



FALL 2007

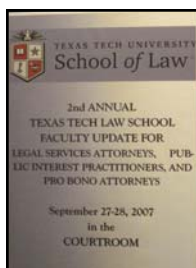
# CLINIC NEWS

The newsletter of the Texas Tech University School of Law Clinical Programs

## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW HOSTS 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FACULTY UPDATE SEMINAR

### INSIDE THIS EDITION:

From the Desk of Larry Spain.....	2
From the Desk of Marilyn E. Phelan.....	3
From the Desk of Wendy Tolson Ross.....	4
Mountain West Regional Clinical Conference .....	4
From the Desk of Glenn Roque-Jackson .....	5
Faculty & Students Support Pro Bono .....	5
From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze .....	6
Welcome New Clinic Faculty Member.....	7
From the Desk of Jeff Blackburn and Natalie Roetzel.....	8
From the Desk of Susan Fortney and Gene Valentini .....	10
Clinic Staff Inducted as WTALA Officer.....	11
Recent Cases of Interest .....	13
Law and Justice Magnet Program .....	13
LITC Public Interest Workshop .....	14
Welcome New Staff Attorney .....	14
CCAV Seeks Volunteers for VITA .....	15
Snapshot Corner .....	17
Faculty & Staff .....	18



Faculty from Texas Tech University School of Law offered a CLE program without cost to legal services attorneys and public interest practitioners on September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Texas Tech University was 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. This will continue to be an annual event.

Professor Larry Spain, who serves as Director of Clinical Programs at Texas Tech Law School organized the program, provided an update on recent family law cases of interest and facilitated an interactive discussion emphasizing the application of the rules of professional conduct when working with a difficult client. This seminar showcased Texas Tech Law School's finest faculty on topics such as negotiation skills, trial preparation and file organization, evidentiary issues, the deceptive trade practices act, ethics of client interview and witness



preparation and employment discrimination. The following faculty members from Texas Tech's law school participated in this program: Professors Larry Spain, Wendy Ross, Patrick Metze, Angela Laughlin, John Krahmer, Jorge Ramirez and Jarod Gonzalez.

In addition, Maricarmen Garza, an attorney from Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, presented on the overlap between family law and immigration law in the context of providing effective advocacy for domestic violence clients.

Approximately 36 individuals attended the seminar which included legal services staff attorneys from Advocacy, Inc., Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Legal Aid Society of Lubbock, Inc., Lone Star Legal Aid and Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. Additionally, private practice attorneys who agreed to take two pro bono cases from Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas attended this CLE for a minimal fee.



The Faculty Update was a great success and Texas Tech Law will continue to offer this program on an annual basis.

*Great array of topics...I learned something from each presenter. Wonderful Job! Thank you for putting on this CLE, a valuable program.*



## From the Desk of Larry Spain - Director of Clinical Programs and Civil Practice Clinic

During the fall semester, the following students were enrolled in Professor Spain's section of the Civil Practice Clinic: **Julie Bohrer, Sherri Colson, Emily Cook, Sarah Gardner-Cox, Elizabeth Lieb, Preston Mundt, Deena Reynolds and Jonathan Stovall.**

Over the course of the semester, a total of 30 new client cases were undertaken, 12 cases were completed and closed and 32 cases remain open and will be carried over to the spring semester. Each of the students, in addition to being exposed to a variety of legal problems through the evening *Pro Bono* Clinics, participated in the *Night Court Divorce Project*, a program offered in collaboration with the Lubbock County Courts to provide representation to low-income individuals in simple divorces with hearings held before judges in the evening at the Law School. Half

of the students participated in a Wills Clinic this semester, preparing Wills and other advance planning documents for low income individuals. In addition to these activities, each of the students has been kept busy carrying an individual caseload of 4-5 clients throughout the semester and assumed primary responsibility for representing clients in matters involving family law, disability claims, civil rights claims and consumer matters.

During the semester, the following students had an opportunity to a hearing before an administrative law judge on disability claims of their clients: **Sherri Colson, Emily Cook, Sarah Gardner-Cox, Elizabeth Lieb, Deena Reynolds, and Jonathan Stovall.** Although a decision has not yet been issued in each of the cases, it is expected that a finding of disability will be issued in each of the cases. Several students will have also completed a final hearing in a divorce before the end of the semester while the others will complete theirs at the beginning of the Spring Semester.



Teaches Civil Practice Clinic, Family Law, Professional Responsibility, and Advanced ADR Clinic. Before joining the faculty at Texas Tech, Professor Spain was the Director of Clinical Programs at the University of North Dakota School of Law for eighteen years, where he established several new clinical programs and expanded the range of clinical opportunities available to students. Prior to entering legal education, he worked for several legal services programs in Nebraska.

In addition to law teaching and legal practice, he has also been active in the field of alternative dispute resolution, serving as Chair of the Governing Board of a university-affiliated community dispute resolution center as well as being a frequent trainer and practitioner in mediation skills.

Professor Spain is actively involved in the field of clinical legal education nationally, currently serving as editor of the newsletter of the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA).



(L to R): Elizabeth Lieb, Sarah Gardner-Cox, Sherri Colson, Deena Reynolds, Emily Cook, Julie Bohrer, Preston Mundt, Jonathan Stovall and Professor Larry Spain

*"The Civil Litigation Clinic has provided the opportunity to apply what I've learned and discussed for the past two and a half years. It's been both educational and rewarding. The experience of going before an Administrative Law Judge to present a case for social security income was invaluable and the knowledge I acquired while representing my client through a complete divorce from initial client intake to court procedures in front of Judge Lanehart will stay with me for a very long time. The pressures and skill building that come from a real and practical legal experience, coupled with the guidance of my supervising attorney, Larry Spain, has provided me with the start I need as I enter the practice of law."*

Elizabeth Lieb  
Civil Practice Clinic

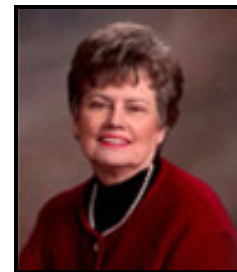


## From the Desk of Marilyn E. Phelan - Tax Clinic Director

Six students, **James Beam, Kyle Kovel, Kerri Lawton, Jibin Luke, Savannah Meyer, and Travis Rodak** enrolled in the Tax Clinic in the fall and spring semesters to help taxpayers in their controversies with the IRS. 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. The students have been successful in obtaining noncollectible status for some of their clients and have been successful in resolving issues relating to tax liability for others. They have represented taxpayers in appellate hearings and have filed petitions on their behalf with the Tax Court. They sustained their clients' positions in three

cases that were pending before the Tax Court. The students have filed offers in compromise for some taxpayers and have obtained substantial reductions in tax liability for these clients.

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 six 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.



Teaches Federal Income Taxation, Taxation of International Transactions, Estate and Gift Taxation, Museum Law, Advanced Income Taxation, Nonprofit Organizations.

As a student at the University of Texas, Professor Phelan was elected to the Order of the Coif. She has served as General Counsel for Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and as Associate Dean of the Graduate School and of the Law School. She is the author of several books, including a casebook, *Nonprofit Organization Law and Policy*, published by West, *Nonprofit Enterprises: Corporations, Trusts and Associations and Museums and the Law*.

Professor Phelan is a member of the American Law Institute and a Texas Commissioner to the Commission on Uniform State Laws. She is a member of the Legal Affairs and Properties Committee to the Executive Council of the International Council of Museums. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and is board-certified in tax law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Professor Phelan is also Professor of Museum Science.



**Back Row (L to R):** Kyle Kovel, Professor Phelan, Travis Rodak, Jibin Luke, and James Beam

**Front Row (L to R):** Cory Beth Davis (summer tax clinic student), Kerri Lawton, and Savannah Meyer

*"The Clinic has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my law school career. Working with actual clients has provided me with a unique experience that cannot be matched in the classroom."*

Travis Rodak  
Tax Clinic

*To find out more about the TTU Clinical Programs, visit  
<https://www.law.ttu.edu/acp/programs/clinical/>*





## From the Desk of Wendy Tolson Ross - Civil Practice Clinic Director

This semester I had eight students enroll in my section of Civil Practice Clinic. These students were: **Roberto Ambrosino, Kyle Brugamy, Kacee Harvey, Sammy Lucario, Oscar Mendez, Ashley Smith, Allison Stephens, and Laura Tones.**

The majority of cases worked on by the students were family law cases. We have accepted many divorces, both with and without children and some custody suits

We have continued this year to provide service to Women's Protective Services.

Students interviewed women at the Women's Protective Service's Shelter, and provided representation with divorces and other family law matters. One of these cases involved a Protective Order.

Additionally, the Wills Clinic was sponsored this semester by the Civil Practice Clinic. Students were sent to interview and prepare wills for people in the community through Legal Aid of Northwest Texas.

Finally, we also had a Determination of Heirship case. This case involved assisting a client with probating his mother's estate so that he could clear up the title on his mother's house.



Teaches Civil Practice Clinic, Negotiations, and Race and Racism.

Prior to joining us at the beginning of the summer 2005, Professor Ross was a Clinical Instructor of Law at St. Mary's University School of Law. She served as a Clinical Instructor from 1999 thru 2005. She was also Acting Associate Director for the Office of Academic Excellence. Professor Ross joined the faculty to teach a section of the Civil Practice Clinic and to teach negotiations in the Spring of 2006. She earned her B.A. from Texas Tech University and her law degree from University of Missouri - Columbia Law School. In addition to teaching one section of the Civil Practice Clinic, Professor Ross is also teaching Race and Racism during the Fall 2006 semester.

Professor Ross is currently President of the Mexican American Bar Association and has served on various other organizations throughout the years.



**Back Row (L to R):** Laura Tones, Allison Stephens, Ron Ambrosino, Oscar Mendez

**Front Row (L to R):** Ashley Smith, Kyle Burgamy, Professor Wendy Ross and Sammy Lucario

## Clinic Faculty and Staff Attend Mountain West Regional Clinical Conference

**Samirah Abdalah, Elma Moreno and Larry Spain** attended the Mountain West Regional Clinical Conference, *Clinics in Context: Law School Clinics as part of Communities of Teachers and Learners*, held at Thomas Jefferson School of Law October 12-13, 2007. **Elma Moreno**



and **Larry Spain** served on the planning committee

for the conference. Larry Spain moderated the Opening Plenary for the Conference, *Recent Developments in Law School Clinics throughout the Region*, while Elma Moreno led two of the presentations for Administrators and Professional Staff:

*Introduction and Structure of Clinical Programs: Preparing for Student Recruitment and the Selection Process* as well as *The Administrator's Role in Preparing Students Prior to the First Day of Class: What is Involved.*

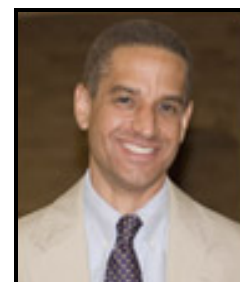


## From the Desk of Glenn Roque-Jackson - Director, Criminal Justice Clinic Prosecution Section

The goal of the Prosecution Section of the Criminal Justice Clinic is to prepare students to become effective and ethical criminal trial attorneys. There are seven talented students enrolled in the Clinic: **Tamara Baggett, Aimee Bateman, Alex Benavides, Lindsay Epley Kinzie, Sheena Molsbee, Earl Oaks, and Cheryl Pitre.** They are all well on their way towards this goal.

The students have received weekly instruction on the skills needed to practice criminal law. Judges, veteran prosecutors, and experienced defense attorneys have addressed the students to supplement their instruction.

The students have practiced these skills by working as assistant city prosecutors handling class c misdemeanors in Lubbock Municipal Court. Each student has already successfully tried at least one case and it is expected that by the end of the year each student will have obtained a significant amount of trial experience.



Teaches: Criminal Justice Clinic Prosecution Section

In law school, Professor Roque-Jackson was the Trial Director of the Harvard Defenders, a student-run public defender clinic. After graduation, he worked as a law clerk for Chief U.S. District Judge Harry Lee Hudspeth in El Paso and then as a litigation associate with Fulbright & Jaworski, L.L.P. in Houston. From there, he joined the U.S. Justice Department and serves as an Assistant U.S. Attorney assigned to the Western District of Texas where he has obtained extensive jury trial experience and prosecuted a wide variety of offenses including: computer crimes, drug trafficking, organized crime, public corruption, violent crime, and white collar fraud. As a result of his success as a prosecutor, he has received awards for superior performance from U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft and commendations from a wide variety of law enforcement agencies including: the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; the Drug Enforcement Administration; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



**Back Row (L to R):** Professor Glenn Roque-Jackson, Alex Benavides, Aimee Bateman, Sheena Molsbee and Lindsay Kinzie

**Front Row (L to R):** Earl Oaks, Cheryl Pitre, and Tamara Baggett

## THANKS TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS SUPPORTING *PRO BONO*

Thanks to the following faculty members who participated in *Pro Bono* Clinics with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas during the fall semester of the 2006-2007 academic year: **Deans Wesley Cochran** (3 clinics), **Kay Fletcher** (1 clinic) and **Arturo Torres** (2 clinics); **Professors Gerry Beyer** (1 clinic), **Christopher Bruner** (1 clinic); **Jarod Gonzalez** (1 clinic), **Jennifer Horn** (1 clinic), **Wendy Humphrey** (1 clinic), **Brian Shannon** (1 clinic) and **Larry Spain** (4 clinics).

The Law School faculty co-sponsored with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas the *Pro Bono*

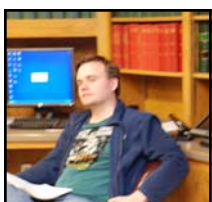
Clinics held at St. John's United Methodist Church during the month of September and assisted with two *Pro Bono* Clinics during the fall semester organized by the Student Public Interest Initiative, Volunteer Law Student Association and Family Law Society. All students in both sections of the Civil Practice Clinic participate in the *Pro Bono* Clinics as part of their clinical work. Several students from the Student Public Interest Initiative, Volunteer Law Student Association and Family Law Society assisted at the *Pro Bono* Clinics during the fall semester. (see page 9)

If you are interested in participating in a future, *Pro Bono* Clinic, contact Elma Moreno, [elma.moreno@ttu.edu](mailto:elma.moreno@ttu.edu).



## From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze - Director, Criminal Justice Clinic Defense Section

Just a short note to let everyone know the students in the Defense Section of the Criminal Justice Clinic are busy representing real people in real cases. In the first two months of this semester, students have handled or are handling 50 cases. Students handle all phases of representation from initial interview through appearance in Court. Of those 50 cases there have been 9 pleas of guilty and 7 dismissals. Having represented clients in the Magistrate Court and the Lubbock County Courts at Law are **Joseph Baker, Latoya Colley, Steve Forsberg, Abigail L. Glisan, Aaron Holt, Kathleen Nacozy, Christina Schwartz and LaShonda Taylor.**



Joseph Baker and Kathleen Nacozy have at least one case each set for a jury trial after the first of the year. Joseph Baker is developing a challenge to the

constitutionality of the Failure to Identify statute. Kathleen Nacozy is likewise developing a challenge to the constitutionality of the zero tolerance alcohol statute commonly called driving under the influence by a minor. Kathleen is set in January for an administrative hearing on a related driver's license revocation. Aaron Holt is handling a particularly difficult felony domestic violence

case to be tried in the early part of next semester.

In November, prior to a hearing on pretrial motions, the State offered the Defendant's Counsel, Steve Forsberg, a dismissal on two cases (a domestic violence and possession of marijuana) for a time served plea on a Class "C" misdemeanor of disorderly conduct. Steve's client was facing the return to prison for an additional 30 years on a parole violation warrant if convicted of the more serious charges. Please congratulate everyone all for all their hard work.



Cases handled to date include: 6 DWI's, 6 Failure to Identify to Police Officer, 5 Possession of Marijuana <2 oz, 4 Class B Theft, 6 Domestic Violence Assault (including 1 felony), 4 Evading Arrest, 2 Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon, 2 Prohibited Weapon (including 1 felony), 2 felony Possession of a Controlled Substance, 1 Theft <\$50, 1 Theft of Service, 1 False Report to a Police Officer, 1 Felony Theft, 1 Prostitution, 3 Resisting Arrest, 1 Criminal Mischief, 1 Criminal Trespass, 1 Traffic ticket, 1 Administrative License Revocation, and 1 Possession or Use of Volatile Chemicals.

In their spare time the students are rewriting a Trial Notebook to be published by the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

(continued on page 7)



Patrick Metze was appointed a visiting faculty member teaching and directing the Criminal Defense Clinic this academic year. Pat is an experienced criminal defense practitioner in Lubbock who is a Past President and current Director of the Lubbock County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He is enthusiastic about continuing the development of our Criminal Defense Clinic and providing a quality experiential program for our students.

*"My hobbies include gardening, our three dogs, rescuing cats and trying to understand my four year old Cockatoo named Rosie. I try everyday to be a patient, loving, firm, supportive, and ever present father to my children, Eric, 29, and Jennifer, 26, the most important job I have ever had."*

Pat Metze



(L to R): LaShonda Taylor, Abigail Glison, Christina Schwartz, Latoya Colley, Kathleen Nacozy, Aaron Holt, Steven Forsberg, Professor Patrick Metze, and Joseph Baker.





## From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze - Director, Criminal Justice Clinic Defense Section

(continued from page 6)

Each month the students spend 20 hours with one of eight different criminal defense lawyers in Lubbock rotating on a monthly basis through each office, experiencing criminal practice by observing and by doing. Mentors for the Criminal Justice Clinic, all local attorneys practicing criminal law, are Chuck Lanehart, Danny Hurley, Dwight McDonald, Steve Hamilton, Trey McClendon, Robin Matthews, Anne and David Hazelwood, and Laurie Key. All mentors are members of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, a financial supporter of the Texas Tech School of Law and the Criminal Justice Clinic.

On November 15, 2007, Lydia Clay-Jackson came to speak to all interested students on "Why the Law?" and to work on a one-on-one basis with the students of the Criminal Justice Clinic in developing the theme and theory of their cases. Lydia Clay-Jackson of Conroe, Texas, is Board Certified in Criminal Law, Dean of the Texas Trial College in Huntsville, Texas and currently Secretary of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Many thanks to Abby Glisan, Christine Schwartz

and Latoya Colley for their assistance in coordinating Ms. Clay-Jackson's appearance.

Also, thanks to the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association for their generous contribution to the Clinic which covered the expenses of her visit.

The students are looking forward next semester to more "real people, real cases, real life, real lawyering." This quote, of Student Attorney LaShonda Taylor, from the *Masked Rider*, shows the true excitement and enthusiasm the members of the Defense Section of the Criminal Justice Clinic



approach their duties. LaShonda, by the way, has been responsible for 10 of the 50 cases handled to date by the Clinic. Of the 8 cases being handled by Student Attorney Christine Schwartz, 3 have resulted in dismissals. These figures show significant effort and professionalism by all members of the Clinic. As I tell the students, its not about numbers, its about treating each client as a valuable individual, doing your very best for each client to represent them to the best of your ability, and to ethically seek Justice for your client by holding the State to their burden. Preparation is the key. Good Job to all!

## Welcome New Clinic Faculty Member

Patrick S. Metze joined the clinic faculty as a visiting Professor for the 2007-2008 academic year. Professor Metze obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from The University of Houston, in December 1973, and a Bachelor of Arts from Texas Tech University in August, 1970. He was admitted to practice in the State of Texas on April 29, 1974.

Professor Metze initially worked for a real estate developer and investor in Houston. In January, 1976, he established a solo general

practice of law in Levelland county seat of Hockley County, thirty miles West of Lubbock. Prior to 1986 and the collapse of the oil industry in West Texas, his general practice included periodic banking, collections, corporate, employee relations, worker's compensation, personal injury, oil and gas leases and contracts, real estate, criminal and family law. Since that time, his general practice has had a greater emphasis on criminal and family law, with less focus on commercial, industrial, and labor related problems. In 2000 he moved his primary office to Lubbock and has maintained his client base and close ties to Hockley and Cochran County. (continued on page 12)



*"The Criminal Defense Clinic has exceeded all my expectations. Professor Metze entrusts us each with several clients and I have never learned more or learned more quickly than when defending my own clients."*

Kathleen Nacozy  
Criminal Justice Clinic  
Defense Section



*"I enjoyed the 2007 Mountain West Regional Clinical Conference in San Diego, CA. very much. Not only because it was located close to the ocean, which I was delighted to see again, but because it was informative, it had excellent speakers and panelists, the hospitality was great, and I enjoyed visiting again and sharing ideas with colleagues from other universities".*

Samirah A. Abdalah  
Clinical Program Legal  
Secretary



## From the Desk of Jeff Blackburn and Natalie Roetzel - Innocence Project

It has been a great semester at the Texas Tech Innocence Project Clinic. The Clinic, which is a member organization of the Innocence Project of Texas, is staffed by 15 students, who are actively investigating more than 50 claims of actual innocence made by Texas inmates. These students are learning first-hand the amount of time and dedication required to seek justice on behalf of the wrongfully convicted, and they are actively experiencing the ins and outs of case investigation and post-conviction criminal litigation.



Currently, the students are working on two very critical projects. They are investigating the numerous claims of actual innocence that arrive in our office on a daily basis, and they are also working with other students across the State to examine previously denied Motions for DNA testing made by Dallas County inmates. In Dallas County, 13 men have been exonerated since 2001 after DNA testing conclusively proved their



innocence. As a result of that startling number, the newly elected Dallas County District Attorney, Craig Watkins, has opened his files to our students so that we may re-examine more than 400 claims of innocence made during the previous administration. Innocence Clinic students are evaluating those claims one-by-one and are making their recommendations to Innocence Project of Texas staff who then work with the District Attorney's office to seek DNA testing in the appropriate cases.

We here at the Innocence Project Clinic are ecstatic about the amount of effort our students are contributing to investigating our clients' cases. We are optimistic that their hard work and dedication will change the lives of several individuals who have had their livelihoods stripped from them by the hands of wrongful conviction. If our recent accomplishments are any indication of our future, we are certain to have a very successful year. Earlier this semester, Innocence Project Clinic students were featured on A&E's "The Innocence Files" for their work on Anthony Graves's case. Students also had the opportunity witness one Innocence Project of Texas client, Eugene Henton, walk free after being wrongfully convicted of rape when he was only 17 years old.



Jeff Blackburn handles criminal defense and civil rights cases throughout Texas. He also represents the wrongfully convicted. He represented 38 people falsely convicted in the infamous Tulia drug bust, eventually obtaining full pardons and civil damages. He is the founder of and chief counsel to the Innocence Project of Texas. He was named criminal defense lawyer of the year by the State Bar of Texas for 2002/2003. He has received the Frank Scurlock award, the Henry B. Gonzales award, and the Maury Maverick award for his civil rights work. He is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board Legal Specialization.

(continued on page 9)



**Front Row (L to R):** Lupe Ponciano, Alma Gonzalez, Natalie Kersey, Dustin Howell, Becky Behl-Hill

**Middle Row (L to R):** Bekah Hermann, Cynthia Clements, Gail Bickford, Becca Stewart, Anju George

**Back Row (L to R):** Natalie Roetzel, Renee Castillo, Charity Mireles, Jeff Blackburn, Aaron Shnider, Karyna Soldatova, and Angela Dunlap





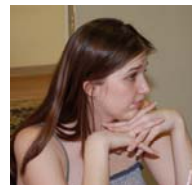
## From the Desk of Jeff Blackburn and Natalie Roetzel - Innocence Project

(continued from page 8)

Current Innocence Project students include: Becky Behl-Hill, Gail Bickford, Renee Castillo, Cynthia Clements, Brandi Dosser, Angela Dunlap, Anju George, Alma Gonzalez, Bekah Hermann, Dustin Howell, Natalie Kersey, Charity Mireles, Aaron Shnider, Karyna Soldatova, and Becca Stewart.

The following students participated in the Innocence Project during the 2007 summer sessions: Roberto Ambrosino, Jr., Ruth Bradbury, Curtis Brancheau, Pamela Dallefield, Kurt Glass, Sara Hudman, Barrett Thomas, and Caitlin Thomas.

For more information about the Texas Tech Innocence Project Clinic or the Innocence Project of Texas, please contact Natalie Roetzel at



*"My participation in the innocent project has been nothing but positive. I quickly learned that knowledge may be one thing, but experience is another. I loved having the opportunity to put my knowledge into action. Even when the law didn't allow or provide a solution, I felt accomplished knowing that I helped to give someone's innocence claim a chance."*

Charity Joy Mireles  
Innocence Project



### INNOCENCE PROJECT— SUMMER 2007 STUDENTS

**Back Row (L to R):** Caitlin Thomas, Barrett Thomas, Roberto Ambrosino, Jr., Curtis Brancheau, Ruth Bradbury, Kurt Glass

**Front Row (L to R):** Pamela Dallefield, Jeff Blackburn, Heather McDonald and Sara Hudman

*"I went to law school with the hope of one day helping someone who was wrongly convicted regain their freedom. I never thought I would get hands on experience in restoring justice while still in school. The innocence project was a great experience I will not soon forget."*

Thomas Barrett  
Innocence Project – Summer 2007

*"Jeff and Heather created an environment where everyone was free to ask questions. I learned a lot through their guidance and expertise."*

Pamela Dallefield  
Summer Innocence  
Project—2007

Thank you to the following students from the Student Public Interest Initiative, Volunteer Law Student Association and Family Law Society who assisted at the Pro Bono Clinics during the fall semester: Joseph Rueda, Matthew Brown, Lucia Ceaser, William McCamish, Julie Harbin, Beau Cox, Eric Ryan Pace, Jaclyn Sublett, Tiffany McDuff, Courtney Stamper, Lani Hoffman, Tamara Hale, K'Lisha Pace, Amber Risenhoover, Becca Stewart, Stephen Fleischer, and Barbara Novak.

For more information visit  
<http://innocenceprojectoftexas.org/index.html>



## From the Desk of Susan Fortney and Gene Valentini - Health Care & Bioethics Mediation Clinic

The new Health Care and Bioethics Mediation clinic and program moved into a second year with a new format and crop of dynamic participants. In order to allow trainees to observe and conduct meditations earlier in the semester, we “front-loaded” the training. To do so, we conducted a three-day intensive program for participants to obtain 24 hours of training before the semester commenced. Starting in September, the clinic students observed meditations and co-mediated cases.

This year’s trainees included ten engaged and interesting law students (pictured), as well as seven providers. The providers from area health institutions were Dr. John Furbee, Vice President of Perioperative Services at Covenant Health System; Sharon Ivory, Senior Vice-President for Covenant Health System, Gail Spivey, Guest Relations Specialist Covenant Hospital; Rev. Larry Cothrin, Director of Chaplain Services at University Medical Center; Sylvia Stice, Director of Social Services at University Medical Center; Kena Dubberly, Assistant Administrator of the Garrison Geriatric and Health Center; and Dr. Herb Janssen, Professor and Associate Chair of Research,

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. In addition to obtaining mediation training, these providers shared their rich experience and personal insights on health care delivery and conflict resolution. The professionals effectively served as co-teachers, enriching the experience for all.

In addition to learning about conflict resolution and developing mediation skills, the clinic gives participants an opportunity to learn about health care delivery and health law issues. A number of class sessions focused on conflict in health care, with special emphasis on concerns related to communication and culture.

To give participants different perspectives, a number of experts visited the class. Nicie Pratt, General Counsel of Covenant Health System provided an overview on the infrastructure of a hospital. To help participants see the connection between emotional intelligence and effective mediation, Dr. Alan Korinek, Director of the Texas Tech Employee Assistance Program, conducted a session. Dr. Juliann Scholl of the Texas Tech Communication Department also conducted a session that addressed cross-cultural issues.



Teaches Legal Malpractice, Health Care and Bioethics Mediation Clinic, Bioethics, and Professional Responsibility

Prior to joining the faculty, Professor Fortney practiced law in both the public and private sectors. She developed her love of teaching, first as an instructor in the business schools at the University of Texas at Arlington and Dallas, and later as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas School of Law. She currently teaches and publishes in the areas of professional liability and ethics. In 2007 she completed with her co-author Professor Vincent Johnson [Legal Malpractice Law: Problems and Prevention](#). This is the first law school textbook that focuses on lawyers’ professional liability.

Professor Forney has earned recognition for her contributions as a teacher, scholar, and public servant. In 2005 she received the Texas Tech University President’s Academic Achievement Award for excellence in teaching, service, and research. In 2006 she was recognized as the Texas Tech University recipient of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award.



**Front row (L to R):**  
Maxey Scherr, Alyssa Parrish, Monica Escamilla, Lynn Brooks and Professor Susan Fortney

**Back row (L to R):**  
Kenneth Hashimoto, Brad Crider, Ruth Bradbury, Mahsa Tajipour, Colleen Wisdom, and Mark Killingsworth

## From the Desk of Susan Fortney and Gene Valentini - Health Care & Bioethics Mediation Clinic

(continued from page 10)

Dr. Maysel Kemp White (pictured) President of Healthcare Quality and Communication Improvement, LLC.

conducted a workshop on . The title of the workshop was "Relationship-Centered Communication Skills To Improve Service Outcomes & Safety." Members of the community, including local lawyers and mediators, attended this workshop.

Another national expert, Dr. Matthew Wynia, Director of the American Medical Association



Institute for Ethics also conducted two different sessions. One was on communicating with vulnerable populations and the second was on the ethics of pay for performance in health care delivery.

The semester concluded with the law students observing a live webcast on Conflict Resolution in Health Care. This program was co-sponsored by Hamline Law School and the Minnesota Bar Continuing Education Program. One of the speakers on the webcast noted that a worthwhile move would be to train more medical professionals in conflict resolution. Following the session, one of the clinic students recognized that Texas Tech has already embarked on such training by including non-law student professionals in our mediation training. We sincerely believe that this training has been worthwhile for the law students, the health care providers, and the communities. that we serve.



The workshop titled "Relationship-Centered Communication Skills to Improve Service Outcomes & Safety" presented by Dr. Maysel White was well attended on October 23rd.

## Clinical Program Staff Inducted as WTALA Officer

Elma Moreno, Clinical Program Office Manager/Legal Assistant, was inducted as President Elect of the *West Texas Association of Legal Assistants* for 2007-2008 on October 23rd at Orlando's Restaurant. Other officers inducted included in the picture to the right are (L to R): Deborah Moore (NALA liaison), Debbie Aguirre (Second Vice President—immediate past President), and Sharon Whirley (President). Elma has been a member of WTALA since October 2006, but has been associated with WTALA for many years as the former Private Attorney Involvement Coordinator for Legal Aid of North West Texas.



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Tonya Graser** (Civil Practice Clinic '06-07) has passed the North Carolina bar and accepted a job with the law firm that she really liked since her visit in March. She began working for Hatcher Law Group who has 6 family law attorneys on August 20th. She is working directly with the main partner, as he will teach her all about the practice in NC.

**David Reuthinger** (Civil Practice Clinic '06-07) is working at Sames & Werstak, LLP in Laredo, Texas. He is the third attorney in the firm and the first associate. The firm is involved with real estate transactions as well as commercial litigation. His time has shifted back and forth between transactions and litigation depending on the needs of the clients. David states "Thanks to my clinical experience, the litigation has been very easy to get ahold of. I have had to address insurance and DTPA questions, and I worked with these types of cases while in the Civil Practice Clinic, so my supervising partner has been very satisfied that I have been able to hit the ground running. It is a jungle out there, but going through the clinical programs has allowed me to start out as a seasoned explorer rather than as a tourist!"





## Welcome New Clinic Faculty Member

(continued from page 7)

His practice of criminal law involves representing clients at all levels within the State, including Municipal, Justice, County, District (both State and Federal), Court of Appeals, and Court of Criminal Appeals, with travel throughout all regions of the State. The complexity of his criminal practice has increased with his experience. Professor Metze was solicited and appointed by the Court of Criminal Appeals to represent two individuals on death row on their pending State Writs of Habeas Corpus, and remain qualified to accept Art. 11.071 C.C.P., appointments. He is one of only 14 attorneys qualified for appointment as first chair in Capital Murder cases in the 45 counties of the 9<sup>th</sup> Administrative Judicial Region. He is the only attorney in Lubbock who is qualified and solicits appointments to indigent clients for misdemeanors, juveniles, felonies, death penalty cases, and appeals in all courts. He has always been dedicated to the representation of the poor. As such, he is a member of The Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas.

In recent years he has taken a greater interest in being a mentor to younger lawyers and in sharing his 33 years of experience with others. He was Course Director, 2005 and 2006, of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association annual advanced criminal law seminar (second largest seminar of its type in Texas). September 8, 2005, in Houston, Texas, he was speaker on the topic of punishment enhancements at the Criminal Defense Lawyers Project's *Nuts and Bolts Seminar*, a project of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association funded by a grant from the Court of Criminal Appeals. April 28, 2006, Lubbock, Texas, he spoke on the topic of *When CPS Parents and Children Are Also in the Criminal System: Do's and Don'ts* at the South Plains Foster Care Court and Lubbock County Bar Association seminar on

Representing Parents and Children in CPS Cases Seminar. On May 5, 2006, in Dallas, Texas, he presented by paper on the topic of *CPS Issues and Criminal Defense* at a seminar presented by the Criminal Defense Lawyers Project on Indigent Defense. In June 2006, he received, for the organization, at the 2005 State Bar Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, the State Bar's *Star of Achievement Award* for the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association 2005 advanced criminal law seminar. On May 1, 2007, in El Paso, Texas, he was guest lecturer on the topic of *Trial Preparation and File Organization* at a seminar on Indigent Defense presented by the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. On September 28, 2007, he lectured on the topic of *Trial Preparation and File Organization, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texas Tech Law School Faculty Update for Legal Services Attorneys, Public Interest Practitioners and Pro Bono Attorneys*. He presented his paper on *Professional Responsibility From a Criminal Defense Perspective* on September 26, 2007, at the Red Mass Ethics Seminar, Lubbock, Texas.



Professor Metze is a member of the State Bar of Texas, United States District Court, Northern District of Texas, Hockley-Cochran County Bar Association, Lubbock County Bar Association (formerly serving as Secretary and Board Member), Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (current Board Member, Past President, Past Vice-President for Education and Past Vice-President for Membership), Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (Associate Board member and Chairman of the CPS Committee), The Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas, The College of the State Bar of Texas, and a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

*"I am still amazed at all that our law school's Clinic Program has to offer. While I was interested in several of the clinics, my interest in the criminal justice system led me to commit to the Criminal Justice Clinic ("CJC"). Students admitted to the program are the best colleagues I could hope to work with and our director, Professor Roque-Jackson, takes the program and our clinical experience very seriously. Not only has he provided practical knowledge regarding pre-litigation and litigation practice, he has brought in other practicing attorneys who have offered very practical advice – tips I am able to apply to an actual case within days! The foundation and support received in the first few weeks of CJC made all the difference in the world when preparing and trying my first case."*

Cheryl Pitre  
Criminal Justice Clinic  
Prosecution Section



## RECENT CASES OF INTEREST

**Ross Horn ('06) and Desiree Larue ('07)** worked on a case involving a 60 year old individual with the following impairments: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from service in the military. Diabetes and degenerative arthritis. After a hearing before an administrative law judge, he was determined disabled retroactive to September 4, 2005 and was awarded a retroactive lump sum benefit as well as continuing monthly benefits.

**James Suter ('06), Elizabeth Carter ('07) and James Beam** represented a client who was denied the earned income credit for his granddaughter for 1999, 2000, and 2001. We have settled 2001 which resulted in credit back of the original \$1,908.91 as well as a refund for \$896.00. We are currently working to settle 1999 and 2000 for a total of \$2,804.91

**James Beam** represented a Tax Clinic client who had an earned income credit problem. He was denied the credit for his niece and nephew for 2005. We settled the case during the appeals process before the tax court date. Amount he will receive is \$4,320.

**Elizabeth Lieb** represented a 20 year old claimant with a high school education through special education who had been found disabled as a minor in 1996. Upon a continuing disability review upon reaching the age of 18, the claimant was determined no longer disabled as of November, 2005. After a hearing before an administrative law judge, the individual was determined to be under a continuing disability and entitled to benefits based on borderline intellectual functioning and seizure disorder.

(continued on page 16)



D. Gene Valentini is the Director of the Dispute Resolution Department of Lubbock County, an administrative entity that manages an innovative ADR System, which began in 1985. He is also responsible for the statewide USDA mediation program. A mediator since 1981 and an active trainer for the past eighteen years, Gene is the Master of Dispute Resolution for the courts of Lubbock County, Dean of Texas' ADR System directors and an adjunct professor for the Texas Tech University School of Law.

## Clinical Program Continues to Provide Preceptorship to Estacado High School Law and Justice Magnet Program

The clinical program suites became a familiar environment to two students with the Estacado High School Law and Justice Magnet Program during the Fall semester. Students were able to assist clinic staff and administrative staff with various tasks, as well as sit and observe a couple of law courses. The two students completing their rotation this semester were Josh Tagle (pictured above) and Ysidoro Reyna (pictured on the right).



The preceptorship in the clinical program is the continuation of a five-year partnership between the School of Law and the Estacado High School Law and Justice Magnet Program which intends to provide additional educational resources and help guide students toward their goals of attending law school.

Elma Moreno, Office Manager/Legal Assistant for the Clinical Program, has been working closely with the students and the program instructor, Lucio R. Trevino, to make the preceptorship rotation visits a learning experience.



*"The mediation clinic has been a fabulous experience! It has given me the multi-faceted opportunity of learning about health care law, ethics, and mediation while providing numerous instances to work with clients on various topics including assault, health care disputes, and even divorce. I have really enjoyed this clinic and wish I could take it again!"*

Maxey Scherr  
Health Care & Bioethics  
Mediation Clinic





## Low Income Tax Clinic Co-Sponsors Public Interest Workshop

By Janie Gonzales  
LITC Community Outreach  
Coordinator

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Public Interest Workshop was held August 11, 2007 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Mahon Library Community Room. The workshop was co-sponsored by TTU LITC and Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas and attended by approximately 30 participants. Tax Law Issues and information concerning the LITC were presented by Janie Gonzales, Community Outreach Coordinator for the LITC. Paula D. Stetson provided information regarding the Taxpayer Advocates Office, which included topics such as the role of the Taxpayer Advocate, services offered, and information on what the National Taxpayer Advocate Nina Olsen does for the taxpayers. Her presentation also included topics that are in debate, such as the Third Party Collection in addition to information on Privacy and Confidentiality, Dependent Issues and Earned Income Credit.

Other topics included an update on Social Security Medicare Part D, differences of Social Security and Supplemental Social Security, which was presented by Edna Paduah from the Social Security Administration. Ms Paduah also processes claims and was very informative concerning the process and the time period being reduced in some cases due to electronic processing.

Gwynn Key of McWhorter, Cobb and Johnson law firm presented and answered questions concerning Last Wills and Testaments and also information concerning Power of Attorney and situations which can occur and the need to understand the correct

timing and reasons to either a medical or a durable power of attorney.

Professor Wendy Ross provided information concerning landlord tenant rights which included extremely good information concerning tenants rights and the process which many are challenged due to lack of information. She also discussed the appeal process and information such as lockouts and how they can be handled.

Andrea Cruce from SPAG, Community Resource Specialist gave a short presentation concerning 211 services offered, status of some of the programs, such as funding, when best to apply and how to include your organization in the current 211 directory, (previously called the Red Book of community resources).

Nancy Mojica, EJVP Coordinator, provided information on Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas which included the clinics offered and the type of services and cases which can be accepted for representation.

In other news, the LITC also participated in the South Plains Senior Expo sponsored by SPAG at the Science Spectrum on September 7th. There were approximately 25 agencies offering information and services to area seniors and community. Agencies made short presentations during the event about their respective agency and the services offered. Over 200 individuals were in attendance.

South Plains Community Action Association Rural Coalition met on July 19th in Levelland. The LITC has had a long partnership in distributing information to many of the coalitions. Various community organizations from 15 counties, including Lubbock and Hockley, made presentations of various resources and services available.

(continued on page 15)

## WELCOME NEW STAFF ATTORNEY FOR INNOCENCE PROJECT!



Natalie Roetzel is currently working as the Staff Attorney and Student Coordinator at the Texas Tech Innocence Clinic. She received her J.D. from the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, where she served as a Founder and Director of the Wesleyan Innocence Project, a member organization of the Innocence Project of Texas. While in law school, Natalie was a Notes and Comments Editor for the Texas Wesleyan Law Review, and she competed on several successful moot court teams. Natalie was recognized as the best oral advocate in the nation at the National Moot Court Competition where the American College of Trial Lawyers presented her with the Fulton Haight Award for excellence in oral argument. In addition to her work at the Innocence Clinic, Natalie will assist in the coaching of three Texas Tech moot court teams during the Spring semester.







## CCAV Seeks Volunteers for Upcoming Income Tax Season

By Elma Moreno

As a member of the Board of Directors of the *Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers* I am seeking volunteers to assist with the tax season around the corner. The *Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers* is asking that you consider volunteering your time and talents to prepare and e-file income tax returns FREE for low income taxpayers in our community.

Because of law student and community volunteers, CCAV was able to assist more than 3,200 taxpayers (whose average income was \$14,300 per year) with their returns for tax year 2006 – and save them approximately \$650,000 in unnecessary tax prep and refund fees! As the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program continues to grow, so does the need for your participation.

If you can take the training, assist in the preparation of simple tax returns, and help make a difference in our community, we are in need of your help. Please contact me in the clinic offices at 742-3787, Ext. 222, or by e-mail ([elma.moreno@ttu.edu](mailto:elma.moreno@ttu.edu)) to let me know of your interest in this project. I will send you the necessary volunteer forms at that time.

Volunteer training for tax preparers will be held in January, 2008 at Texas Tech's Business Administration Building as follows:

### Training (primarily for returning and new (non-student) volunteers):

Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

### Training (primarily for student volunteers):

Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

Time: 5:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

(Lunch will be served both Saturdays.)

Please note that, since our volunteers handle so much confidential information, a new policy has been implemented requiring that a criminal background check be performed on each volunteer. Of course, this will be done at no cost to you.

Volunteers need not have prior tax-return preparation experience. It's a very simple software program for electronic filing and you are trained on how to use it.

*"The best way to learn is by doing." While I can't tell you who said that quote, I can tell you it has proven to be true in our Criminal Justice Clinic. The immediate hands-on experience is humbling at first, but confidence building at last. Within the first few weeks of the clinical program, I was lucky to have my first trial. I recall a nerve-racking voir dire process, but more accurately remember the adrenaline rush that followed. Every courtroom appearance gives each of us in the program a valuable learning experience that we will carry with us for the rest of our careers.*

*Of course, our student successes in the courtroom could never have occurred without the practical instruction we receive from our dedicated mentors: Professor Roque-Jackson, several prominent guest speakers and the Lubbock City Prosecutors. And who could learn courtroom procedure without an understanding defense attorney as your opposing counsel and a seasoned municipal court judge to set you straight. I know when I walk into a courtroom for the first time as a licensed attorney I am going to look back on this clinic year and be thankful for all that I learned by doing."*

Alex Benavides  
Criminal Justice Clinic  
Prosecution Section

## Low Income Tax Clinic Co-Sponsors Public Interest Workshop

(continued from page 14)

*One Stop Shop Fair Bringing Lubbock's Service Agencies to the Community Under One Roof* was held on August 11th at the Salvation Army Corp Building. Over 40 services agencies were represented to offer services to the homeless community and to

network to develop future connection with the homeless and their associated problems. This was as much of an effort to offer information to the homeless and community as having the agencies network and try to build a relationship for future needs of the *One Stop Shop* organization and its goal to organize under one roof to provide services on a more constant basis. Very well attended by homeless and community, well over 200 attendees.



## RECENT CASES OF INTEREST:

**Travis Rodak** represented a client who had his home condemned in 2005. The condemnation caused the client to be forgiven for the amount of his mortgage on his home. The I.R.S. attempted to tax the client over \$5,000 as a result of his loan being forgiven. Student was able to eliminate client's tax liability by amending his 2005 tax return to include the foreclosure.

**Jonathan Stovall** represented a 53 year old client with back pain, arthritis and a mood disorder before an administrative law judge. After a hearing, a fully favorable decision was issued that found the client disabled retroactive to September 15, 2005. The client was awarded \$16,457 in retroactive benefits as well as \$794/mo. in prospective benefits.



**Logan Burdine** (former '06-'07 student) and **James Beam** represented a Tax Clinic client who owed \$6,291.25 for the tax years 2002 and 2003. We received a counter offer from the IRS for \$2,156.87. This would result in a savings of \$4134.38 for the client. However, we are still trying to work the offer down to a lower number and have not officially completed the Offer In Compromise.

**Emily Cook** represented an individual before an administrative law judge who had been receiving disability benefits as a child since 1974. Twice before, her condition had been reevaluated but determined to be still disabled as a result of mental retardation and loss of vision in one eye. In 2005, upon another medical assessment, she was determined no longer disabled and her benefits were discontinued. She appealed and a hearing was eventually held before an administrative law judge. Despite being employed off an on during 2005 and 2006, the ALJ concluded that this was not substantial gainful work activity inasmuch as she had received significant accommodations in order to obtain and maintain employment. Based on her full scale IQ of 67 and loss of vision in her right eye, the ALJ concluded that she remained disabled and continued to be eligible for disability benefits.

**Nicholas Davis** (former '06-'07 student) and **James Beam** represented a Tax Clinic client who had identity theft problems. His social security number was used in several other states even though he was working a full time job here in Lubbock. We were successful in settling the case during appeals before the tax court date. His social security number had been used to incur almost \$45,000 in additional earnings for 2004 resulting in over \$12,000 in additional taxes. He now owes \$0 for 2004 and we are working on the same results for 2005.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**George Hoyt** (Civil Practice Clinic Fall '05) and **Lisa Minjarez** (CJC '05-'06) got married and are also expecting a baby! George is clerking for Texas Supreme Court Justice Phil Johnson... Lisa has a solo practice and practices criminal defense, which she loves! She is also on the Travis and Hays county civil appointment lists representing children and parents in child protective services cases. On behalf of the clinical program **CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Amanda Galbraith** (Civil Practice Clinic '06-'07) passed the New Mexico bar and was sworn in on September 27th. She is now working for the public defender in Albuquerque.

**Lila Garza** (Civil Practice Clinic '06-'07) is working for the Public Defender's Office in Laredo.

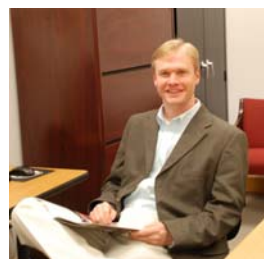
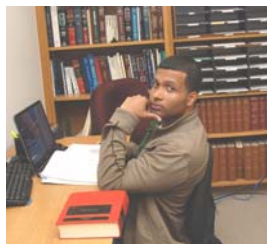
**Geanna Tubbs** (formerly Day) (Tax Clinic -'06-'07) is currently working for Jarvis Metals Recycling in Lubbock doing both accounting and legal work. Got married to Ryan Tubbs on October 20th. *Congratulations!*

**Carrie Mills** (Civil Practice Clinic '06-'07) is an Assistant District Attorney in Tyler, Smith County, Texas.



*Selection process for Clinical Program will be held in late February and early March for the 2008-2009 academic year! Watch for announcements in mid-February and visit the clinic website for more information.*

# Snapshot Corner



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Clair Rivera** (Health Care & Mediation Clinic—Fall '06) and **Victor Rivera** (CJC—'06-'07) were sworn in by the 7th Court of Appeals on November 8th. They are both working at the same law firm: Miller, Johnston, Cross, Blakley & Harris, P.C. in downtown Amarillo. Clair and Victor are starting out primarily doing Family Law and Criminal Defense. However, taking on a few extra things that they feel comfortable handling. Victor is doing his first official appeal. They have also done some DTPA and Clair is doing a Contract Dispute.

**Ann-Marie Saleh** (Civil Practice Clinic—Fall '06) is currently working at American State Bank in Lubbock as a Trust Officer specializing in Trusts and Estate Administration. Ann-Marie also manages retirement accounts and investment agencies. She enjoys being involved in the community and actively participates in several non-profit organizations.

**Kara Blanco** (Tax Clinic—'06-'07) is working in the tax section at Thompson & Knight in Dallas doing general tax and estate planning.





# CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS ON PASSING THE BAR!

## CLINIC FACULTY AND STAFF

### Clinic Directors:

Larry R. Spain  
Civil Practice Clinic  
ADR Clinic

Marilyn E. Phelan  
Tax Clinic

Wendy Tolson Ross  
Civil Practice Clinic

Glenn Roque-  
Jackson  
Criminal Justice Clinic -  
Prosecution Section

Patrick S. Metze  
Criminal Justice Clinic  
Defense Section

Susan Fortney  
Health Care & Bioethics  
Mediation Clinic

Jeff Blackburn  
Innocence Project

### Co-Directors:

Gene Valentini  
Health Care & Bioethics  
Mediation Clinic and  
ADR Clinic

Natalie Roetzel  
Innocence Project

### Staff:

Elma Moreno  
Office Manager/Legal  
Assistant

Samirah Abdalah  
Legal Secretary

Janie Gonzales  
LITC Community  
Outreach Coordinator



**Back row (L to R):** Samirah Abdalah, Prof. Glenn Roque-Jackson, Gene Valentini, Prof. Larry Spain and Elma Moreno

**Front row (L to R):** Prof. Wendy Ross, Prof. Marilyn Phelan, Prof Susan Fortney and Janie Gonzales.

**Not pictured:** Patrick S. Metze, Jeff Blackburn and Natalie Roetzel

*CLINIC  
NEWS*

Fall 2007 Edition

1802 Hartford Avenue  
Lubbock, TX 79409  
(806) 742-4312

