

Gayer and Tamou Awarded Irvine E. Ungerman Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice



The Clinic's Ungerman Award is given to the student or students who excel in the lawyer/litigator skills of problem-solving, legal analysis and research, factual investigation, counseling, negotiation, trial skills, ability to recognize and resolve ethical dilemmas, and ability to work with others. The Fall 2019 Semester award was shared by **Jacob Gayer, '20**, and **Michael Tamou, '20**, who were partners in the criminal defense clinic.

Gayer and Tamou were friends when they entered the clinic program with a shared goal of learning as much as they could to further their goals of being the best criminal defense lawyers. Gayer plans to practice law in western Kansas; and Tamou hopes to begin his career in a public defender's office. They embraced the clinic practice with enthusiasm, and showed the competence of experienced lawyers and a passion for protecting and defending their clients in 10 cases, excluding expungement cases. One client thought a "win" would be doing his months in jail during the winter, but Michael and Jake limited his jail time to 15 days served on weekends, thus preserving his job and freedom. Another arrived resigned to going to jail per advice of another lawyer, but Gayer and Tamou's tenacity not only eliminated jail from the

sentence, but they made progress towards expedited reinstatement of the client's driving privileges.

Gayer and Tamou exhibited the skills this award recognizes, and their clinic-learned skills will be a basis for their real world practice. The clinic staff is proud of their accomplishments and those of their co-practitioners in the Fall 2019 Law Clinic class.