

# Center for Excellence in Advocacy

This fall, law students were invited to learn highly persuasive advocacy skills from experienced and talented civil and criminal law litigators, appellate judges, trial judges, professors, and a jury consultant who works on high profile cases. Students also participated as witnesses and networked in the NITA-Washburn Outreach Program for Public Service Lawyers in Hays, Kan. Students competed in mock trials to gain a place on the trial advocacy teams while others joined (and won) Moot Court and negotiation competitions. In February 2007, the Center will coordinate a regional client counseling competition.

The speaker series for the Center remains strong. In September, the first speaker in the "Lunch and Litigation" series was immigration attorney Mira Mdvani who specializes in business immigration issues. Mdvani chairs the Pro Bono Service Committee of the Missouri-Kansas Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Working with Mdvani, the Center plans to develop pro bono opportunities for law students in immigration practice.

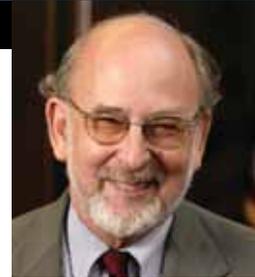
In October, Mark Schoenhofer '93, spoke on professionalism issues arising in litigation practice. He focused on his successful defense in a recent case involving Fourth Amendment issues. The case is now before the Kansas Supreme Court. Schoenhofer stressed the importance of knowledge, skill, and tenacity in representing clients. Schoenhofer specializes in criminal defense and personal injury litigation.

In November, Randall "Randy" Fisher '76, presented a two day program for lawyers and students on Kansas Automobile Insurance Law. Fisher's practice centers on trial and appellate work, both criminal and civil. He is a solo practitioner, and is a former Sedgwick County district court judge, and a former partner in the law firm of Michaud, Hutton, Fisher and Anderson, as well as a director of the firm of McDonald, Tinker, Skaer, Quinn and Herrington, P. A. He authored *Kansas*



Professor Michael Kaye

*Automobile Insurance Law.* Fisher's presentation covered the practicalities and law of Kansas insurance



law and litigation. He also focused on ethical issues and how to avoid ethical missteps in practice. The first day program was geared to law students and lawyers in practice less than five years. The second day addressed advanced issues on litigating insurance law cases.

All these speakers met for a private lunch with law students from the Center's Advocacy Society, giving students a chance to gain one-on-one insight and information on the practice of law.

Judges also contributed to students learning experiences in the fall. The Honorable Mark A. Drummond, Circuit Court Judge for the 8th Circuit of Illinois, visited the law school in November as the Jurist in Residence. Drummond is a nationally recognized trial advocacy teacher. He has been selected to serve as a program director at large for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, has served as co-chair of the Trial Practice Committee of the ABA Litigation Section and is an associate editor and columnist for the ABA's *Litigation News*. Drummond taught a trial advocacy section of a trial advocacy course and met with trial advocacy adjunct instructors to discuss teaching techniques. The centerpiece of his visit was a full day trial advocacy program and CLE titled "Persuasive Litigation Skills—8 Keys to the Art of Persuasion." Drummond helped students become familiar with the communica-



Kansas Court of Appeals



Mira Mdvani

tion aspects of trial work and the psychological and emotional components of effective courtroom persuasion, as well as the ethical requirements of trial work.

Drummond spent time teaching trial techniques to students on the trial teams. He turned the Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center into a theater to practice effective communication. Students were “on their feet, not on their seats” as they practiced trial skills with Drummond and their trial coaches.

The Honorable Ron Greenberg visited the law school Oct. 12-16, 2006. He lectured on advocacy and meditation techniques, met with faculty and students, led meditation and reflection groups, and spoke to students on how to achieve success in law school. Greenberg, a recently retired California Superior Court Judge, has used meditation practice as a trial judge and has worked extensively with lawyers and law students in examining the role of contemplative mind-quieting activity in a lawyer’s career from law student to senior practitioner. He has co-led meditation groups with Professor Charles Halprin, visiting scholar in residence at Boalt Hall Law School of the University of California at Berkeley. After Greenberg’s presentation, a law student meditation group began meeting weekly at the law school.

On Oct. 17-18, 2006, the Kansas Court of Appeals sat for oral arguments in the Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center. Judges Christel Marquardt ‘74, Tom Malone ‘79 and Nancy Caplinger ‘85, presided. It has become an annual event for the Court of Appeals to sit at the law school.

Students not only were able to observe oral arguments, but were also invited to attend an informal panel discussion with the judges.

The Center would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Advocacy Center Board of Advisors who have joined the Center for special programs in recent years. The Board of Advisors consists of George Barton ‘77, The Honorable Paul Brady ‘56, The Honorable John Conway ‘63, Rich Enochs ‘63, Stewart Entz ‘65, Phil Harley ‘74, Joyce Hellstern ‘85, Andrew Hutton ‘79, Lynn Johnson ‘70, Michael C. Manning ‘77, The Honorable Joseph Morris ‘47, Bill Ossmann ‘77, Brad Post ‘54, Eugene Ralston ‘66, Donald Rupert ‘76, Pat Scalia ‘78, John Shamberg ‘37, Kent Smith ‘66, and Fred



The Honorable Ron Greenberg

Spigarelli ‘70. Members of the board have enthusiastically given generously of their time and talent to enrich our students’ education.

Alumni, members of the Center’s Board of Advisors, faculty, law students, and friends of the law school, make these events happen. Through the collective collaboration of all of these individuals, students learn about the legal profession and gain valuable skills in a collegial supportive environment where the focus is on their success.

If you wish to learn more about the Center, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact director, Professor Michael Kaye, at (785) 670-1370 or [michael.kaye@washburn.edu](mailto:michael.kaye@washburn.edu)