



Where in the World is Professor John Francis?

By Professor John Francis

I am neither Carmen San Diego nor Matt Lauer, but as I write this, I'm on the opposite side of the world from Washburn. As part of my sabbatical project, I am spending five weeks in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. While here, I am volunteering at Cambodia's Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE), teaching an advocacy module within a course that focuses on International Humanitarian Law. To my relief, I have been partnered with another teacher who is well-versed in IHL. She teaches the subject matter, while I teach advocacy techniques. The students I work with are part of a specially enrolled group who study classes in English.



John Francis and his son, Punleu, in front of the Bayor Temple in Angkor Thom

The program is known as the English Language Based Baccalaureate of Law program (ELBBL). Although there are approximately 18,000 students who attend RULE, only a few hundred are enrolled in the ELBBL.

In Cambodia, as in many places in the world, law is studied as an undergraduate pursuit. My students come from different social and economic groups from all over Cambodia. One of my students is a Buddhist monk. I meet with the students as a class as well as individually. My students here are very eager to learn hands-on legal advocacy techniques.

They have embraced the use of elements charts to analyze problems, the use of the IRAC method to organize their persuasive legal writing, and they are currently preparing to make their first oral argument before the class. Every student in my class will participate in either the International Red Cross Moot Court competition or the Jessup Moot Court competition. Those who advance from the national rounds will compete against students from India, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and other nations.

Later this week, I am hoping to observe proceedings at the Extraordinary Chambers of the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC). This is the court established jointly by the United Nations and Cambodian government to try people charged with crimes against humanity that occurred during the reign of the Khmer Rouge. Under Khmer Rouge rule, approximately one quarter to one third of the Cambodian population was killed. The ECCC is unusual in that it consists of judges

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John Francis and his son, Punleu, in front of the Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap

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from the United Nations and judges from Cambodia. It is also unusual in that individual victims have standing to petition to participate as a party in the proceedings. However, there is currently great concern that so much time has passed since the crimes occurred, that some of the defendants in the trials may die before their trials can be completed and justice can be achieved.

My son, Punleu, who was born in Cambodia, has joined me on this trip. I was able to enroll him in a school here, where he is one of seven kids in his fifth grade class. Because there is a significant international community in Phnom Penh, many elementary schools teach in English. Punleu has had the opportunity to study alongside Cambodian (Khmer) students as well as students from other countries. His teacher is from Sri Lanka.

Getting around Phnom Penh can be an adventure. This is a city of 2 million people. Wealthy people often travel in cars (some

very wealthy have Mercedes, Lexuses or Land Rovers), while average workers and students travel primarily by “motos,” which are motor scooters. People who don’t own their own transportation can either hire a car, a moto, or a “tuk tuk.” We get around mainly by tuk tuk. A tuk tuk is essentially a moto hooked up to a carriage. Driving in Phnom Penh is not for the faint of heart. It is relatively common to see motos, tuk tuks or even cars driving headlong into oncoming traffic.

This is the rainy season in Southeast Asia. While we’ve been here, there has been significant flooding, especially in provinces north of Phnom Penh. More than 200 Cambodian people have perished in the floods and over 1 million have been harmed by the floods—many losing their homes or their crops for the year. The media reports that this is the worst flooding in more than a decade.

This past weekend, Punleu and I traveled by bus to Siem Reap, a city approximately 350 kilometers north of Phnom Penh. The Siem Reap area is home to amazing stone temples that

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were built between the 8th and 14th centuries. The most well-known temple, Angkor Wat, is the largest religious structure in the world and is considered one of the man-made wonders of the world. Many of the temples fell out of use for centuries. When they were rediscovered in the 19th Century, the jungle had reclaimed some of them. One of the temples, Ta Prom, had been kept in roughly the same condition as it was found, with trees growing through and over the temple walls. Cinema buffs might recognize Ta Prom from the movie *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*.

Cambodia has faced huge challenges over the past decades. It struggles to shake loose from the scourge of the Khmer Rouge. A generation

of educated people was exterminated. Families were broken apart. The harm caused by this catastrophe has lasted long past the overthrow of the Khmer Rouge. This legacy has hobbled Cambodia's ability to economically compete in a world market. However, as the post-Khmer Rouge generations rebuild and embrace education, Cambodia is emerging in the world economy. There are signs of growth all over Phnom Penh.

Living in Cambodia for five weeks has been an amazing learning experience. We have been moved by the warmth and grace shown to us by the people we've encountered. Punleu and I will return home soon with interesting stories to share.

Professor Organick Travels Down Under

On Sept. 8, 2011, Professor Aliza Organick was a plenary speaker at the Clinical and Experiential Legal Education Conference at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Professor Organick's presentation addressed the challenges of introducing Indigenous Legal Theory into clinical practice and strategies for curriculum mapping for tribal law in the legal academy. Those challenges include student resistance to discussion of race, cultural consciousness, as well as the practical challenges of engaging in social justice work in rural indigenous communities. The discussion that followed considered the importance of building these core concepts into law school curricula.

In addition to the conference, Professor Organick was an invited guest to the La Perouse Aboriginal community. La Perouse is a discrete



Professor Aliza Organick atop the Sydney Harbour Bridge

Indigenous community on the Northern Peninsula of Port Botany on Botany Bay. While there she met with Aboriginal leaders and community members to discuss the current legal status of the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Grant and community development programs.

Clinic Interns *Summer 2011*

Judge Parrish Presides Over Swearing-In Ceremony

During the summer of 2011, 10 law students made the most of their summer by enrolling in Law Clinic. The students were sworn in to student practice by District Court Judge Nancy E. Parrish in her courtroom.

In her remarks to the students, Judge Parrish commended them for their work as they are providing a service to a part of our community that otherwise would not be served. She also told the students they have great mentors in their professors and that their summer in the Law Clinic should prove very beneficial to them.



*The Honorable
Nancy E. Parrish
Shawnee County
District Court*



*Summer 2011
Interns Taking
Oath*



*Sean Bartholick, Lauren Hill, Julie Heschmeyer, Hannah Schroller,
Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl*

Professor Lynette Petty's interns experienced a very busy summer with their family law and immigration cases. Several cases from the Spring 2011 semester were transferred to summer interns, which means they hit the ground running and appeared in court early and often.



*Aaron Schuster, Alan Lindeke, Casey Yingling, Scott Long,
Skyler Burks*

Interns assigned to Visiting Professor Tai Vokin's civil and criminal defense practice area represented clients in a wide range of matters. They were assigned criminal defense cases as well as civil matters, such as contract issues, landlord/tenant, real estate, and consumer issues.



*Alex Bezzi
Directed
Intern*



*Brock Shannon
Directed Intern*

Tai Vokins Visits for Summer



Tai Vokins, '08, returned to the law school during the summer months to supervise interns in the Law Clinic. Vokins spent three semesters in the Law Clinic during his law school career, including a semester where he served as student coordinator and directed intern. Vokins was named as one of the recipients of the Irvine E. Ungerman Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice for the 2007-2008 academic year.

After graduation, Vokins worked in the Kansas Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division for three years where his casework led to the return of almost \$20 million to Kansas consumers. Currently, he heads the Vokins Law Office in Olathe, Kan., where he practices bankruptcy, consumer protection, civil rights, foreclosure defense, civil litigation, and criminal defense.

To learn more about Tai's practice see www.vokinslaw.com.

Veteran's Resource Day at the Topeka Zoo

On Sunday, Sept. 25, the local Veteran's Administration sponsored the Veteran's Resource Day at the Topeka Zoo. Veterans and their immediate family received free admission to the zoo and access to community resources. Representatives from the VA, American Red Cross, Harvesters, Kansas Small Business Development Center, Topeka Workforce Center, and many others were on hand to assist veterans and answer questions.

Washburn Law Clinic participated by doing client intakes for veterans with legal issues. Professor Curtis Waugh, Michael Hinkin, Wallace Stromberg, John Wilschke and Lei Zhao each volunteered their time that day to assist the veterans.

"The Washburn Law Clinic is grateful for the opportunity to take part in the Veteran's Resource Day at the Topeka Zoo," Professor Curtis Waugh said. "It gave the Law Clinic an opportunity to make veterans and their families aware of the Clinic and the services it provides to the local community. It also allowed our Clinic interns to interact with veterans about specific legal issues."

Michael Hinkin added, "One of the purposes of the Law Clinic is to

provide legal services to the local community, so the Veteran's Resource Day was a perfect opportunity for legal interns to interact with local veterans and their families. Moreover, the event allowed for interns to show their support for the military men and women who risk their lives protecting our freedom, while promoting awareness of the legal resources available in Topeka. I was honored to participate in the Veteran's Resource Day at the Topeka Zoo."

Heather Lee, Lyndzie Carter, Sarah Harris, Jane Peiffer-Salladay, and Lynne Philips, members of the Veterans Legal Association of Washburn, also volunteered their time to assist veterans by researching and creating a community resource guide, which they distributed throughout the day.



Volunteering their time at the Veterans's Resource Day are Lei Zhao, John Wilschke, Professor Curtis Waugh, Michael Hinkin and Wallace Stromberg.

Clinic Interns *Fall 2011*

Judge Leben Presides Over Swearing-In Ceremony



Kansas Court of Appeals Judge Steve Leben conducted the swearing-in ceremony for the fall Clinic interns on Friday, Aug. 26, in the law school's Robinson Courtroom.

The Honorable Judge Steve Leben, Kansas Court of Appeals



Nikolas Stravropoulos, Lei Zhao, Nicholas Jefferson, Wallace Stromberg, Paul Foltz

Interns who selected the general civil litigation practice area are assigned to Professor Waugh for supervision. These interns handle a variety of cases including landlord/tenant, consumer and contract issues, power of attorney and wills, and quiet title actions.



Collin Hildebrand, William Patterson, Megan Hughes, Daniel Jacob

Interns practicing in the Small Business & Nonprofit Transactional Law Clinic are selected through an application and interview process. These interns are currently assisting nonprofits seeking 501(c)(3) status, providing business planning advice, forming for-profit small businesses, drafting charter documents, and drafting contracts and a variety of other transactional documents.



Sarah Longhibler, Todd Thomason, Verily Stevenson, Adam Stoltz, Laura Windbeuser, Caleb Smith, LeTiffany Obozele (not pictured Daniel Kennedy)

Professor Petty works with interns specializing primarily in family law matters. The interns' caseloads include divorces with minor children of the marriage, stepparent adoptions, a guardianship of a minor, and an emancipation. They are also currently representing several individuals in immigration matters.



Fall 2011 Interns Being Sworn In

For interns wishing to practice in two separate areas, criminal defense and family law, Professor Organick's supervision is assigned. These interns practice in multiple jurisdictions including Shawnee County District Court, Topeka Municipal Court and Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Court. Their criminal defense practice includes clients who are charged with assault and battery, possession of a controlled substance, driving under the influence, shoplifting, and false impersonation. Their family law practice concentrates on divorce cases with minor children of the marriage.



Andrew Newcomer, Justin Tynsky, Amy Abrens, Michael Hinkin, Kyle Byfield (not pictured Daniel Jacobs and John Wilschke)



To Post or Not to Post

Your mother has probably told you more than once that if you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all. Her advice is still good today and is especially true when it comes to social media.

The majority of Facebook users are now over the age of 25 and include a broad range of people including, most likely, the person with whom you just interviewed.

Now, just because you are entering into the practice of law you don't have to give up your online presence, you just have to be mindful of the e-footprint you are creating for yourself. Here are a few points to remember, which will make following your mother's advice a little easier.

Employers really do pay attention to your Facebook page and tweets

If you show poor judgment online, an employer may interpret this to be your behavior in person. Keep in mind that 45 percent of employers screen social media profiles.

As a law student, you must consider the type of lawyer you want to be and start acting like one now

You must take responsibility for what you write and use common sense. The information you post on a social networking site creates an electronic record that will be accessible for years. Carefully think about what you post as your status updates and even your responses to friends' posts.

Know and remember the difference between Facebook and LinkedIn

Use Facebook, with high privacy settings, for personal

use and LinkedIn for professional purposes. Neither is the venue to air your political opinions or religious views.



Adhere to the attorney code of ethics

Sharing successes online about your cases or clients is dicey and you should refrain from doing so. You can be sure the clients you are representing in the Law Clinic, through an externship, or at a summer job have searched for you on Facebook. The picture of you at that fraternity party three years ago probably does not look too professional to them.

Follow the "Grandmother Rule" - if you would not want your grandmother to read or see what you've posted, don't post it

Look at your Facebook page through the eyes of a conservative employer and remove anything that would raise concern about your character.

Ditch the dirt

You have got to be proactive to keep ahead of the digital dirt. Even if your Facebook page is private, your friends' pages may be public which means your posts on their pages and pictures on their pages can be discovered. Increase your security settings to eliminate posting and tagging by just anyone.

Your online reputation will follow you throughout your career and begins now. Go to your Facebook page, apply the "Grandmother Rule," clean house and repeat often. Maintaining your online reputation is not only crucial to your future endeavors but also shows a level of professionalism many employers are seeking.

What are current interns saying about Law Clinic?

Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Class of 2012



“Participating in Washburn Law Clinic is amazing! I was able to make a difference in my clients’ lives—this was my most rewarding experience in my entire law school career!”

Skyler Burks, Class of 2012



“The Clinic has taught me the actual practice of law. The regular law school classes teach what the law is, but the Clinic teaches you to apply the law to reality.”

Sean Bartholick - Class of 2012

“Clinic gave me a first-hand experience of what it is like to practice law in the capital city. From court appearances, filing, billing, to interacting with other attorneys, everything from my classes finally came together. It’s great to have real court time experience to show employers, showing them that I don’t have to be trained before I can start working.”



Hannah Schroller, Class of 2012



“I am so glad I took advantage of the many great learning opportunities provided by the Washburn Law Clinic. Clinic offers an educational experience that cannot be replicated in a classroom.”

Nik Stavropoulos, Class of 2012



“With traditional education and theory in hand, experiential application logically follows as the next step to a more intimate understanding of the practice of law. The Washburn Law Clinic

trains its student interns for the professional arena like few other opportunities can. Much like wetting feet in the surf before plunging into the greater ocean, Clinic places interns into the roles of counselor and advocate, from the conception of the case to its resolution. Under enthusiastic and vigilant support of licensed attorneys and with certification under Kansas Supreme Court Rule 719, student interns handle every aspect of the client’s case, including the initial client interview, case strategy and planning, drafting documents, preparing filings and motions, and representation in court.

Not only does the Washburn Law Clinic provide its student interns with an invaluable experiential complement to a conventional legal education, but it serves a noble function in the Topeka community by providing free legal services to equally deserving citizens who would not otherwise have access to them. Clinic has been a tremendously rewarding experience for me, as I believe I have sharpened my skills as an effective advocate and competent professional, while simultaneously contributing to the general welfare and serving the interests of the community at large.”



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