



The Honorable Rebecca W. Crotty Presides Over Summer Swearing-In Ceremony

On May 30, 2012, the summer interns took part in a long-standing tradition at the Law Clinic—the swearing-in ceremony. The ceremony was held in Judge Rebecca W. Crotty’s courtroom in the Shawnee County District Courthouse. After brief remarks from Judge Crotty and the administration of the oath, the interns participated in an unprecedented question and answer session with the judge. Interns asked

the judge several questions but many focused on courtroom decorum. Judge Crotty advised the interns to take every opportunity to observe court proceedings, to always be prepared and to be flexible. Judge Crotty also shared with the interns that “not everything you learn in law school is what you need to know to be an attorney.”

Summer 2012 Interns

During the summer 2012 semester, Professors Lynette Petty and Curtis Waugh shared the teaching and supervision of the Clinic interns. Enrollment was limited to five students to enable the professors to split the duties. This allowed the interns to work on a diverse case load versus an ordinary semester where interns choose their specific area of practice. Summer interns were assigned cases ranging from divorce to criminal defense to civil matters. By offering a broad caseload, interns experienced the varied case types as well as the different court settings.

“The diversity of my caseload this summer included cases involving a minor in consumption, possession of drug paraphernalia, DUI, divorce, adoption, landlord/tenant disputes and a quiet title action,” Tim Sipe remarked. “The breadth of these experiences have proved to be some of the most valuable I have had at Washburn Law. It [Clinic] has allowed me to use a wide range of my course work to assist my clients in obtaining favorable outcomes—

experience you can’t get in traditional law school classes,” he added.



Judge Crotty conducts Q&A session with the summer clinic interns.



Judge Crotty with the 2012 Summer Interns from left: Timothy Sipe, Won Jun Lee, Daniel Finder, Judge Crotty, Nicholas Henry, Summer Dierks.

Newest Kansas Court of Appeals Judge, The Honorable David Bruns, '84, Presides Over Fall Swearing-In Ceremony

Before swearing-in 30 student interns for the fall 2012 semester, The Honorable David Bruns, '84, shared with the students the four R's of what he believes makes a good attorney: respect, responsibility, reasonableness, and reputation.



Judge David Bruns, '84

He advised the students that attorneys must show respect to clients, other attorneys, pro se litigants, and court personnel.

He explained that judges expect attorneys to work with each other in a respectful manner.

Judge Bruns then emphasized that attorneys are responsible for their work product, that they cannot blame others for their mistakes. He advised the interns to not be afraid to admit when they make a mistake and to know their strengths and weaknesses in their practice.

The third R, reasonableness, is something Judge Bruns says judges look for in attorneys and that they should pick their battles and never ask for too much. "Being unreasonable in your requests will get you nowhere," Judge Bruns said.

Judge Bruns reminded the students that it takes a lifetime to develop a reputation but only a few minutes to ruin it. "Attorneys must be credible to clients, other attorneys and the court to uphold a good reputation," he said.

In closing, Judge Bruns advised the interns that they are joining a proud profession and should be proud to be a part of it.

"Judge Bruns struck just the right tone in his remarks. He gave the new interns valuable, practical advice in welcoming them to their new careers. We thank him for his loyalty to Washburn University School of Law and his support of the Law Clinic," Professor Curtis Waugh said.



Fall 2012 Interns



Carly McPeak, Matthew McGregor, Eloy Gallegos, Kyle Sollars, Alisha Udhwani, Zach Young, Ellen Grennier

Family law matters and immigration are the practice areas these interns have chosen to place their focus. Divorces with minor children of the marriage, adoption, and paternity cases comprise the family law concentration. Immigration cases, which secure legal resident status for individuals and/or their children through VAWA, Battered Spouse Waiver, U-Visa, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, round out the practice area.

Fall 2012 Interns *continued*

Interns specializing in criminal defense represent clients in matters such as DUIs, battery, possession of a controlled substance, theft, criminal trespass, social hosting, and obstruction of the legal process. These interns practice in Topeka Municipal Court, Shawnee County District Court, and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Court.



Ethan Smith, Jerry Johnson, Travis Dunsmoor, Christopher Davies, Kathryn Kiwan, Christopher Rush, Marsha Sonner



Melissa Tucker Pope, Bill Pak, Crystal French, Noah Dumpert, Jennifer Brewer, Sun Kwon

Civil litigation interns enjoy a wide range of cases such as preparing wills and power of attorney documents to landlord/tenant issues, contract disputes, consumer issues, and real estate deeds. The varied case load of each intern is thoughtfully put together to match the work of a general practice attorney.

Criminal defense and wrongful convictions are the concentration areas for these interns. Cases such as criminal damage to property, DUIs, battery against a law enforcement officer, theft, possession of marijuana and paraphernalia are included in their criminal defense case load. These interns have begun an investigation into a wrongful conviction case and are writing a 1501 habeas petition as joint projects.



Benjamin Janssen, Stephanie Randall, Adam Poole

Each intern accepted into the Criminal Appellate Clinic is assigned two felony criminal appeal cases. Interns meticulously review the records on appeal and prepare their clients' briefs, which will be filed in the Kansas Court of Appeals. Possible outcomes for their clients are a reduction in sentence, a new trial or reversal of the conviction.



Christopher Davies, Scott Anderson, Taryn Locke, Anna Jumpponen, Shannon Rush



Jordan Blair, Cliff Nye, Brian Main, Ted Davis, Nicole Johnson, Joshua Mortensen

Interns accepted into the Small Business & Nonprofit Transactional Law Clinic are representing and advising clients regarding choice of entity, business formations, business plans, contract drafting, obtaining federal tax-exempt status, and other transactional matters. Students gain strong interviewing and client counseling skills in this practice area.

Professor Janet Thompson Jackson Awarded Sabbatical for Spring 2013 Semester



Janet Thompson Jackson

From January through April 2013, Professor Janet Thompson Jackson will collaborate with Free University of Tbilisi, Georgia, faculty via email, Skype and other technology to lay the groundwork for a four- to five-week visit beginning in May 2013. In preparation

for her visit she is conferring with Free University faculty to understand the needs and expectations for their transactional clinic, to assist in the development of the program design and curriculum, to develop or revise existing documents relevant to transactional clinical practice, and to research the Tbilisi business and nonprofit sectors for potential partnerships and client referrals.

“The purpose of my spring 2013 sabbatical project is to assist the law faculty at Free University of Tbilisi, Georgia, in further developing and evaluating the live-client business and nonprofit transactional law clinical program they launched in September 2012,” Professor Jackson said.

Once on-site in May 2013, Jackson will provide evaluative materials and facilitate various workshops with Free University faculty on topics such as: transactional clinical pedagogy and methodology; developing program designs to meet student and community needs; outreach to community partners and potential clients; best practices in clinical teaching; effective supervision and feedback; outcome measurements to evaluate clinic effectiveness; teaching professionalism and ethics in a clinical setting; and using technology in clinical programs.

Immigration Clinic Now Available

Professor Lynette Petty has been supervising immigration cases for the past two academic years, but recently separated the practice from the Children and Family Law Clinic. “It makes sense now to separate the two practice areas due to the number and variety of immigration cases we are currently handling,” Professor Petty said.

Students representing clients in the Immigration Clinic learn firsthand how national policy and laws are applied to foreign individuals and families living in America. This clinic experience focuses on

helping victims of crime and domestic violence, as well as assisting those popularly known as “dreamers”—under the age of 31 who came to the U.S. before age 16 — to obtain protection from deportation and work permits for at least two years.



Lynette Petty

There are five types of immigration cases being accepted for representation: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Battered Spouse Waiver, U Visa, Deferred Action for Children (DACA), and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS).

Margann Bennett, Director of Professional Development, Offers Résumé Advice

Not many people are comfortable tooting their own horns but according to Margann Bennett, Director of Professional Development, students must emphasize their professional assets to potential employers. Gaining practical experience through Law Clinic is one such asset that students should highlight on résumés and during interviews.

Learning to communicate with a potential employer “lawyer-to-lawyer” vs. “potential employer-to-job applicant” will have a positive impact and leave a lasting impression. As it is not cost effective for many law firms to pay someone who needs training, showcase the practical skills acquired in law clinic such as interviewing clients, developing a case strategy, appearing in court, and working in a fast-paced “law firm.” All of these skills you have acquired are invaluable to most employers; however potential employers won’t know you have these skills unless you highlight them. Clinic interns have done the work of practicing attorneys, and in this job market now is the time to capitalize on that practical experience.



Margann Bennett

Wrongful Convictions Class and Law Clinic Collaborate



Rebecca Woodman

Ronnie Rhodes, a Washburn Law Clinic client, visited Professor Rebecca Woodman’s Wrongful Convictions class on Sept. 13, 2012, to celebrate his newfound freedom after being released from prison. Rhodes was granted parole by the Kansas Prisoner Review Board on the heels of an investigation by students in the Wrongful Convictions class and representation by law clinic interns. The interns argued that the investigation showed that Rhodes was innocent of the murder he had been convicted of in 1981, but that he was without other legal recourse to prove his innocence because the evidence which would exonerate him was lost or destroyed. Rhodes was released on parole after serving more than 30 years in prison.

“The spirit of the law as I have been told is that you are innocent until proven guilty. But when you get arrested, you’re guilty until you prove yourself to be innocent. And something’s wrong with that ... I’m grateful and thankful that Rebecca and the students in the Wrongful Convictions class heard my cry ... ”
—Ronnie Rhodes



Ronnie Rhodes talking with students in the Wrongful Convictions class Sept. 13, 2012.

Testimonials from Clinic Interns



“Clinic gave me the practical experience I needed to complement my classes. Meeting with actual clients and filing legal documents are the types of skills you can’t learn in

a classroom. Clinic provides a chance to sharpen those skills in a learning environment with the help of a professor and licensed attorney.”

-Josh Mortensen, Class of 2013

“Washburn Law Clinic is a great place to gain valuable experience. With the five areas of law available to clinic interns, this is a great learning opportunity

for students. Even if an intern doesn’t plan to practice in that area of law, it gives him or her a chance to get hands-on experience as a lawyer and be well-rounded upon graduation. I recommend that every law student enroll in clinic!”

-Summer Dierks, Class of 2013



“Clinic has provided me with the awesome opportunity to put what I’ve learned academically into practice. Although challenging, Clinic has been a unique experience that has allowed me to learn much more than the law.”

-Carly McPeak, Class of 2013



“Washburn Law Clinic is the perfect blend of practical and educational. The opportunity to learn about the practice of law in a hands-on setting is a great benefit

to the students of Washburn Law. Coupled with classes that focus on filing, legal writing, and common issues found in cases, students get the opportunity to transition away from legal theory to legal practice under the guidance of wonderful instructors and attorneys. It’s a fantastic program.”

-Chris Davies, Class of 2013



“Clinic has been the most practical experience I have had in law school. It has helped me to gain understanding of the legal system and has given me the confidence I

need to be an attorney.”

-Ethan Smith, Class of 2013



Q. Do you have to have taken and passed the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination before enrolling in clinic?

A. No, the MPRE is not a prerequisite for enrollment.

Q. Does enrolling in clinic satisfy the upper-level oral requirement?

A. It depends on the clinic in which you enroll. Although there is a possibility to satisfy this requirement while enrolled in Litigation Clinic and Appellate Advocacy Clinic, you should speak with the faculty supervisor early in the semester to determine whether the possibility exists.

Enrollment in the Small Business & Nonprofit Transactional Law Clinic does satisfy the upper level oral requirement as giving a public presentation is included in the course work.

Q. What about the upper-level writing requirement?

A. Again, it depends on the clinic.

Enrollment in the Appellate Advocacy Clinic satisfies the requirement, whether the requirement is satisfied in Litigation Clinic and SB&NTL Clinic is determined on a case-by-case basis. Always check with the faculty supervisor to determine your options.

Q. Why is there an application process for enrollment in Appellate Advocacy Clinic and SB&NTL Clinic?

A. Since enrollment is limited in these two clinics, faculty supervisors work to find students with the strongest interest in these fields to enroll in the clinics.

Q. Why is the clinic library off limits to other law students?

A. The clinic library is the office space provided to our interns where they can spread out their files, work and discuss their cases without breaching confidentiality. This area is off limits to all other law students, faculty, staff and the public.

Quotes from Recent Alumni

“My clinic experience is already paying off in the private practice of law. I use the client interviewing and counseling skills I learned in Clinic, which have been vital to providing legal services to my current clients. I also use the skills I learned during clinic to draft pleadings, motions, and orders. Mostly, Clinic has prepared me for the everyday practice of law; the basic procedures and requirements for navigating the legal system. I cannot recommend enough participating in clinic to the students at Washburn.”



-Laura Allison, Class of 2012, Attorney at Law, Hines Ablquist

“As a new attorney and former Clinic intern, I can honestly say that Clinic helped me tremendously. Although I am fresh out of school, I can communicate with clients, write up legal documents and walk into courtrooms with confidence. Clinic allowed me to experience these things firsthand so now that I am on my own, I am prepared and ready to take on whatever comes my way. Clinic teaches you the things you can’t learn in a traditional classroom.”



-Hannah Schroller, Class of 2012, Attorney at Law, Swinnen & Associates

Reminder: Enrollment begins
Monday, November 5.



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