

# WASHBURN UNIVERSITY

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## SCHOOL OF LAW

Washburn Law Clinic



Dear Friends of the Washburn University Law Clinic:

Welcome to the first edition of our new Clinic newsletter. As we issue this newsletter, the Law Clinic has shifted to remote operations due to the threat of COVID-19. Thanks to the leadership of our Clinic faculty and staff members, the students in the Law Clinic had already been trained how to use technology in the representation of clients, so our Law Clinic did not miss a beat in the pivot to working remotely. During this pandemic, many of the Courts are closed, but our students continue to provide necessary and appropriate legal representation to low-income residents in Shawnee County. I want to

thank our new Faculty Director, Gillian Chadwick, and our Managing Director, Debi Schrock, for creating this newsletter to keep you informed on the work of the Law Clinic. You can expect the newsletter each Spring and Fall with a possible special issue when needed to keep you informed.

I also want to thank Professor John Francis for his years of devoted service to our students and clients in the Clinic. John has moved full time into classroom teaching so our students continue to benefit from his wealth of knowledge in the area of criminal law. I also owe thanks to Washburn Law alumnus Ron Wurtz for helping the Clinic during this time of transition and teaching students how to provide criminal defense representation to indigent clients.

With the threat of COVID-19 looming large, higher education confronts many challenges. There is much uncertainty right now. Our Law Clinic does not have an endowment fund dedicated to supporting its operations. Consequently, I would like to form a Dean's Fundraising Committee to help with fundraising for the Clinic. Creating this fund will position our Law Clinic to weather the storms of the future. If you are interested in helping with that effort, please email my assistant Donna McMurry at [donna.mcmurry@washburn.edu](mailto:donna.mcmurry@washburn.edu) and let her know that you are interested in serving on the committee and making a donation or pledge to start the Law Clinic Fund.

In the meantime, our faculty, staff, and students will continue to do the work to advance the mission of our Law Clinic. I am very proud of the HELP Project that is working to extend legal services to healthcare professionals in need of advance healthcare directives and other legal planning documents. Professor Michelle Ewert continues her outreach to low-income residents of Garden City, Kan., and we look forward to sharing more information about her work in the upcoming issues of the newsletter. Professor Janet Thompson

Jackson continues to teach students in the Business and Transactional Section of the Clinic. After relocating to the East Coast due to a professional opportunity extended to her husband, Professor Thompson Jackson became our first out-of-residence faculty member, and one of the first law school clinical professors in the country to teach an online law clinic. The students in the online Clinic rated the course extremely high and reported high satisfaction with their learning experience. So needless to say, we are very proud of Professor Thompson Jackson and her pioneering spirit!

This year is the Washburn Law Clinic's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we plan to celebrate this milestone during Alumni Weekend. So please save the evening of October 2 and plan to join us as we commemorate a half a century of service to students and our community. I hope to see you there!

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and I welcome you to call or email us for now. We hope to be able to invite you to visit with us on campus soon!

Sincerely,

Carla D. Pratt  
Dean and Professor of Law