We at Washburn University School of Law’s Business and Transactional Law Center are excited to have commenced another school year, building upon Washburn University’s 150-year history while continuing to innovate and inspire our students for the next century.

The Business and Transactional Law Center is one of the Law School’s six Centers for Excellence and is dedicated to enriching our students’ law school experience through coursework with a transactional focus, real-world transactional experience through our clinic and externships, and through multiple programs connecting students to practicing lawyers. We also organize and sponsor programs promoting cutting-edge scholarship in the areas of business and transactional law.

During the prior academic year, we continued to expand our efforts at building bridges from

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VITA Clinic Making an Impact

Over the course of 11 Saturdays from the end of January until the April 15 filing deadline, student volunteers participated in the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) clinic offered by Washburn Law in which they completed tax returns for low-income taxpayers. The law student volunteers not only gave up their Saturdays to provide this service, but many did so for the entire 11 weeks that the clinic was offered. The clinic was organized and managed by the Tax and Estate Planning Association (TEPA) under the supervision of Professor Lori McMillan and was staffed by 25 volunteers who underwent training and certification through the IRS to be able to provide this service.

Some figures provide an idea of the impact that these students had on our community: tax returns were prepared for 425 people, benefitting families that had 107 children; child tax credits in the amount of $65,239 were generated; and earned income tax credits in the amount of $134,685 were claimed. Education credits in the amount of $24,626 were also generated. The students facilitated federal tax refunds in the amount of $424,349 and state tax refunds amounting to $60,257.

State tax returns were completed not only for Kansas, but also for many other states, including Nebraska, Oklahoma, Colorado, Indiana, Utah, Missouri, New York, New Jersey, and Arizona. The VITA Clinic provided a superlative level of service and the student volunteers had an enormous impact in real terms in our community.

The student volunteers also learned important interview and client management skills, problem management and solving skills, and the practical application of many tax law provisions. In addition, the students organized and ran the clinic themselves, making it the only student-run clinic at the law school.

The students did a great job, and handled the many stressful situations that arose (including a nationwide crash of the computer software used to do the returns, while 50 people waited in our waiting room!) with professionalism and aplomb. These students truly made a difference.

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law school to transactional practice through enrichment lectures and presentations to our students. These presentations gave our students information and context with respect to the myriad of ways that they can apply their legal training in the world of transactional law.

For example, in October 2014, we hosted securities law expert Professor Cheryl C. Nichols as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence who met with students, attended classes, engaged with Washburn faculty, and presented a lunchtime lecture.

In February 2015, we sponsored a scholarly symposium, entitled The Future of Housing: Equity, Stability, and Sustainability, which brought 20 experts from across the country to Washburn in order to discuss and debate their scholarly works on current legal housing and mortgage finance issues.

As the fall semester gets underway, we look forward to another strong year here at Washburn Law, raising student awareness and appreciation of transactional law and practice.
On Oct. 9-10, 2014, the Business and Transactional Law Center hosted Professor Cheryl Nichols of Howard University as its Distinguished Scholar in Residence.

Professor Nichols teaches and writes in the areas of securities regulation, commercial paper, diversity and global capital markets, and broker-dealer regulation. Nichols gave a presentation to students and faculty on "Regulation of the U.S. Financial Markets." She discussed the current regulatory system, particularly the rules imposed as a result of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, known as the Dodd-Frank Act.

Nichols explained several of the specific challenges to the regulatory system, principally in the context of broker-dealers. She also responded to questions from students and faculty members about enforcement of the securities regulations by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

During her time at Washburn, Nichols also met with several smaller groups of students who were especially interested in securities law and financial market regulation. Her visit provided an opportunity for students and faculty to learn about the newest developments in a specialized area of law of interest to many in the Washburn Law community.

This summer, students in Professor Lori McMillan’s Principles of Comparative and International Taxation class decided to test some tax policy hypotheses by drafting and disseminating a survey on social media meant to capture Kansans’ attitudes toward Kansas tax policy. One of these hypothesis was that tax law is generally quite responsive and reflective of social values, since social and economic policy are often embedded in tax legislation. To test this, a 12-question survey was crafted and disseminated on social media, a rather new tool for tax law classes to use. In the one-week period chosen by the class to gather information, almost 2,000 responses were given to this survey, the overwhelming majority of which were from Kansas, surprising the class with the response rate. Answers poured in from all corners of the state. The data collected by the class indicates that the public has some serious reservations about the tax policy choices being made.

(Budget Angst- cont. on page 11)

Washburn Law’s Class of 2015 honored Associate Professor Andrea Boyack as the 2014-15 William O. Douglas Professor of the Year. This award provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding instructors who motivate, challenge, and inspire excellence in students; who contribute to an understanding of and advancement in legal education; and who are respected by law students and peers alike.

“I am incredibly honored to be awarded Professor of the Year,” said Boyack. “Making a transition to teaching after a decade and a half of practice was quite a leap of faith for me, and I am just thrilled and grateful that my efforts have borne fruit.

“In planning and conducting Law School courses, I have two main goals: build a bridge to practice and inspire love for the law. I include practical application exercises in all my courses, and enrich the classroom experience with small group work, review games, multiple writing opportunities, and the occasional song. My classes are demanding and require significant hands-on student participation. But, this sort of active engagement is what develops valuable practical legal skills and professional instinct.”

Outside of the classroom, Boyack strives to be an accessible, supportive, and understanding “coach.” She emphasizes that she honestly wants to do her best to help students navigate law school and optimally prepare for their future life in the law.
2014-15 Center Events

Sept. 5, 2014 - Business and Transactional Lunch Program and Exercises with Brad Haddock, ’80

Oct. 1, 2014 – Lunch & Learn: American Dream in Flux: Neighborhood Diversity and Community Covenants, presented by Associate Professor of Law and BTLC Co-Director Andrea Boyack, co-sponsored with the Center for Law and Government

Oct. 8, 2014 – Lunch & Learn: Legal Careers in Non-Profits, presented by Roger Viola

Oct. 9-10, 2014 - Distinguished Scholar in Residence - Cheryl C. Nichols, a tenured Associate Professor at the Howard University School of Law (see story on page 3)

Oct. 17, 2014 – Lunch & Learn: Lawyer to Major League Baseball, presented by Efrain Soto, ’04, co-sponsored with the Center for Excellence in Advocacy

Oct. 22, 2014 – Lunch & Learn: Lawyering for the Non-Profit, presented by Danielle Merrick

Oct. 29, 2014 – Lunch & Learn: Non-Traditional Work in International Banking, presented by Alan Deines, ’77, co-sponsored with the International and Comparative Law Center

Nov. 19, 2014 – Lunch & Learn: The Legal Side of Non-Profit Taxes, Gift-Giving, and Fundraising, presented by Jami Shipman


Feb. 17, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Estate Planning for Same Sex Couples, presented by Stacey Jansen, hosted by the Gay Straight Legal Alliance, Tax and Estate Planning Association, and the American Constitutional Society, and co-sponsored with the Children and Family Law Center

March 3, 2015 - Money March: Financial Investment Issues, presented by Steven T. Cox, Sr., hosted by the Business Law Society


April 9, 2015 – Lunch & Learn: Trademark Law from Multiple Perspectives – A Panel Discussion, presented by Mary Munson-Ott, Chris Ott, Anna Quinn, ’13, and Amy Kelly, hosted by the Washburn Intellectual Property Law Society, and co-sponsored with the Center for Law and Government and the International and Comparative Law Center

Upcoming Fall Events 2015

SEPT. 10 - Lunch & Learn with Marcos Mendoza, ’89 - “Insurance Law and In-house Counsel Issues”

OCT. 1 - Transactional Lunch with Brad Haddock, ’80 - “Drafting an LLC Operating Agreement”

OCT. 6 - Transactional Lunch with Paul Hoferer, ’75 - “How to Assess Whether to Proceed with a Lawsuit”

NOV. 5 - Foulston Siefkin Lecture, “Managing Banks Regulatory Capital,” presented by Professor Heidi Mandanis Schooner
Faculty Scholarship and Activities Beyond the Center

**Amy Deen Westbrook**
BTL Co-Director and Kurt M. Sager Memorial Distinguished Professor of International and Commercial Law

**Publications**

**Presentations**


**Andrea J. Boyack**
BTL Co-Director and Associate Professor of Law

**Publications**


**Presentations**


“Bankruptcy Weapons to Terminate a Zombie Mortgage,” 8th Annual Regional Junior Faculty Works-In-Progress Workshop, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, May 1, 2015.

**Other Publications**


“Pass the Pen,” Idea of the Month, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, January 2015.


**Presentations**


“Bankruptcy Weapons to Terminate a Zombie Mortgage,” 8th Annual Regional Junior Faculty Works-In-Progress Workshop, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, May 1, 2015.

Presenter, “Recent Developments in Banking, Commercial & Contract Law,” Legislative and Case Law Institute, Kansas Bar Association CLE, Topeka, April 28, 2015.


(Faculty - cont. on page 6)
Faculty Scholarship and Activities (cont. from page 5)


Presenter, “Recent Developments in Banking, Commercial & Contract Law,” Legislative and Case Law Institute, Kansas Bar Association CLE, Topeka, July 11, 2014 (panel with Lori McMillan).

CONFERENCE PLANNED

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Participated in a two-day legal colloquium entitled “Banking in a Free Society” sponsored by the Federalist Society’s Faculty Division and the John Templeton Foundation in Annapolis, Md., June 5-6, 2015.

Janet Thompson Jackson
Professor of Law and Interim Co-Director of Washburn Law Clinic

MEDIA


Host, “Sunshine and Secrecy,” I’ve Got Issues (produced by Washburn University’s public broadcasting station KTWU), March 26, 2015.


PRESENTATION

Patricia L. Judd
Professor of Law

ARTICLE IN LAW REVIEW

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Joseph P. Mastrosimone
Associate Professor of Law

ARTICLE IN LAW REVIEW

ESSAYS AND OTHER SHORTER WORKS

“Mind Your Manners,” 83:9 Journal of the Kansas Bar Association 10 (October 2014).

MEDIA


CONFERENCE PLANNED

PRESENTATIONS


PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Member, Executive Committee of the AALS Section on Labor Relations and Employment Law, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS


Presenter, “Recent Developments in Banking, Commercial & Contract Law,” Legislative and Case Law Institute, Kansas Bar Association CLE, Topeka, July 11, 2014 (panel with Andrea Boyack).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
Member, Academia Committee, International Fiscal Association (IFA), USA Branch, 2015-2016.

Mary Kreiner Ramirez
Professor of Law

ARTICLE IN LAW REVIEW

Lori A. McMillan
Professor of Law

MEDIA INTERVIEWS


Quoted, “Kansas’s Failed Experiment,” The Atlantic, April 9, 2015.

Quoted, “Kansas Tax Cuts on Trial Amid Huge Budget Deficit,” CNN Money, Jan. 11, 2015.

Additional faculty scholarship and activities can be found at: washburnlaw.edu/profiles/faculty/scholarship
Small Business & Nonprofit Transactional Law Clinic

Under the supervision of Professor Janet Thompson Jackson, interns accepted into the Small Business & Nonprofit Transactional Law Clinic help clients with choice of entity decisions, developing business plans, writing articles of incorporation and bylaws, and establishing tax exempt status.

The 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 are done under the supervision of an experienced licensed attorney and faculty member, Professor Janet Jackson. Students must apply and be selected to enroll in this clinic.

The Transactional Clinic provides a wide variety of legal assistance, but does not assist businesses or organizations with litigation. Business counseling and legal services include:
• Drafting and reviewing business plans
• Counseling on choice of entity formation and start-up services to for-profit and nonprofit groups
• Drafting and filing charter documents
• Drafting governing documents, such as bylaws, operating agreements, and partnership/sharer agreements
• Applying for tax-exempt status for nonprofit organizations
• Drafting, reviewing, and negotiating contracts, leases, and licensing agreements
• Counseling on compliance with local, state, and federal laws
• Research and counseling on select intellectual property issues

In 2014-15, 21 clients were served by the Transactional Clinic, and 2015-16 promises to be another strong year.

Transactional Clinic Interns

Fall 2014
Back row: Max Caldwell, Matthew McAnarney, Steve Vetter, and Dylan Dinkla. Front row: Sara Maupin, Melissa Jordan, and Nana Brammer

Spring 2015
Back row: Janay Kent, Mohammed Abdelaziz, and Mark Campbell. Front row: Kyle McRae, Rachel Catlett, and Armand Shukaev
Washburn Intellectual Property Law Society Activities

The Washburn Intellectual Property Law Society (WIPLS) continues to provide programming for students interested in intellectual property law. In fall 2014, WIPLS facilitated a discussion among students interested in pursuing careers in patent law. The discussion focused on strategies for tackling entry barriers to patent practice, including the patent bar exam. The session also featured student experiences in patent-focused internships and externships, including summer experiences at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Va.

In spring 2015, the group focused on international intellectual property law practice and trademark opportunities. WIPLS hosted two programs, featuring notable area attorneys engaged in international corporate intellectual property practice, international trademark classification, intellectual property-focused law firm work, and government review of domestic and international trademark applications.

Guest speakers included:
- Amy Kelly, Trademark Examining Attorney, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- Mary Munson-Ott, Trademark Classification Policy Attorney, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- Chris Ott, Senior Counsel, Intellectual Property and Marketing at Payless ShoeSource
- Anna Quinn, ’13, associate at Lathrop and Gage

Student Focus: Laura Boatright

Hello, my name is Laura Boatright, interim president of the Washburn Business Law Society, fall 2015.

In March, we hosted Steven T. Cox, Sr., CEO of Providence Financial Advisors and a certified financial advisor, and Robert Metcalf, a highly qualified business valuation expert, to speak to law school students regarding their professions.

My interest in business started with my first job as a newspaper girl for the Raytown Post at age 10. I quickly learned that the more paper routes you have, the more money you make; so, I signed up for as many paper routes as they would allow.

Then came the route maps and the deluge of newspapers to roll; as my little hands tuckered out, the reality of input versus output set in.

In college, I did work study in the Advancement Office at UMKC, learning about quotas, advertising, and how vital university fundraising really is. I have also worked for a commercial truck financing business—floor plans, leases, title work, credit processes, and collection work. And, as a paralegal for the past 20 years, I learned about large and small corporations, and how to take apart and analyze reports to determine business value for the purposes of high-end divorce litigation.

Now, as a student at Washburn Law, so many of the classes I have taken here tie all of these experiences together. When I first set my sights on Washburn Law, I was naturally drawn to both the circles of family law and business law as these areas have been tied together in my experience of assisting with divorcing business owners. I wanted to learn more about these areas, and I have accomplished that. Thanks, Washburn Law!
Business and Transactional Law Certificate

Certificate of Concentration

Students who desire to concentrate their elective and extracurricular courses of study in business and transactional law can seek a Certificate in Business and Transactional Law. The Certificate is an acknowledgment by the Faculty that the student has successfully completed a focused course of study to expand his or her knowledge in business law while developing essential skills of the transactional lawyer.

With the approval of the certificate advisor, the Certificate can include, when appropriate, a designation stating a particular area of concentration, such as: "Corporate Law," "Real Estate Law," or other descriptive designation.

Course of Study

A student seeking the Certificate must complete 19 hours of approved coursework in business and transactional subjects, earning a grade point average of at least 3.0 in these classes.

Extracurricular Programming

To earn the certificate, students must participate in 500 minutes of extracurricular programming related to business and transactional law. The programming may be sponsored by the Business and Transactional Law Center or any student organization presenting a program supported by the Center. Organizations include Washburn’s Business Law Society, Intellectual Property Society, Real Estate Law Society, and Tax and Estate Planning Association. At least 300 of the 500 minutes must be earned at Center-sponsored programs.

A student may also attend American Bar Association, Kansas Bar Association or Continuing Legal Education programs in business and transactional law to satisfy the extracurricular requirement.

Writing Requirement

To earn the Certificate, students must complete the upper-level writing requirement (or equivalent writing project) on a pre-approved business and transactional law topic. They may satisfy the Certificate writing requirement through a Directed Research or other writing opportunity approved in advance by the student’s Certificate advisor.

Lawyering Experience Required

Students earning a Business and Transactional Law Certificate must complete a lawyering experience such as a Transactional Law Clinic or an externship that involves a lawyering experience related to business and transactional law.

Business and Transactional Law Certificate administrators, working together with the externship coordinator, will determine whether an externship meets the necessary criteria.

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 other placement opportunities vary annually.
BUDGET ANGST
(cont. from page 3)

by our Legislature, much of which focused on the perceived unfairness in how the tax burden is currently distributed. Also, the majority of Kansans polled indicated a willingness to legalize marijuana in order to enjoy the tax benefits that Colorado is reported to have seen from it.

All told, the survey provided an interesting springboard for class discussion. It also helped bring the perspective of average Kansans into class discussions, which will be important for students who will be representing them in short order.

2014-15 Student Organization Leadership

WASHBURN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW SOCIETY
Allison Wood, President
Megan Townsley, Vice President
Rick Smith, Secretary
Katie Gerth, Treasurer
Professor Patricia Judd, Faculty Advisor

WASHBURN BUSINESS LAW SOCIETY
Laura Boatright, President
Alosha Moore, Treasurer
Andrea Plunkett, Secretary
Professors Amy Deen Westbrook and Andrea Boyack, Faculty Advisors

TAX AND ESTATE PLANNING ASSOCIATION
Brock Roehler, President
Katie Gerth, Vice President
Bobby Chipman, Secretary
Jordan Millholland, Treasurer
Merideth Hogan and Destiny Bounds, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Chairs
Professor Lori McMillan, Faculty Advisor

About Us

Washburn Law’s Business and Transactional Law Center brings together faculty, alumni, business leaders, and government officials to provide Washburn Law’s students with the opportunity to develop their professional skills.

Led by a talented and innovative faculty and a distinguished, visionary Board of Advisors, the Center offers programs that enhance students’ traditional legal education. Center-sponsored programs include many types of specialized educational and training opportunities designed to teach students the professional skills they must develop to be effective lawyers. Center faculty advise students wishing to obtain one of the four Certificates related to the Center.

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