

SPRING 2006



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
School of Law

1802 Hartford Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79409

CLINIC NEWS



Texas Tech University School of Law Clinical Programs

PRO BONO AWARDS LUNCHEON HONORS LAW SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Equal Justice Volunteer Program of Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas held it's Pro Bono Awards Luncheon in conjunction with the Lubbock County Bar Association's Monthly Meeting on Friday, February 17, 2006 at the Lubbock Club. This event was held to recognize Private Attorneys, Professors of Law at Texas Tech University School of Law, Law Students, Lay Advocates and Community Volunteers for their dedication of meritorious services to help indigent individuals in their community and surrounding counties with their legal problems.

Guest speaker for this event was Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Brian Shannon.

The following awards were presenting during the luncheon:

The 2005 John Crews Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award was awarded Dennis R. Reeves – Law Office of Dennis Reeves;

The 2005 Legal Clinic Volunteer Attorney Award was awarded to Professor J. Wesley Cochran – Texas Tech University School of Law

The 2005 Legal Clinic Volunteer Law Student Award was awarded to Christian Buensuseco – Texas Tech University School of Law.

The 2005 Rural Legal Clinic Volunteer Lay Advocate Award was awarded to Rebecca Martinez – Gaines County Neighborhood Center, Seminole, Texas.

Professors Jarod Gonzalez and Larry Spain received certificates for meeting the 50 hours aspirational goal for pro bono services to indigent persons as set out by the State Bar of Texas. Professor Spain and Professor Ross also received Certificates of Appreciation for accepting more than two cases in 2005. Congratulations to the following law professors who received a Certificate of Appreciation for attending two or more clinics during the year: Gerry Beyer, Wes Cochran, Jarod Gonzalez, Vaughn James, Brian Shannon, and Larry Spain.



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CLINICAL PROGRAM COMPLETES FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE AND HONORS STUDENTS

A total of 61 students were recognized during the recognition reception held on April 18th with a **Certificate of Appreciation** for their dedication and participating in the clinical programs. A slide show presentation was made in appreciation to the students. Associate Dean Brian Shannon addressed the students with a few words of encouragement and gratitude. Honored guests included the managing attorney and a couple of support staff from Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas.

Also honored during the reception was Sarah Roland, a student in the Criminal Justice Clinic, who was presented with the Clifford W. Brown Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Award.



Students who were honored participated in the Tax Clinic, Civil Practice Clinic (both sections), Criminal Justice Clinic, Innocence Project Clinic, and ADR Clinic.



During the past five years, approximately 500 clients have been served through the clinical program which include the 127 clients served by the Wills Project which began during the Fall 2002 semester. The total does not include the total number of cases handled through the Innocence Project since its inception.



As emphasized throughout the slide show:



THANK YOU!

PRO BONO AWARDS LUNCHEON HONORS LAW SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS (cont'd)

The following law students were also recognized for attending two or more pro bono clinics in 2005. Congratulations to all of them!

Belinda Arroyo
Noaman Azhar
Markus Boenig
Scott Bradney
Christian Buensuceso
Tanya Buler
Youngmin Choi
Tiffany Colunga
Joshua Craven

Kevin Curly
Pamela Ferguson
Richard Fischer
Peter Hall
Teresa Hellstern
George Hoyt
Katherine Jayroe
Erick Lucio
Marci McClellan

Valerie McClellan
Amy McCormick
Jason McDonald
Stacy Marlin
Crystal Marchesoni
Richard Mitchell
Joseph Moody
Kayla Murray
Matthew Myers

Andrea Olivier
Cynthia Pool
Aranza Rojas
Lindsay Rose
Aaron Rubin
Ashley Sanders
Ann-Marie Salah
John Salloway
Emily Schroeder

Heather Scott
Sammy Serrano
Stacey Shaw
Julia Sladek
Velma Solorzano
Jeff Stewart
Nathan Tadema
Celeste Villarreal
Mark Weinstein
Nathan Yates

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AWARDS TAX GRANT

The TTU Low Income Tax Clinic began its 6th year of operation in 2006 with a \$51,655 tax grant award. The Internal Revenue Service has awarded \$8 million in matching grants to Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs) for the 2006 grant cycle (January 1 thru December 31, 2006). A total of 150 clinics will be funded in 2006 representing 50 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The TTU School of Law Tax Clinic is one of the grant recipients.

The clinic provides representation to low income taxpayers who may not be able to afford a tax professional when they have tax disputes with the IRS or are trying to comply with tax laws. The clinic also informs taxpayers for whom English is a second language or who have limited English proficiency of their tax rights and responsibilities.

The grant continues to fund a part-time Community Outreach Coordinator position which has helped promote the Tax Clinic in various outreach efforts.

FACULTY OFFERS CLE PROGRAM FOR LEGAL SERVICES ATTORNEYS AND PUBLIC INTEREST PRACTITIONERS

Faculty at the Texas Tech University School of Law offered a CLE program without cost to legal services attorneys and public interest practitioners on April 28-29 in what is hoped to be an annual event. Texas Tech is the first law school in the state to offer such a program which arose out of recommendations of a committee of the Texas Access to Justice Commission as to how law schools can contribute to the delivery of legal services to the indigent. The following faculty members participated in this inaugural CLE event: **Professors Gerry Beyer, Jarod Gonzalez, Vaughn James, Calvin Lewis, Dean Pawlowic, Jorge Ramirez, Wendy Ross, Larry Spain and Dean Brian Shannon.**

Several attorneys from Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas from the Lubbock, Amarillo, Plainview, and Wichita Falls offices attended the CLE. Other legal services attorneys attended from Lone Star Legal Aid and Texas Legal Services Center, as well as a private attorney.



COALITION CONTINUES TO SERVE INCOME ELIGIBLE TAXPAYERS

The Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers (a partnership of the LITC) and staff from the Internal Revenue Service trained an estimated 75 volunteers in early January to assist with volunteer income tax preparation. The Spears Building located at 27th and Avenue Q was donated by the Spears family during the tax filing season. As a result of the efforts of these volunteers a total of 3,486 people whose average income was \$14,416 had their tax returns prepared for free and approximately \$3,602,456 were returned to families within the community. An appreciation luncheon was held on May 12th at the Lubbock Club. The following law students are among those being recognized for their dedication and commitment of their time and efforts during tax filing season: **Christina Lee, LaKeisha Forte, Lindsay Rose, Sarah Bryson, Ann-Marie Saleh, Christina Phelps, Cory Little, Debbie Rowland, Geanna Day, Jeff Mealer, Mandi Tejada, Monica Lira, Lila Garza, Nathan Daley, Kara Ickert, and Elizabeth Carter.** LaKeisha was also one of the volunteers at the non-resident tax preparation site at the International Multicultural Center every Monday for six or seven weeks.

THANKS TO FACULTY SUPPORTING PRO BONO

Thanks to the following faculty for assisting Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas at Pro Bono Intake Clinics during the month of February, 2006 and working in conjunction with students of the Texas Tech University School of Law Clinical Programs: **Professors Gerry Beyer, Vaughn James (2 clinics), Kimberly Phillips, Larry Spain (2 clinics)** and **Deans Kay Fletcher and Brian Shannon.** In addition, thanks to **Professors Rosemary Dillon and Larry Spain** for assisting with a Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas Pro Bono Clinic offered at the Law School in March in conjunction with the Volunteer Law Student Association of Texas Tech Law School.

FROM THE DESK OF



Larry Spain - Civil Practice Clinic

During the spring semester, the following students were enrolled in Professor Spain's section of the Civil Practice Clinic: **Max Beatty, Lori Cobos, Brandy Criswell, Jennifer Kajs, Steven Leary, Charmaine Tupue, Jenna Zebrowski.**

Additionally, **Tanya Buler** and **Lindsay Rose** continued their participation in the clinic for a second semester.

Over the course of the semester, a total of 11 new client cases were undertaken, including family law, advance planning, social security disability, civil rights claim and a consumer case. 15 cases were closed during the semester and 21 cases remain open and will be carried over during the summer.

The following students conducted final hearings in divorce cases over the semester: **Max Beatty, Tanya Buler, Lori Cobos, Lindsay Rose** and **Charmaine Tupue.** The following students conducted disability hearings over the course of the semester and are awaiting decisions: **Jennifer Kajs (2)** and **Charmaine Tupue.** In addition, **Jenna Zebrowski** will conduct a hearing before an

administrative law judge on May 1 and **Lori Cobos** will conduct a hearing before an administrative law judge on May 3. **Tanya Buler** represented a deaf client in a divorce which allowed her the opportunity to work with a sign language interpreter during meetings with the client as well as in conducting a final hearing before the judge.



Standing: Professor Spain, Charmaine, Jenna, Jennifer
Sitting: Lori, Max, Steven, and Brandy

Larry Spain - Advanced ADR Clinic

During the spring semester, the following students were enrolled in the Advanced ADR Clinic co-taught by Adjunct Professor Gene Valentini and Professor Larry Spain: **Heidi Adams, Scott Bradney, Auggie Campbell, Jane Cardnell, Kimberly Clark, Joshua Craven, Pamela Ferguson, Joy Gibbs, Brandon Hill, Gara Hill, Christi Hodges, Eric Holt, Marie Lopez, Amy McCormick, Anna McSpadden, Lindsay Rose, Kristin Rostran, and Jeffrey Sheets.** In addition to receiving instruction qualifying as the 40 hour basic mediation training in Texas, each of the students also had an opportunity to observe as well as conduct actual mediations through the Dispute Resolution Center.

The students had the opportunity to mediate cases in family law matters, landlord/tenant disputes, collection cases, criminal cases referred by the District Attorney's Office and disputes referred by the Lubbock Independent School District, among other cases.



FROM THE DESK OF



Marilyn E. Phelan, Director - Low Income Tax Clinic

This was the first year that students were required to enroll for both the Fall and Spring Semesters. The seven students, who include Nathan Daley, Lakeisha Forte, Christina Lee, Amy Ott, John Strong; Jami Swofford, and Matthew Williams, enrolled in the Tax Clinic both semesters to help taxpayers in their controversies with the IRS. The students have been pursuing means to solve tax controversies for several taxpayers. Most of the issues confronting the students involved their clients' entitlement to the earned income credit, to dependency deductions, to head of household status, and to innocent spouse treatment. Several students have been successful throughout the year. One student was successful in securing a compromise from the IRS regarding his client's tax liabilities. Another student successfully obtained a refund of \$5,500 for her client and had a penalty of \$10,500 reversed for her client. Several were successful in obtaining noncollectible status for their client. One student filed a Relief for Innocent Spouse which was accepted by the IRS. All \$5,000.00 of the tax owed by the client was relieved and client received a refund for an amount previously applied to her tax return.



Standing: Matthew Williams, J.B. Strong, Professor Phelan, and Christina Lee
Sitting: Nathan Daley, Jami Swofford, LaKeisha Forte, and Amy Ott

A WORD FROM THE STUDENTS:

"The clinic experience has given me the confidence I need to start my legal career. Professor Phelan has been very supportive and encouraging and has made me feel like I possess the competence to begin my career as an attorney. This has been a very valuable and rewarding experience."

Jami Swofford



The students' work in the clinic on actual tax cases and the class sessions on rights of taxpayers and the procedures in place to contest tax deficiencies, which the students must attend, have proved very helpful both to the students and to their taxpayer clients. The seven students should be well prepared to represent clients with tax problems when they begin the practice of law. In addition, the School of Law is providing a benefit to the community in representing, without charge, taxpayers who cannot afford the services of a tax attorney.

"It has been a great experience to learn about working with clients in the tax field. I think that the experience has been invaluable."

Amy Ott

"Christina Lee did a good job on closing my case. She was very professional but at the same time caring."

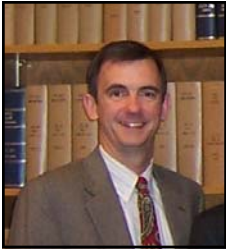
C.M.
Tax Clinic Client

"Nathan was very informative about my case, also very helpful. I am very thankful to have known such a caring individual...."

L.S.
Tax Clinic Client

FROM THE DESK OF

COURT REVERSES CONVICTIONS



David Guinn - Criminal Justice Clinic

Eight students jumped into the rollercoaster ride of actively representing citizens accused of various crimes by the State of Texas at the beginning of the Fall semester and continued during the Spring semester.

These students included: Guillermo DelBarrio, Stacy Estes, Chris Hesse, Mike King, Leigh Mauer, Lisa Minjarez, Sarah Roland and Chad West. All engaged in representing people on charges ranging from speeding tickets to second degree felony cocaine (crack) possession. All gained valuable experience in client communication, investigation, disciplined preparation, real world plea bargaining and eventually, jury trials in the Texas Court System. As of the end of the Spring semester some of the students were awaiting decisions from the court. A more in-depth article will be included when motions have been ruled on by the court. (This article will be updated at that time).

On March 29, 2006, the Seventh Court of Appeals of Texas -- in a unanimous 3-0 decision -- reversed the convictions of Tracy Ward and Rhonda Smith, who had both been convicted of felony delivery of a controlled substance to a child for their alleged in utero transfer of drug metabolites to their fetuses. Students from the 2004-2005 class of the Criminal Justice Clinic worked on the case, conducting extensive research and writing the brief that ultimately convinced the Court to reverse our clients' convictions.

Ward and Smith were arrested in 2003 after they gave birth to babies who tested positive for drugs. In a brief opinion, the Court held that the chemical transfer between mother and child did not constitute a "delivery." "Implicit within this definition is the need for the transferor to exercise both possession and control over the substance delivered," the Court held. The Court went on to hold, "the recipient must also gain or exercise possession over the transferred substance before it can be said that the actual manual transfer occurred." The Court then noted that it was impossible for the unborn fetus to "possess" the drugs since they never handled, manipulated, or used them. Instead, the only evidence of possession on the part of the fetuses was the presence of the metabolites in their bloodstreams. This is insufficient as a matter of law. The Court noted that its decision is in accord with that of other jurisdictions.

The Court declined to adopt the District Attorney's expansive definition of the crime. "We are a judicial body obligated to enforce the law as written by the legislature. If that body cares to define "deliver" as including the transfer of drugs by a mother to her unborn child through the exchange of bodily fluids, it may do so. Yet, ours is not to write where it has not."

The Court did not address the issue of whether a fetus is a child for purposes of the statute or whether the prosecution was constitutional -- two issues which the Clinic had also briefed.

The State filed a motion for rehearing of the case in the Court of Appeals. It lost the motion on April 26, 2006. The State now has a right to seek review in the Court of Criminal Appeals.

The opinion can be read here:

Professor Cunningham, now of Texas Wesleyan Law School, argued the case on behalf of Ms. Ward and Ms. Smith, along with Ward and Smith's trial attorney, Joe Dawson of Amarillo, Texas. With them on the briefs were Kenneth Richey and Greta Braker who, at the time, were law students in the Texas Tech Criminal Justice Clinic. Richey and Braker now practice law in Lubbock County.

CONGRATULATIONS SARAH for being named Outstanding Clinical Student by the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) !



Standing: David Guinn, Michael King, Chris Hesse, Chad West, Guillermo DelBarrio
Sitting: Lisa Minjarez, Sarah Roland, Stacy Estes, Leigh Mauer

"The criminal clinic gave me an invaluable opportunity to learn through working on real cases with the safety net of being able to consult with a practitioner with several years of experience. I feel confident in my ability to represent clients with criminal cases as a result of the real world experience of the clinic."
Lisa Minjarez

FROM THE DESK OF



Wendy Tolson Ross - Civil Practice Clinic

This semester I had seven (7) students enroll in my section of Civil Practice Clinic. These students were: William Denham, Deborah Dictson, David Iglesias, Leah Jameson, Misty King, Michael Lee, and Arlene Olivar. I also had one returning student, Velma Solorzano, who enrolled in the clinic for independent study. The students were assigned to work with local agencies such as Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, Advocacy Inc., Lubbock County District Attorney, and State of Texas Attorney General's Office, where they were able to assist in a variety of cases.

This year the students primarily focused on Family Law and Probate Law cases. We had several divorces, both with and without children. We had a couple that cases that required a hearing for Temporary Orders. We had an Adoption case. We were able to completely draft and execute a couple of wills and other probate documents, such as a power of attorney and directive to physician. We also had one Declaration of Heirship case involving an estate where the decedent died almost thirty (30) years ago.

This is my first year here at Texas Tech University and it has been fun getting to know the students in my class.



Standing: Mike Lee, William Denham, Misty King, David Iglesias, Deborah Dictson
Sitting: Arlene Olivar, Leah Jameson, and Professor Ross



"Although the clinic is a lot of commitment to make, the amount of practical learning you do makes it more than worthwhile. It is a good feeling to know your way, even a few baby steps, around the courthouse."
Chris Denham

LANWT has **three full-time staff attorney positions** available in the great city of Amarillo, Texas. They will consider hiring 3rd year graduates pending passing the bar. Individuals interested in the positions should submit a Resume to:

Steve McBride, Managing Attorney
Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
Amarillo Branch Office
203 West 8th Street, Suite 600
Amarillo, Texas 79101

Interested individuals may also contact Steve at (806) 373-6808 and/or submit their Resume electronically to Steve McBride at mcbrides@lanwt.org.

"I would use Velma funds permitting when she goes into private practice. She is personable and professional."
Civil Practice Clinic Client

FROM THE DESK OF



**Greta Braker and
Jeff Blackburn**

**Innocence Project
Clinic**



police officer perjured himself on the stand. To get his client out of prison he wrote a state application for writ of habeas corpus.

Greer Ackley after doing a serious street investigation found an innocent client. Her client A.P. told her that the criminal was his cousin. Greer found evidence proving A.P. was living in Mexico. The District Attorney's theory was that A.P. was his cousin Tito and Tito was not a separate person. Greer found evidence that A.P. is not Tito and that Tito committed the crime. Greer is working on a federal application for writ of habeas corpus.

What a semester! This semester we had eleven hard working students receiving credit. These great students are: **Greer Ackley, Bryan Goldberg, Teresa Hellstern, George Hoyt, Amanda Ivey, Crystal Marchesoni, Meryl McClung, Heather McDonald, Kayla Murray, Christopher Myers, and Camisha Simmons.**

Litigation that is in the pipeline and that students enrolled during the summer sessions and next year's Fall and Spring students will work on include:

Rosanna Abreo and Hilary Smith were fabulous volunteers. **Dana Lockett, Jeff Sheets, and Christina Phelps** received independent research credit. Thanks to those 16 students. The following is a summary of the great work done:

The West Texas Innocence Project is working with the New York Innocence Project on 45 Houston crime lab cases that have been identified as having "major issues". The students will help work on Petition for DNA retesting and factual investigation to prove actual innocence of these 45.

These semester these students screened over 50 cases. 26 of these cases have been closed based on the client not having an actual innocence claim. The remaining 24 cases are still open and investigation is continuing. 2 cases based on the students screening are in the litigation stage.

Also, Anthony Graves is currently on Death Row. Amazingly, the 5th Circuit just reversed his conviction based on actual innocence. Not surprising the state is seeking to re-try Anthony. Our students will help prepare his case for trial.

George Hoyt after a thorough investigation found an innocent client. George found that the police officer who testified at trial lied on the stand. He was able to prove this by finding a police report that was hidden by the police officer during the trial stage. This police report proves the

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work. Most of our students are graduating. Congratulations and Good Luck!



Pictured left to right: Greer Ackley, Teresa Hellstern, Kayla Murray, Jeff Blackburn, Camisha Simmons, George Hoyt, Heather McDonald, Amanda Ivey, Crystal Marchesoni, Bryan Goldberg, and Meryl McClung.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON CLINICAL PROGRAMS YOU CAN
VISIT:**
<http://www.law.ttu.edu/lawWeb/centersprograms/clinics/index.shtm>

RECENT CASES OF INTEREST

Christina Lee won an appeal which had been submitted to the IRS after the IRS's decision to disallow the EIC for 1998. The appeal was approved without a hearing or conference. The client was refunded \$525.23. Other issues resolved included identity theft issues resolved from 1997 –2004. She was also successful in obtaining the Earned Income Credit, that was originally disallowed for one of her other clients. She obtained a refund of \$2041 for 2002 and \$2112 for 2003.

Matthew Williams completed a case wherein the IRS compromised approximately \$25,000 in nonpayment of taxes, interest, and penalties (due to the taxpayer failing to file returns) for \$840. Many prior student attorneys contributed to the success, including: Dusti Welch, Jeremy Harmon, Rick Eanes, and Justin Mock.



Markus Boenig provided initial representation of a client and developed the case file for a disability claim but was unable to conduct the administrative law hearing when he transferred to another law school for the spring semester. The case resulted in a fully favorable decision for the client with a determination that she has been disabled since February, 2004 as a result of degenerative disc disease, rheumatoid arthritis, pleuritic chest pain and episodes of syncope with loss of consciousness.

Nathan Daley completed two cases wherein the IRS accepted the Offers in Compromise for each. The first one was accepted for \$150.00 and the second was accepted for \$23.21.

Lindsay Rose negotiated a settlement prior to litigation in a consumer case involving the sale of magazine subscriptions over the telephone totaling \$700 and attempts to collect the debt plus interest. The creditor agreed to forgive the debt in its entirety and clear the debt on her credit report after claims for violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act arose after the account was turned over to a debt collection agency.

Tanya Buler received a favorable decision after a hearing before an administrative law judge for a 48 year old individual with ischemic heart disease, left lung base atelectasis, peripheral vascular occlusive disease and diabetes mellitus. The claimant was found disabled retroactive to November, 2003.

CONGRATULATIONS LINDSAY for being named Outstanding Clinical Student by the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA)!

Jennifer Kajs represented a 55 year old individual with an 8th grade education before a disability hearing officer after the claimant was notified that her disability had ceased as of May, 2005. The claimant had initially been found disabled as a result of a Mood Disorder and Anxiety Disorder with an onset date of April 1, 2001. After a continuing disability review, the Social Security Administration found that she had medically improved and that her disability had ceased. The individual currently suffers from diabetes, back pain, decreased concentration and memory resulting from a stroke, a rotator cuff injury and hypertension. The hearing officer found no medical improvement had occurred; the claimant continues to be disabled; and her benefits were reinstated.

STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS COMPLETED

Approximately 101 students attended the mandatory meeting held March 2, 2006. Clinic faculty gave a brief summary of their individual clinics and answered questions from the students. The clinical program received a total of 154 applications. Most students applied to more than one clinic. Students were selected and offers were made by the individual clinic faculty. Selections were made for the following:

Summer Tax Clinic: Lila Garza, Ann-Marie Saleh, Charmaine Tupue, and Robert Wilson.

Summer Innocence Project Clinic: Gabriela Martinez, Eric Navarrette, Russ Shinn, and Neema Yazamaidi.

2006-2007 Tax Clinic: Kara Blanco, Logan Burdine, Elizabeth Carter, Amy Cochran, Nicholas Davis, Geanna Day, Jason Laseter, Jeff Mealer, and James Suter.

2006-2007 Civil Practice Clinic:

Professor Spain's Section: Laura Brock, Daniel Caudillo, Amanda Galbraith, Tonya Graser, Ross Horn (Fall only), Desiree LaRue, Robert Massey, Lori Ruiz, Ann-Marie Saleh (Fall only), and Tia Wilson.

Professor Ross' Section: Christian Buensuceso, Lila

Garza, Kassi Horner, Chelsi Kever, Gabriel Meyrat, Carrie Mills, Eric Navarrette (Fall only), David Reuthinger, and Jennifer Yi.

2006-2007 Criminal Justice Clinic: Patrick Garcia, Ty Hamm, William Ivins, Stacy Marlin, Marcy Melton, Victor Rivera, Kristin Sims, and Monica Tolden.

2006-2007 Innocence Project: Nicholas Ball, Julie Bohrer, Deborah Chan, Leah Jameson (Fall only), Leila J. Kallel, Stephanie Ann Luce, Robyn Nance, Amber Reed, Erin Shinn, Russ Shinn, and Jenna Zebrowski (Fall only).

Fall 2006 Health Care and Bioethics Mediation Clinic: Rachel Anthony, Bradly Bush, Clarissa Chandler, Mario Flores, Jennifer Irlbeck, Allison Jones, Vanessa Kelly, Dawn Newell, and Geeta Yadav.

Spring 2007 ADR Clinic: Erik Burris, Melissa Carranza, Andrew Cates, Christie Hobbs, Elizabeth Kreisler, Weldon Nixon, Kimberly Reeves, Curtis Riddle, Micah Riddle, Josh Smith, Clinton Snow, Kurt Summers, Charmaine Tupue, Morgan Vaughan, Mary Wahne, Lori Yarbrough, Nathan Yates, and Amy Zentmeyer.

WHAT DOES THE INNOCENCE PROJECT DO?

Mission Statement:

Our Project is a vital part of the Texas Innocence Network. The mission of the Texas Innocence Network is to:

Free the innocent from prison;
Expose the injustice in the Texas criminal system;
Improve that system through direct action.

How do we meet our mission?

Each law student is assigned between 5-10 cases during a semester. Each student is in charge of doing an investigation and determines if an inmate is innocent. From there it is determined how we can prove his/her innocence and how to get them out of jail. From there the student drafts

an application for a writ of habeas corpus or a clemency petition.

Who should sign up for the clinic?

Anyone interested in criminal defense work or helping wrongly accused people get out of prison. This clinic offers practical skills and analysis of criminal law.

Selection process begins in late February or early March for the following academic year!

SNAP SHOT CORNER



WHERE ARE THEY NOW??????

Erick L. Lucio (Civil-Spring '05) is an associate in the Litigation section of Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams in the Rio Grande Valley office in Brownsville, Texas. His practice consists primarily of representing clients in civil, commercial, and maritime litigation matters.

Celeste Villarreal (Tax-Fall '04 and Civil-Spring '05) is a Policy Advisor/Legal Counsel for State Senator Rodney Ellis. She does communications (writing speeches, op-eds, articles and work with media outlets), legislative policy work and legal counsel to the Senator. Policy areas include, but are not limited to, criminal justice, tax, women's reproductive health issues, health and human services, immigration and Latino issues.



Leslie Searle (Civil-Fall '01) is an associate with Hall & Green in Lubbock.

Katherine Jayroe (Civil-Spring '05) practices general litigation and family law with the law firm of Turner & Lybrand in Coppell, Texas.

Peter Hall (Civil-Spring '05) is clerking for the Honorable Robert L. Jones, Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Texas Lubbock Division.

Nathan Tadema (Civil-Spring '05) had been squeaking by in private practice doing criminal and family law, however, he will start work as a Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Corpus Christi on May 8th.

Richard Mitchell (Tax-Fall '04 and Civil-Spring '05) works for the Wichita County District Attorney's Office.



Stacey Shaw (Civil-Spring '05) is an attorney with the Small Business Administration Disaster Office in Fort Worth.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Larry R. Spain
Civil Practice Clinic and
Advanced ADR Clinic

Wendy Tolson Ross
Civil Practice Clinic

Marilyn E. Phelan
Low Income Tax Clinic

David M. Guinn
Criminal Justice Clinic

Angela Laughlin
Jeff Blackburn
Greta Braker
Innocence Project Clinic

Elma Moreno
Office Manager/Legal Assistant

Samirah Abdalah
Legal Secretary

Janie Gonzales
Tax Clinic
Community Outreach Coordinator



CONGRATULATIONS MAY GRADUATES!
GOOD LUCK WITH THE BAR EXAM!!!

