

Center for Excellence in Advocacy

This spring, the Center's alumni members and law students continued to invest talent, resources and energy into increasing opportunities for outstanding advocacy skills training at Washburn Law.

The Center's advisory board members were active this past semester. Mike Manning '77, gave the law school commencement address and received an honorary doctor of laws degree at the May graduation ceremony.

The Honorable Paul L. Brady '56, accompanied by his wife Xernona Clayton, were in Topeka, May 17, to attend ceremonies surrounding the re-naming of the Topeka 501 Education Center. The center was re-named the Lucinda Todd Education Center in honor and memory of Judge Brady's aunt, Lucinda Todd, one of the original plaintiffs in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Todd's father was the first parent to sign up as a plaintiff in the historic *Brown* case, and lawyers including Thurgood Marshall met regularly at Todd's house between 1950 and 1954 planning strategies in that case.

Lynn Johnson '70, gave the keynote address at the Law School advocacy awards dinner, April 10, 2007.

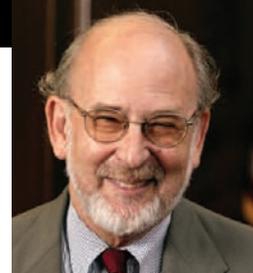
Programming in the center continues to offer many opportunities. The Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP) was again a success with a record number of 50 students attending from May 14 - May 19. Twenty-two faculty members participated



ITAP Program



Professor Michael Kaye



in the program including alumni Cal Williams '78, Lee Barnett '79, David Cooper '94, Mike Francis '75, Scott Hesse '84, Dick Lake '68, Bill Ossmann '77, Duston Slinkard '03, Bernard Hurd '68, and Ron Pope '84.

Also joining the ITAP program were Professors Charles Rose, Stetson University School of Law, and Chris Behan, Southern Illinois University School of Law. Both professors are incredibly experienced trial advocacy professors who have taught in the Washburn Law Outreach and ITAP programs on previous occasions. Washburn Law Professor Aida Alaka joined Rose and Behan.

Cal Williams, who is incredibly active in the law school advocacy program, has been instrumental in helping establish the Western Kansas Public Service Outreach Program, held yearly in Hays, Kan., for government, public defender, and legal aid lawyers in the western portion of our state. Williams created the Calvin K. Williams ITAP scholarship, which is awarded yearly to deserving students in the current ITAP class. This year the award recipients were Whitney Miranda '08, Thao Nguyen '07, and Sayra Hurley '09.

Part of the mission of the Center is to encourage and promote the effective teaching of trial advocacy. During the fall 2008 semester, Mike Francis will teach advanced trial advocacy with an increased focus on using technology. Francis, a veteran trial advocacy adjunct professor at Washburn Law, has taught advanced trial advocacy for several years.

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ITAP Faculty

Kevin Regan '81, and Lucy McShane, Regan Law Firm, Kansas City, Mo., taught a trial advocacy class in Kansas City to accommodate the number of students commuting from that area. The course was taught one night a week at the Jackson County, Mo., courthouse. Regan and McShane raised money from local attorneys for scholarship awards. These were awarded to the outstanding students who demonstrated excellence in the concluding trial of the course. Nathan Runde '08, Derik Smith '08, and Peter Andreone '08, received stipends.

Dick Lake '68, a highly experienced trial lawyer, recently joined ITAP. Lake also contributed financial support to the ITAP program and to the scholarship fund established by Regan and McShane in their advocacy class.

In fall 2008 Lake will teach a trial advocacy workshop in the basic trial advocacy course taught by Bill Ossmann. This course includes students currently enrolled in Professor Kaye's fall evidence class. The evidence and advocacy course instructors coordinate so the advocacy skills program follows what the students are learning in evidence class.

The summer trial college offered students an opportunity to develop advocacy skills by working with experienced litigators in specialized areas: deposition practice and cross

examination techniques. Students earn one credit hour for each specialized course, and unlike other skills courses, these are graded. The class met on weekends to allow students to work during the week and prepare for the skills exercises, taught NITA style, through small hands-on workshops led by practitioners. At the end of the course, students demonstrate their skill in a final graded presentation evaluated by the full course faculty.

This year's deposition skills faculty included Todd Hiatt '05, Ken Kula '94, Bill Ossman '77, Scott Hesse '84, Lee Barnett '79, and Ron Pope '84. Professor Jim Martin, Washburn School of Business, participated as a lecturer. Many of the students who completed the 2007 ITAP took the deposition skills course to continue their skills work.

The Center, along with coordination from the Legal Analysis Research and Writing program, hosted the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, March 7-9, in the Robinson Courtroom and Bianchino Technology Center. Immediately after the Tenth Circuit visit, the Center sponsored, "The Art of Advocacy: Writing to Win" program March 9-10. The program focused on written persuasive advocacy and brought together state and federal judges from the trial and appellate level, practicing lawyers, law clerks, and law students to exchange views on a key component of appellate advocacy: the brief. The conference concluded with a reception and dinner at the *Brown v. Board of Education* Museum. Justice Lee Johnson '80, of the Kansas Supreme Court was keynote speaker.

By Professor Michael Kaye

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.