



### 2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



*The Center for Excellence in Advocacy unites students, judges, law faculty, and practicing lawyers who share interests in a broad range of advocacy-related fields of law.*

#### DIRECTOR'S LETTER



**Jeffrey D. Jackson**  
Professor of Law  
Interim Director,  
Center for Excellence  
in Advocacy

This past year acting as the Director of the Center for Excellence in Advocacy has certainly been an interesting one. Before coming into the position, I'd been involved with the Center in a number of capacities, and thought I had a pretty good handle on everything that the Center does. However, the activities and experiences of this past year proved very educational, not only because they reminded me of some important things I already knew, but also because they taught me new things. Through the events of this year, I've obtained a greater appreciation for the Center and its people, including students, staff, alumni, and supporters.

The Center has been abuzz with major activity on a national scale. In October 2016, the school served as the host for the regional rounds of the 67th Annual National Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the New York City Bar Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers. Then, in February 2017, Washburn hosted the regional rounds of the 42nd Annual National Trial Competition, sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyer Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers. I knew these two

#### INTENSIVE TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM



*2017 ITAP  
faculty (left)  
and student  
participants  
(below).*



*In May 2017, the Center for Excellence in Advocacy offered its annual Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP), a two-credit, week-long course that trains law students to be trial lawyers. This innovative course immerses students in trial practice for seven full days, under the direction of an 18-person faculty.*

national tournaments would give our students the opportunity to showcase their talents and abilities. They did not disappoint. While some of the students competed, others worked diligently behind the scenes to make both tournaments operate smoothly. Whether working as score tabulators, runners, or even witnesses, they helped to make both tournaments successful.

The work the students put in was one more example of something I often brag about to, well, anyone who will listen: We have a great bunch of students in our law school.

However, there's another critical component to both competitions that doesn't always get as much attention.

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## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

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In order to host a regional competition for moot court, the host school has to somehow convince more than 60 practicing attorneys to serve as judges—a job that requires not only listening to arguments and evaluating the competitors over the course of an hour, but also preparation for the arguments, including reading the materials and formulating questions. A regional trial advocacy competition is an even heavier lift. It requires the same number of practicing attorneys and judges, but they have to preside over and judge trials that sometimes last for three hours! The task of getting enough attorneys to donate their time to two of these endeavors in the same year seemed well-nigh impossible.

As it turned out, however, I was overwhelmed by the willingness of people to volunteer their time, especially our alumni. We ended up with 65 judges for the moot court tournament in the fall, 52 of whom were alumni. In the spring, we had another 64 judges, 41 of whom were alumni, and many of whom volunteered for multiple sessions. They came not only from the usual places such as Topeka, Kansas City, and Wichita, but as far away as

Liberal, Kansas and even Springfield, Missouri. It was a truly impressive display, and should also be bragged about to anyone who will listen: We have a great bunch of alums and supporters at our law school.

The final piece of my year-long education regarding the Center came when I had the opportunity to preside over one of the crown jewels of the Center, its Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP). Note: When I say “preside over,” I’m exaggerating quite a bit. Thanks to the system my predecessor Mike Kaye established, the support and organization that Shawn Leisinger and Donna Vilander provide, and the skill and dedication of the group of adjunct professors that we bring in to teach it, ITAP runs like a well-oiled machine. My duties were simply to serve as the regular faculty presence for the program (which is pretty much my whole skill set) and to be on hand to make sure that everything ran smoothly and/or take the blame if things broke down.

Because the program runs so well, I received an incredible opportunity. Under the guise of “quality control,” I actually got to sit in on all of the

plenary sessions as well as many of the small-group sessions. For free! It was an amazing experience. The course is taught in a compressed seven-day schedule from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, using a modified form of the program and teaching method developed by the National Institute of Trial Lawyers. Much of the students’ time is spent in group workshops where they can try out the skills they learn in the plenary session. On the last day, the students conduct a trial in which they get to showcase their overall mastery of the skills. The compressed timeframe means a lot of teaching gets packed into a short amount of time, and students have to be prepared each day to work for the whole time period. They then go home and do the readings for the next session. It certainly puts the “intensive” into ITAP. I know that I was exhausted at the end of each day, so I can only imagine how the students felt.

Of course, the engine that powers ITAP is the group of instructors who generously give their time to teach it. This year we had 18 attorneys and judges help teach the program. They mentored the students through the

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## “HISTORY, PRACTICE, AND PROCESSES OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT” CLE

On April 20, 2017, U.S. Tax Court Judge Elizabeth Crewson Paris presented the Lunch and Learn session “History, Practice, and Processes of the United States Tax Court.” She delivered a Continuing Legal Education session later in the afternoon on the same topic.

Judge Paris explored the history and operations of the United States Tax Court and covered practice tips and pointers from her perspective as a Judge. She also talked about the admission process and practice by Certified Public Accountants before the court.

*“Appreciate and take advantage of the experienced members of the bar because they were practicing when the tax code was written and have an enormous amount of knowledge and talent.”*

Judge Elizabeth Crewson Paris’s advice to Lunch and Learn attendees

## CELEBRATING GREATNESS



*Washburn's Voir Dire team claimed runner-up in the finals of UMKC's "Show Me Challenge" national tournament in April 2017.*



*Washburn's 2016-17 Jessup International Moot Court team, pictured with their coach, Professor Craig Martin (far right), advanced to the quarterfinals of last year's competition.*

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

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incredibly difficult process of learning case theory, direct examination, use of exhibits, cross examination, introduction of evidence, and opening and closing arguments. It was simply amazing to see the progress the students made in the short timeframe of one week. I admire the dedication of the lawyers who volunteer to teach this program and the law students who decide to take it. Neither task is easy, but the benefits are certainly worth it.

So, what's ahead for the Center this year? Well, on one hand, we aren't scheduled to host any interscholastic competitions this year. While that may be unfortunate in that we don't get the chance to show off our school and students as much, it also gives our infrastructure a little bit of a break. That doesn't mean, however, that we won't be very busy this coming year. We have a very full schedule

of Lunch and Learn presentations planned. These presentations are especially important in connecting students with, and allowing them to learn from, practicing attorneys. We also have a full slate of court visits planned. Already this semester, the Kansas Court of Appeals has heard a day of cases at the law school, and we plan on having them back for another docket in April. We are also hosting the United States Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals this October. These court sessions are another important way that we expose students to the actual practice of law.

Our competition teams will also be busy this year. We will be sending teams of competitors to the ABA Client Counseling Competition and the ABA Negotiation Competition. Our nationally renowned Trial Teams will be competing in numerous competitions as well.

The Moot Court program will have a full slate. In addition to some of our usual competitions, we'll be leveraging our synergy with other Centers for Excellence and sending moot court teams to the National Energy & Sustainability Competition in Morgantown, West Virginia, and the National Competition in Child Welfare and Adoption Law in Columbus, Ohio. We have a number of talented returning competitors and an impressive group of new members. I have high hopes for the team this year.

And of course, we'll still be doing all of the things that helped to make the Center for Excellence in Advocacy great in the first place, including my second go at ITAP. I should mention that there will be plenty of opportunities throughout the year for our alumni and supporters to participate. It's really fun here. Come join us!

## 2016-17 CENTER ACTIVITIES



*Bruce Mechtly*

September 1, 2016 - “The Washburn University-KBI Partnership for Digital Forensics” presented by Bruce Mechtly.

September 13, 2016 - “Transitioning from Law School to Practice - A Panel Discussion with Young Lawyers” presented the TBA Young Lawyers Division.

September 26, 2016 - “Work/Life Balance,” a Washburn Law Clinic event, presented by Professor Janet Jackson and Professor John Francis.

October 4, 2016 - “The Importance of Writing and Advocacy” presented by The Hon. Melissa Standridge, hosted by BLSA.

October 11, 2016 - “Women in Advocacy,” hosted by the Women’s Legal Forum, presented by **Christina Kerls, ’05, Kim Knoll, ’99,** and Rachel Pickering.

October 14, 2016 - “A Law Degree in the Sports World” presented by **Jerry Schemmel, ’85.**



*The Hon. Melissa Standridge*

October 17, 2016 - “The Power of Now: Voting Rights and Voter Suppression” presented by Janai Nelson.

February 8, 2017 - “Executive Orders” presented by Professors Gillian Chadwick, Jeff Jackson, Craig Martin, Bill Rich, David Rubenstein, and Freddy Sourgens.

March 2, 2017 - “How the United States Marshals Office Works” presented by Ron Miller.

March 14, 2017 - “Women in Academia” presented by professors Mary Ramirez, Janet Jackson, and Lori McMillan.

April 10, 2017 - “The Case for the Corporate Death Penalty” presented by Professor Mary Ramirez and Professor Steven Ramirez of Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

April 11, 2017 - “Defending PFA/PFS Actions on Behalf of their Clients” presented by **Cec Mariani, ’95,** and **Danielle Packer, ’15.**



*Jerry Schemmel, ’85*



*Ron Miller*



*Professor Mary Ramirez*

## 2017 ADVOCACY AWARDS BANQUET

APRIL 19, 2017

The Annual Center for Excellence in Advocacy Awards Ceremony and Banquet is a celebration of the Center and its students' achievements throughout the year. **Ronald Wurtz, '73**, presented the keynote address.

**Danielle Hall, '07**, and **Jay Hall, '09**, presented awards for the First Year Advocacy Competition, which was held on November 12, 2016. Cleotha Daniels was the winner of the competition, with second place going to Aaron Cunningham. The Halls also presented the Trial Team Leadership and Excellence in Advocacy Award, which recognizes the student from each trial advocacy competition who provides the best example of leadership and teamwork. Winners were Bailey Farness, James Latta, and Edna Reyes. Professor Jeffrey Jackson presented the Max Rowinsky Award for the outstanding student in the year's trial advocacy classes. This year, the award had two recipients: Claire Hillman and James Latta.

Professor Jackson also presented the Lester M. Goodell Awards, which are given for the best oralist and best brief in the annual intramural Lester M. Goodell Moot Court Tryout Competition. This year, Chris Helt swept both awards. The Faculty Brief Award, which is awarded to the Moot Court team that writes the best brief in an interscholastic competition, was presented to Ethan McInteer and Tim Laughlin for their brief in the Regional Competition of the National Moot Court Tournament.

**Pedro Irigonegaray, '73**, presented the Kansas Association of Justice

Raymond Spring Award, which is given annually to the Washburn Law Clinic intern who has demonstrated the highest commitment to providing legal services to clients in need. There were two recipients this year: John Grobmyer and Vy Nguyen. Edna Reyes received the Irvine E. Ungerman Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice. This award is given to legal interns who distinguish themselves by providing highly competent representation to clients and exemplifying the ideals of the profession and the spirit of public service.

This year, the John K. Kleinheksel Prize, for the Moot Court team that achieves the highest ranking in an interscholastic competition, was presented to Caitlyn Berry, Allison Carr, Katy Garner, Dean Kirk, Courtney Manly, and Matthew Shoger for their performance in the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.

Finally, six students were inducted into the Order of Barristers, a national honorary organization dedicated to the encouragement of advocacy skills. The Order recognizes individuals who have excelled in advocacy and service to their respective schools. Professors Jeffrey Jackson and Shawn Leisinger presented the inductees: James Crux, Valerie Desroches, Maureen Hannen, Suzanne Lueker, Joseph Falls, and Zachariah Zallo.

In addition to the awards, the members of the school's various competition teams were recognized.



Keynote speaker **Ronald Wurtz, '73**.



Hall Leadership Award recipients (from left): **Bailey Farness, James Latta, and Edna Reyes**.



First Year Advocacy Competition winner **Cleotha Daniels (left)**.



Kansas Association for Justice Raymond Spring Award recipients (from left): **Vy Nguyen and John Grobmyer**.

## FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AND ACTIVITIES



*Jeffrey D.*

*Jackson*

Professor of Law and  
Interim Director,  
Center for Excellence  
in Advocacy

### ARTICLES IN LAW REVIEWS

*Classical Rational Basis and the Right to be Free of Arbitrary Legislation*, 14 GEO. J. L. & PUB. POL'Y 493 (2016).

### BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

INTERACTIVE CITATION WORKBOOK FOR ALWD GUIDE TO LEGAL CITATION, 2016 EDITION (co-authored with Tracy McGaugh Norton, Christine Hurt) (2016).

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*The Uncontested Narrative: The Use of Facts in a Summary Judgment Motion*, 86 THE JOURNAL OF THE KANSAS BAR ASSOCIATION 19 (January 2017).



*Aida M.*

*Alaka*

Professor of Law

### PRESENTATIONS

"Synthesizing Case Law," Workshop on Law Teaching Techniques and Legal Writing, Georgian Bar Association Training Center, Batumi, Georgia, July 5-6, 2016.



*Gillian*

*Chadwick*

Associate Professor  
of Law

### MEDIA CONTACT

Quoted, "Former Students Say Stanford Tried to Buy its Way out of Title IX Investigations," *BuzzFeed*, December 17, 2016.

### PRESENTATIONS

"Negotiations and Settlements," Custody Litigation Training: Representing Victims of Domestic Violence in Custody Cases, American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Washington, D.C., March 9, 2017 (with Wemi Peters).

"Effectively Navigating the System: Players and their Roles," Custody Litigation Training: Representing Victims of Domestic Violence in Custody Cases, American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence, Washington, D.C., March 8, 2017 (with Erin Scheick).

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Filed an amicus brief on behalf of the Washburn Law Clinic and the Children and Family Law Center to the Board of Immigration Appeals, March 28, 2017.



*James M.*

*Concannon*

Senator Robert J.  
Dole Distinguished  
Professor of Law

### BOOK CHAPTERS

*Witnesses* (Chapter 18), *Relevance & Extrinsic Policies Affecting Admissibility* (Chapter 19), *Judicial Notice* (Chapter

22), *Privileges* (Chapter 23), KANSAS CRIMINAL LAW HANDBOOK, 5th ed. (2016).



*Linda Henry*  
*Elrod, '72*

Richard S. Righter  
Distinguished  
Professor of Law

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*The Case for Arbitration in Family Law Cases - and for the Uniform Act*, 21(2) DISPUTE RESOLUTION MAGAZINE 18 (American Bar Association, Winter 2017).



*Randall*

*Hodgkinson*

Associate Professor  
of Law

### BOOK CHAPTERS

*Making the Record in Appellate Court* (Chapter 25), KANSAS CRIMINAL LAW HANDBOOK, 5th ed. (2016).

*Diversion* (Chapter 5), KANSAS CRIMINAL LAW HANDBOOK, 5th ed. (2016).



*Joseph P.*

*Mastrosimone*

Associate Professor  
of Law

### ARTICLES IN LAW REVIEWS

*Benchslaps*, 2017 UTAH L. REV. 331 (2017).

FOR A COMPLETE FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP LISTING VISIT:

[washburnlaw.edu/facultyscholarship](http://washburnlaw.edu/facultyscholarship)

## GRADUATES RECEIVE CERTIFICATE IN ADVOCACY



*Michael  
Blackburn, '17*

*Lindsey  
Debenham, '17*

*Ryan  
Hamilton, '17*

*Claire  
Hillman, '17*

*Eric  
Lindstrom, '17*

*Suzanne  
Lueker, '17*

Six students in the 2017 graduating class received a Certificate in Advocacy: Michael Blackburn, Lindsey Debenham, Ryan Hamilton, Claire Hillman, Eric Lindstrom, and Suzanne Lueker.

The Certificate in Advocacy is available for students who have a serious interest in the art, science, and law of advocacy. Recipients have demonstrated a thorough

understanding of the litigation process, the ability to produce appropriate legal pleadings and other litigation documents, and the ability to try a case proficiently to a judge or jury.

The certificate is an acknowledgment by the faculty that the student has successfully completed a focused course of study in advocacy.

Students earning an Advocacy Certificate must complete a lawyering experience consisting of either clinic internship/litigation, criminal appeal advocacy, or an externship that involves a lawyering experience in an advocacy placement. In addition, they must complete 10 hours of pro bono activities involving advocacy skills and 18 hours of Advocacy Center activities.

## TYLA COMPETITION TEAM



*Texas Young Lawyers Association Competition Team were recognized at the 2017 Advocacy Awards Banquet, from left: Justin Crawford, James Latta, Brandon Hoesli, Teresa Offerman, Curry Sexton, and Heather Davis; with coaches LeTiffany Obozele, '12, and The Honorable Amy Hanley.*

In February 2017, Washburn Law hosted the regional rounds of the 42nd Annual National Trial Competition at the Shawnee County Courthouse, sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers. Twenty four teams from 12 law schools across the midwest participated in the regional competition.

Following three preliminary rounds one of the Washburn teams—Brandon Hoesli, Curry Sexton, and Teresa Offerman—advanced to the quarter-finals.

Eight teams advanced to the quarter-finals and the second Washburn team of James Latta, Justin Crawford, and Heather Davis, missed advancing by just a few points.

Assistant Kansas Attorney General **LeTiffany Obozele, '12**, The Honorable Amy Hanley, and The Honorable **Bill Ossmann, '77**, served as coaches for the Washburn teams. Obozele and Hanley recognized the team members at the Advocacy Awards Banquet in April.

## EXTERNSHIP BUSINESS PARTNERS

Most State Agencies, Entities, and Boards  
 Banking Entities and Corporations  
 Chevron U.S.A.  
 Children and Family Guidance Center  
 Disability Rights Center  
 Environmental Protection Agency  
 Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
 Internal Revenue Service  
 Kansas Association of Counties  
 Kansas Association of School Boards  
 Kansas Attorney General's Office  
 Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and  
 Domestic Violence  
 Kansas Corporation Commission  
 Oil and Gas Conservation Division  
 Kansas Court of Tax Appeals  
 Kansas Department for Children  
 and Families

Kansas Department of Agriculture  
 Kansas Department of Commerce  
 Kansas Department of Health and  
 Environment  
 Kansas Department of Revenue  
 Kansas Department of Revenue -  
 Alcoholic Beverage Control  
 Kansas Insurance Department  
 Kansas Legal Services  
 Kansas Soybean Association  
 Kansas State Bankers Association  
 League of Kansas Municipalities  
 Local Corporations  
 Midwest Innocence Project  
 Non-profit Organizations  
 Office of the Kansas Securities  
 Commissioner  
 Payless ShoeSource

Prairie Band Potawatomi Court System  
 Regional Federal Agencies  
 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office  
 State and Federal Courts  
 Statewide and Nationwide Courts and  
 Prosecutors/Defenders Offices  
 Statewide Board of Indigents' Defense  
 Services  
 Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority  
 YWCA Center for Safety and  
 Empowerment

*Placement opportunities vary annually.  
 Non-exhaustive list.*

### About Us

**WASHBURN**  
 UNIVERSITY

**SCHOOL OF LAW**  
 Center for Excellence in Advocacy

Center mentorships, court observation opportunities, seminars, lectures, skills training courses, live-client clinics, and externship placements provide diverse opportunities for students to acquire strong advocacy skills. Participation in the Center also offers law students a guided path to future careers in advocacy-centered law practice.

Washburn Law has years of experience in advocacy skills training. Many noted trial lawyers and judges received their legal training at Washburn and have returned to help train the newest generation of advocates. Talented practitioners teach a variety of specialized elective advocacy skills courses and spend time mentoring law students. Center mentorships, court observation opportunities, seminars, lectures, skills training courses, live-client clinics, and externship placements provide diverse opportunities for students to acquire strong advocacy skills.

Washburn University School of Law  
 Center for Excellence in Advocacy

1700 SW College, Topeka, KS 66221  
 785.670.1833 [advocacy@washburnlaw.edu](mailto:advocacy@washburnlaw.edu)  
[washburnlaw.edu/advocacy](http://washburnlaw.edu/advocacy)



**Jeffrey D. Jackson**

Professor of Law  
 Interim Director, Center for Excellence  
 in Advocacy

[jeffrey.jackson@washburn.edu](mailto:jeffrey.jackson@washburn.edu)  
 785.670.1833