

Small Business and Nonprofit Transactional Law Clinic

Law School and Community Presentations



In keeping with what has become a tradition, every semester interns in the Small Business and Nonprofit Transactional Law Clinic share their knowledge through a workshop with the Kansas Small Business Development Center and present a CLE to the members of the Kansas Bar Association. And, almost every year, interns give a presentation to Professor Amy Westbrook's Business Associations class. Appearing virtually, the interns did not let the pandemic keep them from guest teaching in B.A. or from showcasing what they earned this semester with state-wide broadcasts of the SBDC and KBA events.

In October, Transactional Law Clinic interns **David Dennis** and **Belinda McCaskey, JD Candidates, '21**, gave a presentation on Limited Liability Companies to Professor Westbrook's Business Associations class. Using a hypothetical case study, McCaskey and Dennis walked students through the process of drafting and filing Articles of Organization in order to form a Kansas LLC. The interns then explained the purpose of the LLC Operating Agreement and highlighted important provisions of that document. Even on Zoom the interns kept the class interactive, showing the B.A. students how clinic allows them to put the

knowledge they learned in B.A. into practice with real clients.

In November, Transactional Law Clinic interns presented a CLE entitled *Effective Nonprofit Governance in Times of Crises and Beyond* to KBA members. In the CLE, **Kiefer Starbird**, and **Thomas Henry, JD Candidates, '21**, focused on the importance of nonprofit boards having a thorough understanding of their legal duties and the foundations of board governance. Due to the changes and restrictions brought about by Covid-19, organizations are looking to their directors and officers for leadership and guidance that will take them through the pandemic and beyond.

During the CLE, Starbird and Henry, along with **Professor Janet Thompson Jackson**, reviewed the new Form 1023, application for tax-exempt status, which has moved to a strictly online version; explained how to conduct a nonprofit governance audit; and highlighted best practices for nonprofit boards. They also addressed the basics of effective board governance during and beyond the pandemic, as well as ways to support the wellness of nonprofit boards and staff during this high-stress time.

Partnering with the Kansas Small Business Development Center, **Jessica Freeman, Cherilyn Hearn, and Tyler Laudick, JD Candidates, '21**, presented *Legal Issues and Your Small Business*, to workshop attendees, who were either current or future small business owners. The objective of the presentation was to provide each attendee with an understanding of the different legal entities available for their business and review legal issues commonly encountered by small business owners. Topics included contract formation and enforcement, intellectual property, taxation for small businesses, e-commerce, and the difference between independent contractors and employees. This year was the 14th year of partnership between the Kansas SBDC and Washburn's Transactional Law Clinic.