



## Jennifer Amyx Earns the Irvine E. Ungerman Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice

*By John Francis*

The Irvine E. Ungerman Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice is awarded twice yearly to legal interns who have distinguished themselves by providing highly competent representation to clients in a manner exemplifying the ideals of our profession: “pursuit of the learned art in the spirit of a public service.”



The Fall 2008 semester recipient of the Ungerman award is Jennifer Amyx. During her first semester as a Clinic intern, Jennifer demonstrated superior lawyering skills, doing so “in the spirit of public service.” Among her achievements, she honed written advocacy skills, including filing a motion to suppress in one of her cases that led to the eventual dismissal of all charges against her client.

An important aspect of practice in the Law Clinic involves an opportunity not often available to law students in other settings – client counselling. Jennifer also distinguished herself with her skill in this area. She took the time to explain in careful and understandable ways different options available to clients as well as the consequences of each option. Her calm yet confident manner placed her clients at ease and helped them make the best decisions they could.

During the Spring semester when Jennifer continued in the Clinic as a directed intern, she demonstrated that our faith in her abilities was well-placed. Jennifer and another Clinic intern, Jordan Wills, conducted a jury trial in Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Court, winning an acquittal for their client. Jennifer’s cross examination of the prosecution’s first witness was top notch. The true testament to the quality of Jennifer’s trial skills came from her opposing attorney. At the end of the trial, he asked Jennifer for a copy of her resume! ■

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## Law Clinic Announces Public Interest Grant

The Law Clinic is pleased to announce a Public Interest Grant. The Law Clinic faculty is aware of the significant debt many incur while in law school. The impact of student loan debt is made even worse by the current economic climate. To help our graduates make decisions about legal careers in the public interest sector, the Law Clinic faculty, together with Joel Lauer, Director of Advancement, and Julie Olson, former Director of Alumni Services, have created this

grant which will reimburse the selected recipient in the amount of four credit hours (credits spent participating in Clinic).

The application deadline is November 13, 2009. Those who have participated in Law Clinic and are included in the graduating class of 2009 will be the first eligible applicants for the grant. Applications may be picked up from Debi Schrock in the Law Clinic. ■

# What Happens in the Clinic Building?

## Criminal Defense Clinic



*Jason Konrad, Matt Conley, Joel Dake*

Interns working under the supervision of Professor John Francis represent clients in a variety of criminal defense cases and appear in Shawnee County District Court, Topeka Municipal Court and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court. These interns are representing clients who have criminal charges pending against them such as shoplifting, DUI, possession of marijuana, theft, driving while suspended and driving with altered tags and without insurance.

## State Tribal Court Practice Clinic



*Garett Relph, Jenny Hall, Rebecca Rookstool, Danielle Hall, Nathan Easton (not pictured Ashley Larson)*

Professor Aliza Organick supervises interns who are representing individuals in both criminal defense cases and family law matters. These interns experience what it is like to handle a diverse case load and appear in multiple jurisdictions such as Shawnee County District Court, Topeka Municipal Court, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court, and Kickapoo Nation of Kansas Tribal Court. The subject matter of their cases include Protection From Abuse, Protection from Stalking, divorce, DUI, driving while suspended, battery, interference with peace, and disobeying a lawful police order.

## Children and Family Law Clinic



*Cory Gallagher, Karin Tollefson, Bill Schmidt, Lori Lalouette, Richard Courson, Maureen Pecinovsky, Brandy Smidt*

Working under the supervision of Professor Lynette Petty, interns focus on family and juvenile law matters such as divorce, paternity, guardianship, adoption and Child in Need of Care cases. Interns also handle immigration cases to secure legal status for undocumented abused women who are married to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Students also help undocumented juveniles in foster care secure legal status when their parents are not available.

## Civil Litigation Clinic



*Adam Mack, Michael Sloan, Mark Lippelman, Nicolas Restituto (not pictured Tiffany Hogan)*

Representing clients in a variety of civil matters under the supervision of Professor Curtis Waugh, interns experience the challenges of handling such a varied case load and use their interviewing and negotiation skills daily. The types of cases they handle in Shawnee County District Court are landlord/tenant, quiet title actions, contract disputes, and consumer issues.

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## What Happens in the Clinic Building?

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### Small Business and Transactional Clinic



*Yoel Malasbock, Stacey Anderson,  
Larry Crow, Rebecca Payo*

In the Small Business and Transactional Clinic, interns represent clients who are starting new businesses and need assistance with determining which type of entity is best for their needs as well as representing nonprofit corporations. Interns work closely with the business owners helping them to form a legal entity for their business, draft contracts and other documents. They also work with nonprofits to obtain tax-exempt status. ■

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### Got Experience?

**47% of the Class of 2009 will graduate with clinic experience.**

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### Justice Rosen Presides Over Swearing-in Ceremony

Before beginning their clinical practice, Law Clinic interns are sworn in during a ceremony which has become a favorite tradition of the Clinic faculty. Each semester a local judge or justice is invited to preside over the ceremony and administer the oath to the interns. This semester Justice

Eric S. Rosen of the Kansas Supreme Court presided over the ceremony and offered words of advice and encouragement to the interns. Justice Rosen spoke to the interns regarding a lawyer's duty to pursue justice and importance of ethical conduct in the profession. ■



*Justice Rosen administers the oath to Clinic interns.*



## Put On Your Lawyer Hat Before You Write Your Resume

One of the many perks of enrolling in Clinic is the resume presentation given by Margann Bennett, Director of Professional Development, every semester. During her presentation, Margann gives advice to Clinic interns about how to best draw attention to their Clinic experience on their resume and during interviews. By participating in Clinic, interns acquire experience which is unique and stands out to potential employers. When an intern is able to highlight this unique experience on their resume, draw attention to it in their cover letter, and discuss it during an interview, employers really take notice. Margann expanded on these points by showing the interns how to



*Margann Bennett, Director of Professional Development*

tailor their resumes for the job in which they are applying.

Margann told the interns, “Writing your resume is a legal writing project, so put on your lawyer hat before you begin.” Your cover letter and resume are also viewed as writing samples so they should be just as well written as any writing sample you provide to a potential employer.

Margann advised interns on the use of bullets and active voice when writing resumes. She also shared her list of law related verbs and a few examples of resumes and cover letters and stressed to everyone the importance of a follow-up phone call a week to ten days after sending a resume to a potential employer. ■

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### Quote from an Alumnus

**Stephen R. Allred, Class of 2008**

“[Washburn Law Clinic] gave me the practical skills that I would need to practice law. It is the skills learned and honed during [my] last year of school that gave me every bit of confidence to walk into court knowing I could give my client the best representation possible. What I learned [in Clinic] is what impressed my employer. That enabled this fresh from law school attorney to land a job with, in my humble opinion, the best criminal defense firm in Utah. I have a job that suits me perfectly. I know I would not be here if it were not for [the Clinic]. Thank you for all the individual attention you gave me to teach me how to be an excellent lawyer.” ■



## Spring 2009 Testimonials

### **Karin N. Tollefson, Class of 2009**

“I have learned so much practicing in the Clinic - things no other law school class teaches. Getting experience doing the things real lawyers must do everyday is invaluable; things like keeping track of hours, client counseling, writing letters and communicating with opposing counsel, and speaking on behalf of clients in a real courtroom setting make Clinic the best and most educational aspect of my law school career.”



### **Larry Crow, Jr., Class of 2009**

“For all students who plan to go into law practice the Law Clinic should be a part of their law school experience. Of all my classes and work, the Clinic has been the most enjoyable and challenging aspect of the my law school experience. I feel that I can now go into the job market with my eyes open and know what to expect and how to deal with any challenges that arise. This clarity and reality I owe to the Clinic.”



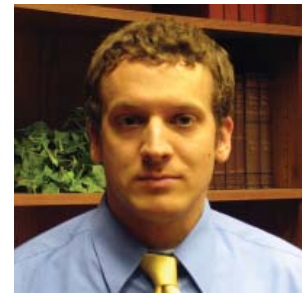
### **Rebecca Payo, Class of 2009**

“The practical experience in Clinic creates a setting for all of the law that we’ve learned in school. Helping clients is very rewarding and exciting.”



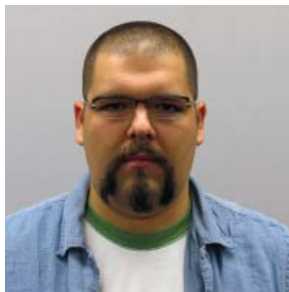
### **Cory Gallagher, Class of 2009**

“Clinic was an eye-opening, rewarding experience. It was an opportunity to practice law while still in school that I would recommend to anyone.”



### **Nathan Easton, Class of 2010**

“This is probably the single most valuable class I have taken since coming to law school. It ranks up there with Evidence. I have learned things here that I was not even aware I didn’t know. I recommend it unreservedly to anyone who actually wants to practice law, and especially to those who aspire to solo practice.”



### **Jennifer Amyx, Class of 2009**

“Clinic has provided me my most valuable experiences in law school. As a clinic intern I get to represent clients in court in multiple jurisdictions, research and write appellate briefs, and practice client counseling and interviewing. Clinic transformed my legal education by encouraging me to develop practical and employable skills.” ■



## Jury Trial Win for Washburn Law Clinic Students

It is uncommon for Law Clinic interns to have a jury trial, but in the Spring semester of 2009 Washburn clinic interns, Jennifer Amyx and Jordan Wills, not only had their first all day jury trial but were successful obtaining an acquittal for their client in Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court. The jury acquitted the client on both misdemeanor counts - criminal trespassing and obstruction of government function.



*Jennifer Amyx*

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 on a particular issue at all. This can be both challenging and an opportunity for the tribal court practitioner to be very creative.

Washburn Law Clinic has been practicing in the Prairie Band 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. Professor John Francis also finds tribal court practice a great learning environment for Washburn Clinic students and practices there as well. Tribal court practice provides students an opportunity to represent clients with complex le-



*Jordan Wills*

gal issues in jurisdictions other than state or municipal courts. “Both tribal courts are very supportive of student practice and of Washburn’s clinical program,” said Organick.

“Washburn Law provided me as a law student the rare opportunity to take a case from inception to jury trial,” said Jordan Wills. “I am grateful for the opportunity to have the experience.”

“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’ training in the Clinic prepared them to deal with this new charge.

“The presiding judge, Stacy Leeds (also Professor Leeds at KU Law) was impressed with our students,” said Professor Aliza Organick. “Jennifer and Jordan did a tremendous job, worked very hard and deserve a huge pat on the back.”

“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 - not guilty on both counts. 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.” ■



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