

Experiential Learning:

LAW CLINICS & EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Washburn Law offers students a number of experiential learning opportunities. Between the six Clinics and the Externship Program, students participated in 170 opportunities during the 2008-09 academic year.

LAW CLINICS

Washburn Law Clinic operates as a general practice law office, in which qualifying students obtain a special license from the Supreme Court of Kansas authorizing them to practice law. Under the guidance of faculty supervising attorneys, Clinic students represent real people from the community in court cases and transactional projects. Participation in Washburn Law Clinic can help law students improve practice skills and cure courtroom jitters.

Law school classes provide an important educational foundation for students preparing to enter the legal profession. Clinical experience provides students the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge in a professional and practical learning environment by representing real clients in real cases.

Washburn Law offers six clinics in a number of different practice areas.

LITIGATION CLINICS

Washburn Law offers four litigation clinics — Children and Family Law Clinic, Criminal Defense Clinic, State Tribal Court Practice Clinic, and Civil Litigation Clinic.

The Children and Family Law Clinic includes Family Law (representing clients in state district court in domestic cases), Juvenile Law (representing teenagers at risk through appearances in juvenile court), and Immigration (representing undocumented abused women, who are married to citizens or lawful permanent residents, to help these women secure legal status).

Students involved in the Criminal Defense Clinic provide legal representation for indigent defendants charged with criminal offenses.

Clinic interns in the State Tribal Court Practice Clinic represent Native and non-Native clients in tribal, state, and municipal court on criminal and family law cases.

Experiential Learning Opportunities

2008-09 ACADEMIC YEAR


LITIGATION CLINICS.....	66
CRIMINAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY CLINIC.....	12
SMALL BUSINESS AND TRANSACTIONAL LAW CLINIC	15
EXTERNSHIPS.....	77
TOTAL OPPORTUNITIES.....	170

Student interns in the Civil Litigation Clinic represent clients in general civil cases such as consumer, landlord/tenant, contract, and elder law issues.

CRIMINAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY CLINIC

Students in the Criminal Appellate Advocacy Clinic work on actual felony criminal appeals assigned to the Kansas Appellate Defender Office (ADO).

Each student works, under the supervision of the ADO attorney who is also a visiting assistant law professor, on two actual felony criminal appeals assigned to that office. Students focus primarily on going through the records on appeal and preparing their clients' briefs that will, under supervision, be filed in the Kansas Court of Appeals.

 Case highlights are available at www.washburnlaw.edu/clinic/appellate/



Justice Eric Rosen, '84, presided over the spring 2009 Clinic swearing-in ceremony.

SMALL BUSINESS AND TRANSACTIONAL LAW CLINIC

In the Small Business and Transactional Law Clinic (Transactional Clinic), upper-level law students provide business and legal assistance to small businesses and nonprofit organizations in Topeka and surrounding areas.

The Transactional Clinic has two primary goals:

- To help students develop skills in business counseling and transactional law; and
- To serve the legal needs of businesses and nonprofit organizations that cannot afford to hire legal counsel.

These activities are performed under the supervision of an experienced licensed attorney who is also a member of the law school faculty.

EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

During the 2008-09 academic year, 77 students participated in the Externship Program. This program provides students with an opportunity to enhance their legal education through off-campus placements, where they learn through hands-on experience. Enrollment in the program has increased 35% since 2005-06.

New opportunities over the past year include externships with the Kansas City Chiefs and Collective Brands, Inc., the holding company for Payless ShoeSource.

Students can participate in an externship after they have completed one year of study. Many of the externship opportunities do not require students to be admitted under Rule 709, allowing students to obtain professional experience early in their law school careers.

Externs handle real issues and work on real assignments, impacting the lives of the people involved. Students must be especially mindful of conducting themselves as professionals, including being aware of professional responsibility and confidentiality issues.

The program is directed by Kelly Lynn Anders, Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

 Additional information about the Externship Program is available at www.washburnlaw.edu/current/externship/

RECENT CLINIC ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION TO TRIBAL COURT PRACTICE CLE

Kansas attorneys are practicing law in tribal courts in increasing numbers. Effective practice in tribal courts requires familiarity with law and procedures unique to these jurisdictions. On October 3, 2008, Washburn Law, in partnership with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court, hosted “Introduction to Tribal Court Practice.”

The 38 attendees were introduced to the sources of law for tribal courts, jurisdiction in tribal courts, and common legal issues encountered when practicing criminal law in tribal courts. Additionally, the program introduced practitioners to legal research tools useful to tribal court practice, the practicalities of drafting motions for tribal courts, and the use of custom and tradition evidence when arguing cases before a tribal court. Held at the Prairie Band Casino and Resort in Mayetta, Kan., the program primarily focused on practice in Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court and Kickapoo Nation Tribal Court.

Washburn Law Professors Aliza Organick, John Francis, and Tonya Kowalski were presenters at the program.

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JURY TRIAL WIN FOR WASHBURN LAW CLINIC STUDENTS

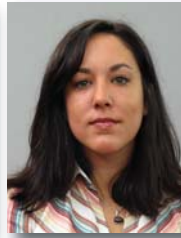
RECENT CLINIC ACTIVITIES

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JURY TRIAL WIN FOR WASHBURN LAW CLINIC STUDENTS

It is uncommon for Washburn Law Clinic interns to have a jury trial, but this spring, Jennifer Amyx and Jordan Wills not only had their first all-day jury trial, but successfully won an acquittal for their client in the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court. The jury acquitted the client on both misdemeanor counts — criminal trespassing and obstruction of government function. Just as in state courts, each tribal court has its own laws and court practice procedures. Most tribal courts have only limited published cases, and sometimes no case law at all, on a particular issue.

The Washburn Law Clinic has been practicing in the Prairie Band

*Jennifer Amyx**Jordan Wills*

Potawatomi Nation and Kickapoo Nation Tribal Courts since 2004 when Professor Aliza Organick began teaching in the Washburn Law Clinic. The Clinic currently handles two or three cases in the Kansas tribal courts each semester. Tribal court practice provides students an opportunity to represent clients with complex legal issues in jurisdictions other than state or municipal courts.

“Washburn Law provided me the rare opportunity to take a case from inception to jury trial,” said Jordan Wills.

“I felt prepared for anything with my training in the Washburn Law Clinic,” said Jennifer Amyx. The client was faced with a new charge only 48 hours before the trial.

“The students were successful because they got their client’s story told,” said Organick. “The jury was back with a verdict in only 45 minutes. This can be attributed to all the hard work Jennifer and Jordan did as they developed their case, as well as their excellent trial skills.”



*(Front row) Callie Pippin, Alex Dunn, Kelli Broers, Amber Whitlock
(second row) Mike Toscano, Desirée Bos,
(third row) Carrie Ellison, Joey Parsons, Shirin Tarsa,
Craig Horvath, Daniel Gilligan,
(back row) Paul Hendrix, Jayson Watkins, Alejandro Cuellar,
Jeff Waddell, David Schreiber, Aaron Freestone*

(Not all graduates pictured)

CONGRATULATIONS *December 2008 Graduates*

DECEMBER 13, 2008

(Certificate of Concentration noted)

David Michael Batchelder

Desirée L. Bos

Kelli Marie Broers

International and Comparative Law

Business and Transactional Law

Alejandro C. Cuellar

Advocacy

Jessica Lynn Dorsey

International and Comparative Law

Alexandria Susanne Dunn

Elizabeth Jane Edwards Lay

Carrie Jewelene Ellison

Aaron C. Freestone

Daniel David Gilligan

Paul Hendrix

Business and Transactional Law

Nicholas Craig Horvath

Business and Transactional Law

Megan L. McCann

Joseph Patrick Moore

Joseph Mark Parsons

Business and Transactional Law

Todd D. Pingel

Callie Rae Pippin

Brendon Randall Rogers

David Harlan Schreiber

Business and Transactional Law

Jennifer Dawn Tabuas

Shirin Tarsa

Michael Dominic Toscano

Business and Transactional Law

Jeffery Bennett Waddell

Jayson Andrew Watkins

Amber Renae Whitlock

Business and Transactional Law