

Washburn Law Clinic



Professor John Francis



STUDENTS SEEK CLINIC EXPERIENCE

Academic year 2003-2004 was an exciting year for the Washburn Law Clinic. We saw the successful launch of a collaborative undertaking between the School of Social Work and the Law Clinic in which a masters level social work intern worked with Law Clinic clients. We saw Clinic interns handle a wide variety of cases and, in the process, gain tremendous practical experience. Some students tried a criminal case before a jury in Shawnee County District Court. Others acted as guardians ad litem for adolescents facing CINC filings. Still another student represented a client in a right-to-die case. Clinic students also handled a very complex probate matter.

Because Clinic offers such a wide range of experiences, this is a course that is very much in demand among students. During both semesters, the Clinic experienced maximum possible student enrollment. In fact, for the spring semester, the Clinic faculty agreed to teach an overload of students in an effort to provide a clinical experience to as many interns as possible.

SUCCESSFUL RECRUITING OF NEW FACULTY

The high student demand for Clinic led the Law School's faculty recruitment committee to conduct a national search for another professor to teach in the Clinic. The search resulted in not one but two outstanding new faculty hires who will have a role in the Clinic. Aliza Organick was hired from the University of New Mexico. She brings a wealth of experience, having founded a clinical project at New Mexico and having worked as a public defender. Prof. Organick will begin developing a practice at Washburn to serve the Native American community. Janet Thompson Jackson was

hired from the University of Baltimore. Prof. Jackson is an experienced litigator and a certified mediator who has taught civil rights law and served as the director of a non-profit organization. In addition to teaching other classes in the law school curriculum, Prof. Jackson will develop a transactional law/community development practice in the Clinic. Both Prof. Organick and Prof. Jackson were among the most sought-after candidates for clinical positions by law schools across the country. It is a testament to Washburn's reputation and the quality of our clinical program that they both chose to accept positions at Washburn Law.

The Clinic is also very fortunate that Visiting Professor Curtis Waugh has agreed to teach in the Clinic for another year. Prof. Waugh has been sharing his experience and supervising Clinic interns in civil cases, providing them the opportunity to gain valuable experience in a broad range of civil litigation matters.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The Washburn Law Clinic maintained its presence on the national stage at this year's annual conference on clinical legal education, sponsored by the Association of American Law Schools. Three Washburn clinical faculty, current and future, made presentations to other clinical educators at the conference. Clinic Director John J. Francis co-presented with a colleague, Conrad Johnson, from Columbia University School of Law. The presentation



focused on integrating advanced technology into the practice of law and into clinical teaching methods. This presentation, “Lawyering Skills in the Digital Age,” allowed Washburn



to showcase its well-established place on the cutting edge of computer technology and advanced litigation techniques.

Washburn’s entering faculty members wasted no time in making their presence known at the clinical conference. Prof. Organick co-presented with colleagues from the University of New Mexico School of Law, addressing issues that arise when represent-

ing clients from various cultural backgrounds. Their presentation was titled “Cultural Considerations in Problem Solving and Advocacy.” Prof. Jackson co-presented at the conference with colleagues from Brooklyn Law School in a presentation titled “The Career Path of the Clinical Teacher: Pioneer, Evolving, Surviving, Thriving.” Among other things, Prof. Jackson discussed why she accepted the offer to join Washburn’s faculty over the four offers from other law schools that she received.

With growing student involvement, the continuing improvement of our current clinical offerings and the introduction of exciting new programs ushered in by our new faculty members, the Washburn Law Clinic expects to experience another successful year in 2004-2005.

For more information on the Law Clinic, contact Director, Professor John Francis, at 785-231-1010 ext. 1685 or john.francis@washburn.edu