



Washburn Law Clinic
WASHBURN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW™



The Pathway To Practice

SPRING 2014

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW • CIVIL LITIGATION • CRIMINAL DEFENSE • IMMIGRATION • TRIBAL COURT
CRIMINAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY • SMALL BUSINESS & NONPROFIT TRANSACTIONAL LAW

NOTABLE RANKING

Washburn Law Ranked in Top 20% Nationwide by National Jurist

Washburn University School of Law was recently nationally recognized for the quality of its legal education. Both *U.S. News & World Report* and *National Jurist* magazines gave high marks to Washburn Law.

Washburn Law jumped up 25 spots in the just released 2015 edition of the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual ranking of the Best Grad Schools. Washburn Law's performance resulted in the second-largest rankings improvement in the nation this year, as noted by *The National Law Journal*, and the largest in the Midwest. "We are very pleased that Washburn Law received this recognition for our commitment to outstanding legal education," said Washburn Law Dean Thomas J. Romig. "This reflects great credit on our truly exceptional faculty and the strength of our academic programs."

In addition to the *U.S. News* ranking, Washburn Law was recognized for

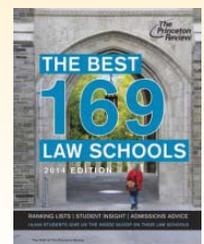
the strength of its practical lawyering skills courses by the *National Jurist*. From the national pool of 202 law schools, *National Jurist* rated Washburn Law as one of the top schools in its "Best Schools for Practical Training" edition.

Washburn Law's A- rating, which placed it in the top 36 law schools nationally, was the highest rating in the Midwest and one of the highest in the nation. The rating was based on the opportunities for hands-on experience through the legal clinic, in class simulations, and externships.

"Washburn Law has a long history of preparing practice-ready graduates," said Dean Romig. "We prepare our graduates to be able to hit the ground running at graduation. We are happy that this special rating recognizes what we believe sets Washburn Law apart from most of the other law schools in the country."

"Washburn Law has a long history of preparing practice-ready graduates."

Dean Thomas J. Romig



Washburn Law was also honored as one of the nation's most outstanding law schools by the *Princeton Review* in its most recent edition. All of these recognitions, along with Washburn Law's low tuition, reinforce the fact that Washburn Law provides an extremely high quality legal education at a very affordable cost. "We believe that Washburn Law is one of the best values in legal education in the country today," said Dean Romig.



Udhwani and Acton Named Raymond Spring Award Recipients

By Associate Professor Lynette Petty

Alisha Udhwani, '13, and Lindsee Acton, J.D. Candidate '15, were the co-recipients of the 2013 Kansas Association for Justice Raymond Spring Award. The award is given annually to the Washburn Law Clinic intern who has demonstrated the highest commitment to providing legal services to clients in need.

Alisha Udhwani worked under the supervision of Associate Professor Lynette Petty, representing clients in domestic and immigration matters. Alisha was born in India and moved to the United States when she was young. Her family eventually moved to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands where Alisha grew up. When it came time to go to college, she decided to leave the security of the familiar and chose Agnes Scott College in Georgia. Her feelings growing up in communities with very few Indian or Hindi people have given her a unique perspective on what immigrants experience in America.

Alisha aspires to help immigrant women who are victims of domestic violence. Her work as a summer intern in Atlanta with a nonprofit organization fed her desire to serve this population and gave her a foundation for her work as a legal intern and directed intern in the Washburn Law Clinic. To be effective working with immigrant victims



Alisha Udhwani, '13

of domestic violence, Alisha had to first understand the complexities of the choices and challenges her clients face each day, not only for themselves but their children. She had to gain the trust and confidence of the clients to learn their stories and gather documents in the U.S., as well as abroad. Finally, she applied the complex immigration laws to their cases and prepared petition packets with all the evidence. Alisha has a passion for this work and has demonstrated skills far beyond what is expected from a student just beginning her career of service.

Lindsee Acton also worked under the supervision of Professor Petty. She represented clients in domestic and immigration cases and served as guardian *ad litem* for truant children under the age of 10 in child in need of care cases. Lindsee is definitely a woman who knows what she wants, plots her course, and lets nothing



Lynette Petty and Lindsee Acton, J.D. Candidate '15

stand in her way to get there. She is pursuing a dual degree program at Washburn and will graduate with a J.D. and a Master of Social Work.

Lindsee intends to use her education to help children and families. As a legal intern and directed intern in the Washburn Law Clinic, she represented clients with children through difficult divorces, helping them to focus on security and stability for their families. She also represented an undocumented woman from Mexico who had endured years of emotional abuse and beatings from her husband and who finally had the courage to reach out to law enforcement for help. In addition, Lindsee fulfilled her duties as guardian *ad litem* with thorough and effective independent investigations of the problems causing her young clients to miss school. Her background in social work was put to good use as she worked through the maze of agencies tasked with

(continued on next page)

Spring 2014 Swearing-In



Recently appointed Kansas Court of Appeals Judge Kim R. Schroeder, '82, presided over the Clinic's Spring Swearing-In Ceremony in Washburn Law's courtroom on January 27, 2014.

Judge Schroeder's Words of Wisdom

"This oath will allow you to hone your skills."

"Always be honest to the court, yourself, and members of the Bar."

"One of my responsibilities is to help young lawyers."

"Don't hesitate to ask questions . . . you will find that lawyers have a wealth of knowledge."

"If you're representing clients in court, the clients don't always tell the truth. You have to figure out how to work within those parameters."

Raymond Spring (continued from page 2)

helping children and families. Lindsee aspires to use her education to affect governmental policies and institutions for families in need.

These two women are a testament to

what it means to commit to a cause and use your education for the service of others. All of us who knew Ray Spring will agree that he would have been proud to have his name honored by the work of these two students.

notable...

Facts and FIGURES

During the 2013-14 academic year, clinic students will have performed almost **9,000 hours** of free legal services for the community

43% of the 2014 class took Clinic with many earning certificates and also participating in the externship program

2 students became fathers

1 got married

Current Clinic Interns



PROFESSOR JOHN FRANCIS' INTERNS

Under the supervision of Professor John Francis, his student interns are concentrating on criminal defense matters. They are representing individuals with charges of possession of drugs and paraphernalia, DUI, assault, reckless driving, and criminal use of a weapon. They have appeared in Topeka Municipal Court, Shawnee County District Court, and Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal District Court.

Photo at left: Robert Anderson, Alex Zimmerman, Jason Niernberger, Jason Schulte, and Scott Johnson



PROFESSOR LYNETTE PETTY'S INTERNS

Family law and immigration matters are the areas of concentration for Professor Lynette Petty's interns. These students are representing individuals in cases such as divorce with minor children of the marriage, adoption, and paternity as well as representing the best interest of children in Child in Need of Care matters which are heard in Juvenile Court. They are also representing foreign born individuals in VAWA and U-Visa matters.

Photo at left: Kara Daniel; Justin Pierson, Whitney Mills, Heather Nevarez, Jenna Morgan, and Janette Fellows-Papak



PROFESSOR CURTIS WAUGH'S INTERNS

Interns concentrating on general civil matters are doing so under the supervision of Professor Curtis Waugh. They are representing individuals in landlord/tenant matters, title issues, consumer issues, and debtor-creditor matters, along with estate planning such as wills, power of attorney documents, and advanced directives.

Photo at left: Evan Talbott, Joshua Baseley; Phillip Strozier, and Joe Milavec



PROFESSOR JANET JACKSON'S INTERNS

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. Professor Janet Thompson Jackson is the supervising attorney for this clinic.

Photo at left: Michael Fowler, Isabella Gichiri, and Matthew Peterson (Not pictured Nhu Nguyen)

Kelsy Allison, '14, Earns Ungerman Award



Professor Curtis Waugh and Kelsy Allison, '14

By Professor Curtis Waugh

Kelsy Allison, '14, worked on, and distinguished herself in, a wide variety of legal matters, including cases involving commercial tenants, non-profit entities, real estate issues, probate matters, and even a guardianship which arose out of an insurance proceeds dispute.

In the course of her work, Kelsy had to learn and apply substantive law, including corporate status - forfeiture v. dissolution, Chapter 11 bankruptcy, real estate contracts, and intestate succession, to represent her clients.

In all her cases Kelsy has shown what the Ungerman Award describes as a “reflective attitude” toward all her work. She has consistently been thoughtful, self-directed, and thorough in her legal analysis, and, importantly, client counseling.

Kelsy is an associate with McAnany, Van Cleave & Phillips, P.A., in Kansas City, Kan. She was sworn in on April 25, 2014.



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Dean Petty,

How are you doing? I have some good news! I got a job clerking for the Family Law Judge in St. Croix!!!! I had an interview over the phone Friday, and was formally offered the position today! I start on the 17th!!

When I was on the phone with her on Friday she was mostly interested in hearing about the work I did with you at the clinic! She said the other people she interviewed had impressive resumes and lots of experience clerking, but she liked that I had some family law experience.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn so much from you at the clinic! Thank you so much for everything! :)

Thanks,

Alisha Udhwani, '13

notable...

A teacher asked a student to sum up Socrates' life in four lines.

Here's what he said:

“Socrates lived long ago.

He was very intelligent.

Socrates gave long speeches.

His friends poisoned him.”

WASHBURN LAW CLINIC INTERNS

Practical Experience Voices

"I have really enjoyed my time in Clinic. It has provided me with diverse experience and a wonderful opportunity

to learn my way around the courtroom.

The whole process of taking a real case from start to finish is a lot less intimidating when you get the chance to walk through it step-by-step with help from the amazing professors and staff in the Washburn Law Clinic."

Jennifer Ouellette,
J.D. Candidate, '14



"The Clinic as a teaching facility/law firm and the staff essentially help law students take what they have read,

studied, memorized, debated, and discussed, and use it in a real-life application. The idea of having real clients with real problems was intimidating, but the supervising attorneys/professors guide you through each step.

Taking Law Clinic is the single most invaluable experience you can have as a law student."

Robert Anderson, Jr.,
J.D. Candidate, '14



"Clinic has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my law school career. I came

in with little experience in the field I plan to spend my life pursuing and will leave with experience in adoption, divorce, and guardian *ad litem* cases."

Kara M. Daniel,
J.D. Candidate, '14



"The Clinic has been a major step in preparing me for the legal world. The professors have

been pivotal in explaining different steps in the process and giving guidance when needed.

Clinic also allows students the experience of working in a law firm. The procedures and such that are in place allow students to realize how much "other" stuff goes on in a firm—billing, scheduling, and even phone calls are tasks that I never thought would be as important and time consuming as they are."

Joseph Milavec,
J.D. Candidate, '14



"The only way to become a practice-ready lawyer is to practice law. Working as a legal intern for the Clinic

allowed me to do just that. I managed cases from start to finish, and had the opportunity to see the value of my work for my clients."

Jason Schulte,
J.D. Candidate, '14



"This is my first time doing practical work in the United States. Being an international student, being able to do practical

work in two distinctively different countries, that have different laws, has been both challenging and rewarding. I feel that I am going to be a better lawyer to my future clients."

Isabella Gichiri,
J.D. Candidate, '14



"Clinic has not only helped me assess my strengths and weaknesses, but has also helped me become

practice-ready and confident in my ability to find employment after graduation."

Justin Pierson,
J.D. Candidate, '14

TOP 10 SOCIAL MEDIA TIPS FOR ATTORNEYS

1. View social networking sites as billboards in cyberspace—anyone can see your posts.
2. Don't disclose information you wouldn't want made public—be mindful of information you are posting about your family and friends as well.
3. Don't become Facebook friends with judges or clients—*dub!*
4. Use the available privacy options—and keep them updated as the site changes.
5. Even in general terms, never discuss cases via social media.
6. Keep an eye on your Facebook wall—delete anything posted by someone else that is not appropriate.
7. Ask friends and family to make their referrals to your practice privately rather than using social media.
8. Keep your social networking social and for personal use only—don't post about work issues.
9. Avoid any ethical eyebrow-raising by not passing along quotations or links that may have copyright or libel law implications—think bootleg recordings on YouTube.
10. Don't friend people you don't know—they aren't your friends.

Sources:

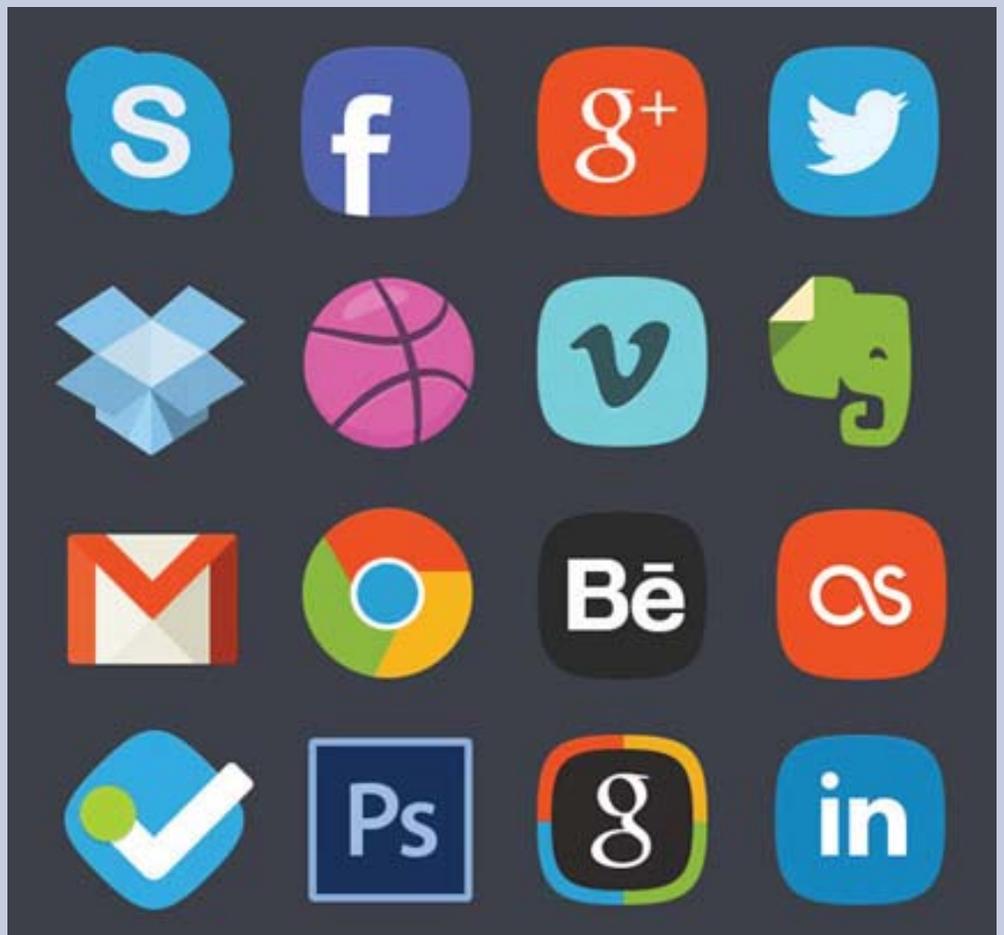
Harmon, David E., "Avoid Social Media Pitfalls: A Baker's Dozen Suggestions for Safe Online Networking", *The Lawyer's PC*, Volume 31, Number 9, February 1, 2014.

Carabott, Emmanuel, "Top 10 Security Precautions when using Social Networking Sites," January 23, 2010, Talk Tech To Me blog, www.gfi.com/blog/.
National Consumer's League "Social Networking Security and Safety Tips", www.nclnet.org.

Test Your Social Media Savvy...

*How many of these
social media icons can
you correctly identify?*

Answers can be
found on page 11.



WASHBURN LAW ALUMNI

Practical Experience Voices

"Lessons learned in Law Clinic prepare you for life after law school. The Washburn Law Clinic allowed me to represent clients in the courtroom while having a mentor readily available. Law Clinic removed the mystery of the court room and gave me the confidence to open my own firm after graduation."

Ben Jackson, '13

Jackson Legal Group, LLC
Cheyenne, Wyoming



"Simply put, your law school education is not complete without real-life legal experience. Knowing every rule of law like the back of your hand will do you no good if you never learn how to write a petition or how to communicate effectively with a client. Luckily for me, that's where Washburn Law Clinic stepped in. During my time at the Clinic, I gained immediately applicable knowledge, world class instruction, and most importantly, the confidence I needed to take the leap from law student to practicing attorney."

Noah Dumpert, '12

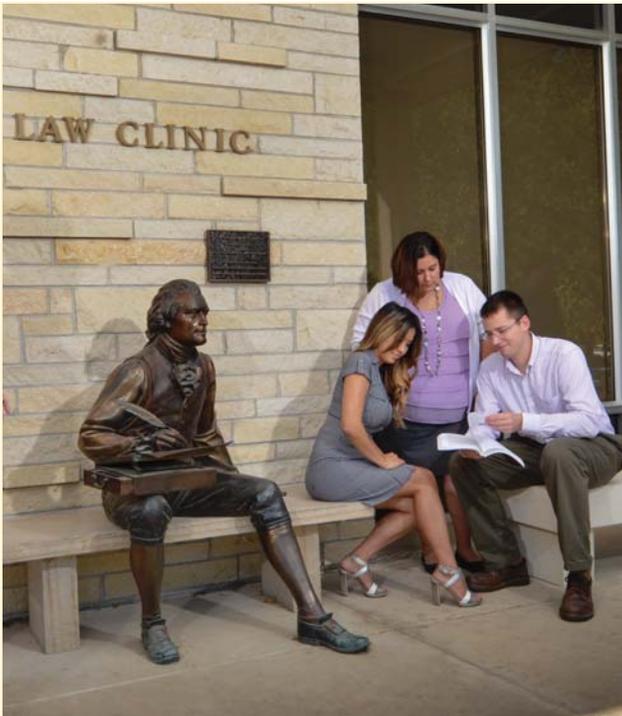
Bryan, Lykins, Hejtmanek & Fincher
Topeka, Kansas



"I loved my experience as an intern at the Washburn Law Clinic. Because of my Clinic experience, I had the confidence and resources needed to start practicing law on my own after graduating. My former supervising attorney and the Clinic staff continue to be an important contact for me in my law practice journey."

Rachel Miller, '11

Rachel L. Miller, Attorney at Law
Topeka, Kansas



PILOT PROJECT

Grading Policy Change

Beginning with spring enrollment for fall 2014 classes, after students have enrolled in Law Clinic, they must elect to take clinic for either a letter grade or credit/no credit.

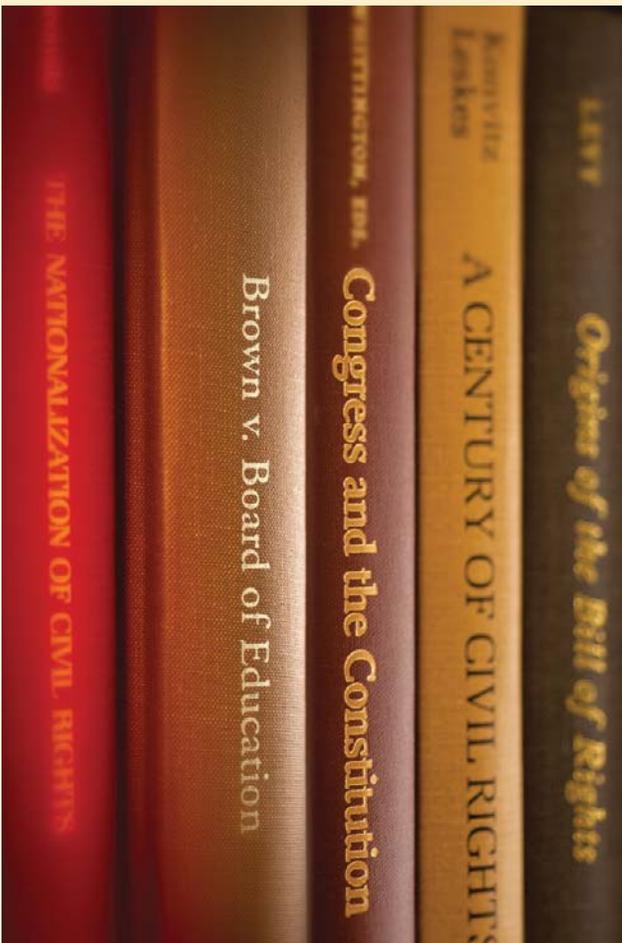
This new policy applies to the Small Business & Nonprofit Transactional Law Clinic and the Litigation Clinic. It does not apply to directed interns or Criminal Appeals Advocacy.

Potential clinic students should follow the regular enrollment procedures. Students will make their grade election at a training session (scheduled for August 22, 2014) and will have until the end of the first week of classes to change their election.

This policy is part of a two-year pilot project to study a possible new grading system within the Law Clinic. The project is a single blind experiment: clinic supervisors and staff will not know what grade election students have chosen.

Questions about the new policy and clinic enrollment may be directed to Debi Schrock, Law Clinic managing director.

debi.schrock@washburn.edu
785.670.1953



LEGAL ISSUES

Clinic Interns Present to Small Business Owners

The Small Business & Nonprofit Transactional Clinic interns gave a “Legal Issues for Your Small Business” presentation on April 15 as part of the Washburn Small Business Development Center’s business workshop series.

The presentation was held at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. Thirty-eight small business owners attended.



Nhu Nguyen, Michael Fowler, Isabella Gichiri, and Matthew Peterson. All are 2014 J.D. candidates.

“I presented on the topics of limited liability companies and taxation. The presentation was a great opportunity to express everything we have learned over the semester in advising clients on business entity selection and formation. It was nice being able to speak to various business owners about the practical legal business issues they should be aware of.”

Matthew Peterson

“My goal when I graduate from law school is to have full confidence in my abilities and know that I can assist my clients well. While discussing my parts of our team’s presentation, I was on a roll. It was great.

During the Q & A at the end of the presentation, I was able to thoroughly answer questions from the audience. Now I am confident in my abilities to represent future clients after law school.”

Michael Fowler

Social Media Savvy...

ANSWERS



For more social media quizzes, visit:

<http://abcnews.go.com/WN/page?id=11217679>

<http://www.youngdigital.net/technical/social-media-and-mobile-devices/social-a-mobile-media-quiz>

<http://www.discovery.com/tv-shows/curiosity/topics/social-networking-quiz.htm>

About Us

The Washburn Law Clinic provides many students their first chance to handle real cases, and real issues for real people. Students are in the driver's seat as they work with their supervisors to discuss interview strategies, case theories, trial tactics, and much more. Students begin to learn the practice of law with a staff that is truly dedicated to success. Most importantly, the Washburn Law Clinic provides an incredible amount of legal experience.

A great legal education necessarily includes legal experience. Even if students plan on joining the Fast Track and graduating in two years, it's important to gain valuable legal experience by enrolling in the Washburn Law Clinic. The pathway to practice begins at the Washburn Law Clinic: a student's best opportunity to become "practice-ready."

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