

News Briefs

Two New Faces on Faculty



Gillian Chadwick, associate professor of law, Clinic, came to Washburn Law from Georgetown University Law Center in the Domestic Violence Clinic where she was a clinical teaching fellow.

Prior to that, she was the director of Survivor Services at Ayuda in the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program, where she supervised legal and social services staff and represented immigrant victims of gender-based violence in domestic violence, domestic relations, and immigration matters in Washington, D.C.

Chadwick is admitted to the bars in the District of Columbia and Maryland. She is a graduate of American University Washington College of Law, where she was a Public Interest/Public Service Scholar, and the University of Maryland, where she was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

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Burke Griggs joined the Washburn Law faculty in 2016 as a visiting associate professor. He teaches property law and natural resources law.

Prior to joining the faculty, Griggs practiced water law in both the public and private sectors.

As an assistant attorney general, he represented the State of Kansas in federal and interstate water matters. He also served as lead counsel for Kansas in the negotiations over the Kickapoo Tribe reserved water rights settlement. He has advised Kansas' natural resources agencies on matters of water law and policy. He worked in private practice at Stevens & Brand, LLP, in Lawrence, Kansas, from 2006 to 2008.

Griggs is admitted to practice in Kansas, the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

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One of a Kind: Washburn's Junior Legal Writing Scholarship Workshop

Washburn Law is one of only a handful of schools nationwide with a full-time tenure-track legal writing faculty. Classes are small and are taught by professors dedicated to legal writing as one of their primary fields for teaching, scholarship, and service.

Washburn's approach led Associate Professors Emily Grant and Joe Mastrosimone in 2014 to organize a Junior Legal Writing Scholarship Workshop, the only one offered outside a national organization. For the third summer in a row, junior legal writing professors from across the country assembled at Washburn to receive feedback and input on scholarly projects from Washburn faculty and other workshop participants.

"Given that many law schools do not offer tenure for legal writing professors, there is little support or encouragement for their scholarship," said Grant. "This workshop is designed to help those professors with their scholarly projects, perhaps in an effort to encourage increased status at their own schools or elsewhere."

Participants submit their papers prior to the workshop, and then Grant and Mastrosimone circulate the submissions for

review by all participants. The workshop itself is an intense six hours of discussion, input, and suggestions for each other's scholarship submission.

Workshop participant Cara Cunningham, assistant professor of law, Detroit Mercy Law, Detroit, Mich., said, "Workshops like this help scholars develop their thoughts and improve their written work product. This workshop, however, was special. Imagine the impact of having eight legal writing experts assemble and review your work in a very supportive and collegial environment. I think I can speak for all of the authors when I say we were inspired by the insights of others and by their encouragement. The workshop made a significant difference to my publication, and it also fostered the pride I feel in our national legal writing community."

Mastrosimone views the forum as another avenue to gain national recognition for Washburn Law. "This workshop gives us an opportunity to showcase Washburn Law's legal writing program and our institution's support for us and for the scholarship of the discipline in general."

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New Partnership: Accelerated Program Benefits Students

Washburn Law and Baker University entered into a new partnership in September, launching the new Law Early Admission Program (LEAP), which will allow academically talented and highly motivated undergraduate students at Baker to matriculate to Washburn Law after three years.

LEAP is a 3+3 model that was developed to reduce the students' total legal education costs. The program also will allow these students to enter the job market earlier and develop relationships with Washburn Law professors while they are still enrolled in Baker's undergraduate programs. The compacted timeframe will help expand opportunities for students who want to study abroad or participate in summer or semester-long internships and other clinical practicums.

"Washburn Law has always had outstanding Baker students," said Romig. "This program will be great for both Baker University and Washburn University School of Law, but the real winners in this program will be the outstanding Baker



From Left: Chuck Buntun; Lynne Murray, president, Baker University; **Bill Buntun**, BA '53, Baker University, **JD '56**, Washburn Law; and Dean Thomas Romig attend a press conference in Baldwin City, Kan., announcing the new partnership between the two institutions.

University students who will have the opportunity to accelerate their undergraduate studies in order to begin legal studies with the goal of becoming a successful lawyer and having a career in law."

Internship: Opening the Door to Big-city Practice



Taher Kameli, '96, still remembers his first months at Washburn Law in 1993. Coming to Topeka from New York City, speaking English as a second language, and adapting to law school, Kameli at times

felt overwhelmed.

"Many days I seriously wanted to quit," he said. "At one point, I went to Professor Nancy Maxwell, and she encouraged me to stay. She let me know her door was always open if I needed to talk. Honestly, she is the reason I stayed and finished my law degree."

At the time of his graduation, many of his classmates wanted to practice law in a bigger city, but getting a job with a big firm in a large city was very difficult. Kameli made the leap and moved to Chicago, establishing Kameli & Associates, P.C., with a focus on U.S. corporate, employment, and immigration law.

Fast forward 20 years. Kameli decided to offer a summer internship to give Washburn Law students the opportunity to experience first-hand practicing law in a major city. **Matthew Adams, JD candidate '19**, jumped at the chance.

"This was an awesome opportunity," said Adams. "It was a chance to work in a major metropolitan area with a law firm established by a Washburn Law alum. I didn't realize until I started working with Taher how broad based immigration law really is. I am really interested in corporate and transactional law so being able to work on management agreements, investor agreement, and negotiations was amazing."

"Taher was great to work with. I left the internship realizing how supportive Washburn Law alumni are of students like me. You never know where the next opportunity will come from."

Learn more:

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