Attorney at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, where her work focuses on Safety Net Programs. She engages in litigation and policy and legislative advocacy on behalf of low-income communities and coalitions. Previously, Betsy worked as a clinical instructor at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School and as a public defender in child welfare proceedings at the Committee for Public Counsel Services. She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center.

JULIE McCORMACK is Senior Clinical Instructor and Director of the Safety Net Project of the Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, and also coordinates LSC's community legal education. She teaches and supervises law students representing clients in Social Security matters and in other agency settings including on employment, estate planning, consumer and other benefits issues. She is passionate about providing holistic service to address clients' broader legal needs, prevent homelessness and promote access to justice, and the imperative to be aware of safety net program rules when working with low-income clients and patients. Julie is a graduate of Ollscoil na hEireann, Gaillimh (National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland).

GINA M. PLATA-NINO is the SNAP Deputy Director at the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) a national organization, where she works to seek ways to improve SNAP's reach and support for low-income households, including people and families working their way up the economic ladder. She helps to produce and direct hands-on support to national, state and community-based organizations, state and local government agencies, private nonprofit organizations, and activists, providing legislative and technical assistance to strengthen SNAP's access, benefit adequacy, reach, and quality customer service. Prior to joining FRAC she worked with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute as a lead advocate on the Hunger Free Campus legislative campaign and helped address related food security issues among college students. Gina believes that food security provides an important role in the wellness of individuals. She trains community organizations and volunteers on overcoming obstacles to accessing government benefits, and how to maximize them.