



Judge Lori Dougherty-Bichsel administering the Clinic Oath to Fall '20 students

## Swearing-In Ceremony Marks Beginning Of Legal Career

On September 5, 2019, and January 24, 2020, Law Clinic interns took an oath to uphold the respect due to courts, court officials, and members of the legal profession, to conduct themselves in a manner exemplifying an officer of the court, and to faithfully perform the duties of a legal intern. The Swearing-In Ceremony held for students enrolled in Law Clinic marks the beginning of their legal career.

Each semester a local judge or justice is invited to preside over the ceremony and administer the oath. In her remarks to the fall interns, Judge Lori Dougherty-Bichsel advised the students, "Your actions will impact your clients. Be courteous, respectful, and considerate. If the opposing counsel of party behaves unprofessionally, do not reciprocate. If you have a dispute that cannot be resolved without judicial intervention, focus on the

disputed issues, not on the feelings." She stated further, "One of the most important, if not the most important, qualities of a lawyer is to be ethical. No one client and no one goal is worth compromising your personal integrity or your potential for becoming an attorney."



Judge Rachel Pickering administering the Clinic Oath to Spring '20 students

Judge Rachel Pickering accepted the invitation for the spring semester and for the first time, second-year students were among those sworn in as legal interns. A recent revision of Supreme Court Rule 719 allows students who have completed three semesters to obtain a student practice permit and enroll in Law Clinic.

Judge Pickering said the Swearing-In Ceremony marks the students' change from the study of law to the practice of law. "Your credibility is important. It is the little things you do that build credibility, like sending and responding to emails when you said you would, being on time, dressing appropriately, and being respectful," the judge stated.

Both judges closed their remarks similarly when they told the students, that if you are not having fun, you are not doing it right. Each reminded the students to enjoy what they are doing.