

Professor Loretta Moore likes to help people, particularly the underdog and those who are oppressed and exploited because of their naiveté or their position in life. She has taught the importance of that work to students in the Washburn Law Clinic, which serves clients who could not otherwise afford legal counsel.

A member of the Washburn University School of Law faculty since 1991, Professor Moore has had several careers. Her first was in medical record library science. During that time, she worked closely with legal counsel and gave professional testimony in court. Those responsibilities influenced her decision to pursue a law degree. She received her J.D. from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis in 1978.

Armed with her new degree, Professor Moore was a civil litigation associate with Lashley & Baer in St. Louis and later co-founded her own firm, Vickers, Moore and Wiest. She also served as municipal court judge in Pinelawn, Missouri.

At Washburn Law, Professor Moore encourages students to follow her lead and explore what possibilities may await them once they are out of law school. "I remember the advice an associate gave me years ago," she said. "He explained how diverse a law degree can be and encouraged me to explore all the possibilities of how I could use my education, in addition to litigation."

Professor Moore specializes in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and teaches a class on the topic. Her interest in finding alternatives to litigation was spawned during her time as a litigator. "There were times when litigation seemed futile," she said. She was introduced to ADR during a continuing legal education seminar and felt it offered a "suitable set of alternatives to some litigation."

Her other teaching responsibilities include courses on Sports Law and Advocacy Skills in Negotiation and Mediation. As committee chair she provides students with externships.

"Practical experience is crucial. I'm working to expand externships, looking for field placements at firms where students can gain experience and knowledge, particularly in business and family law," Professor Moore said. "Our Law Clinic and externships offer excellent opportunities for students to get real world experience."

Professor Moore is passionate about the value of a law degree. "Our role as lawyers is to bring about change where change needs to be made and to preserve what is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution," she said.

Coming to Washburn Law has proved to be a wise decision for her. "The faculty here is sincere, dedicated, open, and very helpful. Washburn is a great learning environment. There is a small community feeling. Students are recognized by professors and don't become just numbers," she said.

In Professor Moore's view, the learning isn't a one-way street, however. "I've probably learned as much from my students as

they have from me. Hearing from past students and learning how they are succeeding is very fulfilling. It's good to think that I and other faculty members are making an impact on students' lives."

Reflecting on her life, Professor Moore said she has enjoyed her career and the roads she traveled to get to where she is today. "I believe that every experience and every person you encounter is for a reason and make you what you are today," she said.

Nevertheless, she encourages her students not to take themselves too seriously. "If you do, you'll miss out on many possibilities! If you become too serious you miss seeing the small things and may miss extraordinary opportunities," she said.

And finally she offers this

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bit of advice: "Attitude is everything; it is what shapes your well-being. The only thing you can ultimately control is your attitude. You cannot control other people's actions or words towards you, but you can control how you react to those encounters. And that's what counts."

Professor Loretta Moore

Faculty

