



*Gianna Gruenwald [left], CJC Director Miye Goishi [center], and Rick Saveri, as CJC receives the “Smokeless Tobacco” case cy pres funds – \$400,000 to be shared equally by CJC and the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies.*

On October 28, 2009, attorneys Gianna Gruenwald ('03 Hastings graduate) and Rick Saveri of the firm Saveri & Saveri hand-delivered a check in the amount of \$400,000 to Hastings Civil Justice Clinic Director Miye Goishi. This cy pres award is to be shared equally by CJC and the Hastings Center for Gender & Refugee Studies (CGRS). The award is the result of a \$96 million settlement approved last year in an anti-trust and unfair competition case filed in 2002 against U.S. Tobacco, the maker of Skoal and other brands of chewing tobacco. Forty million dollars of settlement money that went unclaimed by class-action consumers in what is known as the “Smokeless Tobacco” case is going to more than 100 non-profits and charities throughout California. Gianna Gruenwald and Rick Saveri, as plaintiffs’ co-liaison counsel, worked with defense lawyers at Latham & Watkins to determine which non-profit organizations would receive the cy pres funds, based upon submissions of their work and their need. The cy pres funds awarded to CJC and CGRS will not only go towards providing Hastings students with real-life lawyering experience in a variety of practice areas, but will at the same time enable them to provide excellent legal services to an increasingly under-served population.