

Washburn Law Clinic



Professor John Francis



WASHBURN LAW CLINIC CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

The weekend after Labor Day, alumni of the Washburn Law Clinic gathered to celebrate the Clinic's 35th anniversary. When the clinical program at Washburn was unveiled in 1970, clinical legal education was not yet a widely embraced method of teaching at law schools. However, Washburn Law staked its claim as a pioneer in legal education by committing itself to the practical benefits of teaching law students by giving them the opportunity to represent real people in real cases. Thirty-five years later, clinical legal education is recognized as an important part of a quality law school education.

Since the Clinic is renowned for teaching practical knowledge, the 35th anniversary event commenced with a complimentary CLE program presented by Clinic Director John Francis and Professor Sheila Reynolds. After the instructional component, alumni and friends of the Clinic gathered at the Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center to reminisce about days spent in the Law Clinic. A dinner and program of speakers followed.

Highlights of the evening included comments from Professor Concannon and two Law Clinic alumni. Concannon, the Law School's historian, spoke about the history of the Law Clinic and the important national role Washburn Law played in the early days of clinical legal education. Concannon recognized the vision and hard work of two men who were integral in the Clinic's early successes, Professors Raymond Spring and Don Rowland. Surviving family members of Spring and Rowland were in attendance as the assembly hon-

ored both men for their important contributions to the Washburn Law Clinic.

Two alumni also on the evening's slate of speakers were Billy Rork '79 and Teri Canfield-Eye '02. Rork spoke about how his participation in the Clinic during its earliest days influenced the work he currently does. He also noted the important role that the Law Clinic plays in preparing Washburn Law students to practice law and in serving the legal needs of the Topeka community. Canfield-Eye punctuated this point by sharing her Clinic experience of arguing an important legal issue before the Kansas Supreme Court on behalf of a Clinic client. When Canfield-Eye argued the case, she was reportedly the only law student given permission to appear before Kansas' high court.



Teri Canfield-Eye '02

The evening concluded with dancing to music of a live band and more opportunity to visit with friends. Thanks go out to Clinic Coordinator Debi Schrock, whose great planning and organizational skills helped make the event run smoothly. Thanks also to all the alumni and friends of the Clinic, whose participation in the 35th anniversary event made the evening a huge success.

THE MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION COMES TO WASHBURN

The Law Clinic hosted another major event in fall 2005. In early October, law clinic Professors from across the region and the nation came to Washburn Law to learn from each other, share teaching techniques and discuss the future of clinical education. The event, which brought them to Topeka, was the annual Midwest Conference on Clinical Legal Education.



Dr. Toni Johnson, University of Kansas, Professor Bridgett Carr, Ave Maria School of Law, Professors Lynette Petty and Aliza Organick, Washburn Law.

The theme of this year's conference was "Carrying *Brown's* Legacy Forward: Justice, Service, Teaching." The conference focused on how law school clinical programs can use their unique position in legal communities to help carry forward the promise of social and economic justice embodied in the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Speakers at the conference specifically addressed teaching methods that facilitate obtaining justice for diverse client populations.

The first panel, which was anchored by Professors Aliza Organick and Lynette Petty, addressed methods that can be used to increase cross-cultural understanding in the clinical class room and in the court room. Also on the panel were Bridgett Carr from Ave Maria School of Law and Toni Johnson from the University of Kansas School of Social Work. Keeping with the theme of the conference and tying into Washburn Law's commitment to integrating skills with theory, the second panel, headed by Professor Sheila Reynolds, addressed how to teach law students storytelling as an advocacy skill. Judith Fox from Notre Dame Law School and Kim Thomas from the University of Michigan School of Law were also presenters.

The keynote speaker of the conference, Professor Victor Goode, from CUNY Law School, is a highly respected clinical professor and advocate for fair housing. With issues such as access to education and economic opportunity being tied to housing issues, Professor Goode was an especially poignant speaker.

The final conference panel traced the shared history of legal services initiatives and clinical legal education, also addressing how law clinics can carry the ideals of *Brown* into the 21st century for our students and communities. Professor Janet Thompson Jackson moderated this panel. Other presenters on the panel were Bryan Adamson

from the University of Seattle School of Law, Sandy Ogilvy from Catholic University School of Law and Kim O'Leary from Thomas Cooley Law School.

Conference events wrapped up with a tour of the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site. Attendees of the conference carried home to their institutions important information on promoting clinical legal education and helping underserved people in their communities with their legal needs.

WASHBURN LAUNCHES THE SMALL BUSINESS AND TRANSACTION CLINIC

Consistent with Washburn's history of being on the leading edge of the clinical legal education, this fall the Clinic unveiled a new program which provides real world experience in transactional matters. Underscoring the theme promoted at the Midwest Clinical Conference, this new clinical program promotes economic justice in the Topeka community. The Small Business and Transactional Clinic, which is headed by Professor Janet Thompson Jackson, accomplishes this by providing legal assistance and counseling in the areas of business and transactional law to qualifying for-profit entities, community associations, and non-profit organizations. Qualifying businesses and organizations include those that are financially disadvantaged and those located in or providing services to underrepresented communities.

The Transactional Clinic's opening semester provided its four legal interns with the opportunity to work on a variety of client projects including the incorporation of a nonprofit organization and assisting with its application for tax-exempt status, drafting formation documents and operating agreements for limited liability companies, and giving presentations to Chamber of Commerce and Washburn Small Business Development Center clients on choice of legal entity. Projects for the spring semester include assisting a client with obtaining copyright protection for a design, and counseling a client on the purchase of an existing business.

For more information on the Law Clinic, contact Director, Professor John Francis, at 785-670-1191 or john.francis@washburn.edu

Washburn Law Clinic 35th Anniversary



The Hon. Christel Marquardt '74, Joanne Altman, Jack Kaplan '02, Teri Canfield-Eye '02, Robert Eye '80 and Bruce Plenk

