The Center for Excellence in Advocacy unites students, judges, law faculty, and practicing lawyers who share interests in a broad range of advocacy-related fields of law.

**ITAP IMMERSES PARTICIPANTS IN TRIAL PRACTICE**

In May 2015, the Center for Excellence in Advocacy offered the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP), a two-credit, week-long course for training law students to be trial lawyers. This innovative course immersed students in trial practice for seven full days, under the direction of a 15-person faculty.

In one intense week, students learned to try a civil or criminal case, an opportunity available at few law schools across the country. Lawyers and judges worked with students each day in small group workshops focused on student performance of trial skills.

The instruction, practice, critique, and lecture culminated on the final trial day, as students conducted a jury trial to verdict in a simulated civil or criminal case they prepared during the week.

“ITAP has grown, over the years, into a large, but close-knit, faculty of practicing lawyers and judges who are skilled advocates and also outstanding teachers and mentors,” said Michael Kaye, director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy and professor of law. Students often tell me that ITAP was the course they enjoyed most in law school. Many successful litigation careers began right here in ITAP.
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Week was held in November 2014. Because a substantial part of legal practice today involves work toward settlement of cases short of trial, the ADR week’s focus was on mediation.

A two-hour CLE presentation featured Larry Rute, ’73, with Associates in Dispute Resolution, L.L.C., who covered the topics of “Successful Commercial Mediation Best Practices” and “Negotiation Ethics in Kansas and Missouri.”

Art Thompson, retired dispute resolution coordinator with the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration, presented a discussion about the recent shift of the Court toward resolving case backlogs by encouraging early and regular settlement work and mediation in all cases. He talked about the Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Council and the history and process toward the ADR focus and processes that are in place and in practice today.

Deborah Medlock, president of Heartland Mediators Association, discussed domestic case mediation. She presented the advantages of mediation in family matters, the types of issues that are covered (from the common to the unusual), and the mediation process in Johnson County (Kansas) through the Court Services programming.

Jerry Palmer presented “Mediation vs. Alternative Dispute Resolution by Trial” which addressed the current reality that most cases actually will be settled by some sort of alternative dispute resolution process and thus raises the premise that actual trial, and certainly jury trials, are becoming the real “alternative” to resolution of legal disputes. Palmer talked about how students need to focus on preparing for a mediation at the same level and focus they would actually prepare for a trial with an understanding that the case will likely be resolved at that point in the process. He spoke from his experience as a third-party neutral and addressed what he has seen that works well and what he has seen that has not served clients well.

Patrick Nichols, ’77, presented “Pre-Cognitive Barriers In Mediation, Resolution, and Settlement.” The program explored the role that precognitive barriers play in obstructing settlement and resolution. Participants learned to understand the critical role that bias and emotions play in our thought processes which provided attendees with tools for managing those processes, when they interfere with effective decision making in the dispute resolution process.
2014-15 CENTER ACTIVITIES

Oct. 13, 2014 – Lunch & Learn: High on Federalism: Marijuana challenge to Federal-State relations, presented by Ilya Shapiro, hosted by the Federalist Society and co-sponsored with the Center for Law and Government


Nov. 4, 2014 – ADR Week - CLE: “Successful Commercial Mediation Best Practices” and “Negotiation Ethics in Kansas and Missouri,” presented by Larry Rute, '73

Nov. 5, 2014 – ADR Week - Domestic Mediation, presented by Deborah Medlock

Nov. 6, 2014 – ADR Week - Lunch & Learn: “Mediation vs. Alternative Dispute Resolution by Trial,” presented by Jerry Palmer

Nov. 7, 2014 – ADR Week - Lunch & Learn: “Pre-Cognitive Barriers in Mediation, Resolution and Settlement,” presented by Patrick Nichols

Nov. 13, 2014 – Lunch & Learn: 9/11 Litigation, presented by Alumni Fellow Mike Kuckelman, ’90

Jan. 27, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Mediation-How it Really Works – Perspectives of a General Counsel, presented by Miguel Rivera

Jan. 28, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Practitioner in Residence, Robert German, ’79

Jan. 30, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Mediation Writing, presented by Jerry Palmer

April 8, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Ethics of Amateurism: It’s all about the kids, presented by J.L. Leatherman, ’92, hosted by the Washburn Law Democrats

April 9, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Oral and Written Advocacy Tips from the Experts, presented by Michael Fontham and Michael Vitiello (see related story on page 3)

April 9, 2015 – Annual Advocacy Awards Banquet – Fontham and Vitiello, guest speakers (see story on page 4)

April 10, 2015 – Legal Research and Writing Faculty Development with Mike Vitiello

May 17-23, 2015 – Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (see story on page 1)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADR Week
November 9-13, 2015

Bobby Lee Cook
Distinguished Advocate in Residence
March 2016

Annual Advocacy Awards Banquet
April 7, 2016
CEA’S VISITING SCHOLARS IN RESIDENCE - FONTHAM AND VITIELLO

On April 9 and 10, 2015, the Center for Excellence in Advocacy hosted visiting Scholars in Residence Michael Fontham and Michael Vitiello, who provided training in advocacy for students and faculty.

The first day’s schedule included breakfast with the legal research and writing faculty; a meet and greet with students; a Lunch & Learn presentation to students entitled “Oral and Written Advocacy Tips from the Experts”; a small group lunch; a presentation to Professor John Francis’ Pretrial Advocacy Course; and the Advocacy Awards Reception where both spoke on the value of written and oral advocacy.

On the second day, the scholars attended Professor Michael Kaye’s Evidence Class, followed by Vitiello making a presentation to Washburn Law faculty about his article, “Teaching Oral Advocacy: Creating More Opportunities for an Essential Skill” that is set for publication in the Seton Hall Law Review.

Fontham and Vitiello jointly authored, “Persuasive Written and Oral Advocacy: In Trial and Appellate Courts”. They are recognized as experts in the field of advocacy. Vitiello is a distinguished professor of law and director of the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. Fontham is an adjunct professor at Tulane University Law School and the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University.

STUDENTS CAN EARN A CERTIFICATE IN ADVOCACY

CERTIFICATE OF CONCENTRATION
The Certificate in Advocacy is available for students who have a serious interest in the art, science, and law of advocacy. The recipient of the Certificate in Advocacy has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the litigation process, the ability to produce appropriate legal pleadings and other litigation documents, and the ability to try a case proficiently to a judge or jury. The Certificate is an acknowledgment by the Faculty that the student has successfully completed a focused course of study in advocacy.

SERVICE REQUIREMENT
- Complete 10 hours of pre-approved pro bono activities that involve advocacy skills.
- Complete 18 hours of pre-approved Advocacy Center activities.
- Complete and submit the Advocacy Certificate Service Form within one month of completing any service hours.

LAWYERING EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT
Students earning an Advocacy Certificate must complete a lawyering experience consisting of either Clinic Internship/Litigation, Criminal Appeal Advocacy, or an externship that involves a lawyering experience in an advocacy placement. The Advocacy Certificate administrator, working with the externship coordinator, will determine whether an externship meets the necessary criteria.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
Any student interested in pursuing a Certificate in Advocacy must first meet with a faculty member administering the program (Professor Michael Kaye) to declare their interest.

(CERTIFICATE - continued on page 7)
FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AND ACTIVITIES

MICHAEL KAYE
Professor of Law and Director, Center for Excellence in Advocacy

MEDIA INTERVIEWS


Quoted, “Brownback’s Running Mate Keeping Mum on Loan to Campaign,” The Wichita Eagle (October 29, 2014).


AÏDA M. ALAKA
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

PRESENTATION

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Kansas Steering Committee Member, National Association of Women Judges, Informed Voter Project, 2014-present.

ANDREA J. BOYACK
Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director, Business and Transactional Law Center

PUBLICATION
“Student ‘Law Firms,’” Idea of the Month, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, March 2015.

JAMES M. CONCANNON
Senator Robert J. Dole Distinguished Professor of Law

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS


MEDIA INTERVIEW

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Member, ad hoc Kansas Judicial Review Committee, 2014.


(FACULTY - continued on page 6)
FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AND ACTIVITIES
(continued from page 5)

Convictions,” The Wichita Eagle (September 16, 2014).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Fellow, American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, October 2014–.

PRESENTATION
“Representing Children in Kansas: Reconciling the Ethical Rules,” Guardian ad Litem Training, Washburn University School of Law, Children and Family Law Center, Jan. 9, 2015.

LINDA HENRY ELROD, ’72
Richard S. Righter Distinguished Professor of Law and Children and Family Law Center Director

SHAWN LEISINGER
Executive Director, Centers for Excellence, Externship Director, and CLE Director

PRESENTATION
“Negotiation Tactics and Skills for Mediators,” Mediation course, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, Kansas, October 15, 2014.

ALEX GLASHAUSser
Professor of Law

PUBLICATION
“The Danger of Disrobing the Judiciary,” The Huffington Post (June 16, 2015).

WILLIAM RICH
James R. Ahrens Chair in Torts and Constitutional Law and Professor of Law

MEDIA INTERVIEWS


RANDALL L. HODGKINSON
Assistant Professor of Law

MEDIA INTERVIEW
Quoted, “Appeal Seeks Overturn of Wichita Man’s Rape, Human-Trafficking

EXTERNSHIP BUSINESS PARTNERS
Most State Agencies, Entities, and Boards
Banking Entities and Corporations
Chevron U.S.A.
Children and Family Guidance Center
Disability Rights Center
Environmental Protection Agency
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Internal Revenue Service
Kansas Association of Counties
Kansas Association of School Boards
Kansas Attorney General’s Office
Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
Kansas Corporation Commission
Oil and Gas Conservation Division
Kansas Court of Tax Appeals
Kansas Department for Children and Families
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Kansas Department of Commerce
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Kansas Department of Revenue
Kansas Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control
Kansas Insurance Department
Kansas League of Municipalities
Kansas Legal Services
Kansas Soybean Association
Kansas State Bankers Association
Local Corporations
Midwest Innocence Project
Non-profit Organizations
Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner
Payless ShoeSource
Prairie Band Potawatomi Court System
Regional Federal Agencies
Shawnee County Sheriff’s Office
State and Federal Courts
Statewide and Nationwide Courts and Prosecutors/Defenders Offices
Statewide Board of Indigents’ Defense Services
Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority
YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment
...and many others

Placement opportunities vary annually.
and plan their course of study. This must be done prior to completing 40 hours of study. Following the meeting, the faculty member and student will complete the “Meeting Summary”. This faculty member will also serve as the student’s Certificate advisor and will approve any waivers or alternative courses allowed or required by the program.

The student must complete 90 hours of total law school credit and achieve a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in courses used to satisfy their Certificate requirements. Students who obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for courses used to satisfy their Certificate requirements will be awarded the Advocacy Certificate (with distinction).

Center mentorships, court observation opportunities, seminars, lectures, skills training courses, live-client clinics, and externship placements provide diverse opportunities for students to acquire strong advocacy skills. Participation in the Center also offers law students a guided path to future careers in advocacy-centered law practice.

Washburn Law has years of experience in advocacy skills training. Many noted trial lawyers and judges received their legal training at Washburn and have returned to help train the newest generation of advocates. Talented practitioners teach a variety of specialized elective advocacy skills courses and spend time mentoring law students. Center mentorships, court observation opportunities, seminars, lectures, skills training courses, live-client clinics, and externship placements provide diverse opportunities for students to acquire strong advocacy skills.

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