



SPRING 2014

CLINIC NEWS

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

CLINICAL PROGRAMS HONOR STUDENTS and BID FAREWELL TO TAX CLINIC DIRECTOR VAUGHN JAMES

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The *2014 Student Recognition Event* was held on April 23rd in the Lanier Auditorium. A total of 82 students were recognized with a *Certificate of Appreciation* for their dedication and participation in the clinical programs. Darby Dickerson, Dean and W. Frank Newton Professor of Law, welcomed and thanked the students for their hard work and provided words of encouragement. A slide show capturing former events and clinic students, faculty and staff was shown prior to and during the presentation of certificates.

This event marked the 11th year that students have been recognized by the Clinical Programs for their participation, dedication, and commitment to representing low income individuals in the community who cannot otherwise afford to retain the services of an attorney.



Since the inception of the clinical programs which began with the LITC in April 2000, a total of 1018 students have participated in the programs and contributed thousands of student hours.

Students honored participated in the *Tax Clinic*, *Civil Practice Clinic*, *Family Law and Housing Clinic*, *Criminal Defense Clinic*, *Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic*, *Capital Punishment Clinic*, and *Advanced ADR Clinic*.

A special presentation was made to Professor Vaughn E. James for his dedication and

contribution to the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. Professor James assumed the duties and responsibilities as Tax Clinic Director during the 2008 summer sessions. Throughout the past six years, he has supervised a total of 68 students and represented 245 clients. Professor James resigned his duties and responsibilities as Tax Clinic director on April 31, 2014, to resume his classroom teaching load as a member of the full-time faculty.



It has been a pleasure working with Professor James. He has been a mentor and an inspiration to his students. His contribution to the Tax Clinic and the knowledge and wisdom he shares has made a great impact to many. He will truly be missed in the Clinical Programs but we know that he can be found on the other side of the building if we need to continue to "pick his brain"!!! Professor James, thank you for all you have done and for stepping in to run the Tax Clinic in order to continue to serve those individuals less fortunate and unable to represent themselves before the Internal Revenue Service!

Pictures of the event are available for Clinical Programs students on the website at <http://mytechlaw.law.ttu.edu/Departments/Clinical%20Program/Clinical%20Program%20Pics/Forms/AllItems>.

On behalf of the Clinical Programs Faculty and Staff we thank all the students for everything they have done!



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

During the Spring semester, the following students were enrolled in the Civil Practice Clinic: **Sierra Fisher, Andrew Kaldenbach, Katherine Kassabian, Steven Kubik, Bryan Martin, Macarena Ortiz, Mari Park, and Priya Sivaraman.** Our Clinical Fellow, **Terri Morgeson**, who works with both the Civil Practice Clinic and the Criminal Defense Clinic, supervised students on individual cases and was always available to students for questions and individual assistance.

Over the course of the semester, a total of 30 new client cases were undertaken, 36 cases were completed and closed and 28 cases remain open and will be carried over to the fall 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 Judge Judy Parker in the evening at the Law School. In addition to these activities, each of the students has been kept busy carrying an individual caseload of 4-5 clients at all times throughout the semester and assumed primary responsibility for representing clients in matters involving family law, disability claims, wills and estate planning, consumer disputes, Medicaid, and VA claims.

The Civil Clinic certainly matures you in your legal education. I now think more practically and I can visualize the bits and pieces of what I learned in law school coming together. As a result, I feel much more comfortable and prepared to practice law.

Steven J. Kubik
Civil Practice Clinic

During the semester, most of the students will have had an opportunity to complete a divorce case from beginning to end. Several of the students conducted hearings before

administrative law judges on disability claims and two students conducted an arbitration hearing on a consumer issue.

CIVIL PRACTICE CLINIC

- Focuses on development of professional skills and values in a closely supervised clinical setting
- Students will assume individual responsibility for representing actual clients in all phases of client representation in social security disability claims, family law, wills and advance planning, housing issues, consumer and civil rights claims and other civil cases of interest to students
- Classroom component will provide instruction in substantive and procedural law applicable to cases handled by the Clinic as well as ethical issues and professional values; professional skill development; and case rounds
- Students have individual supervisory sessions with faculty and maintain a reflective clinic journal.

Back Row (L to R): Katie Kassabian, Macarena Ortiz, Steven Kubik, Sierra Fisher and Andrew Kaldenbach
Front Row (L to R): Clinic Fellow Terri Morgeson, Mari Park, Bryan Martin, Priya Sivaraman, and Professor Larry Spain



Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Civil Practice Clinic** for the 2014-2015 academic year:

Heather Botello (Fall Only),
Daisy Chaparro, Ray Chow,
Maria Gannon, Chris Hill,
William Sanders, Melissa
Tran, Ashley Tseung, and
Kregg Wallace (Fall Only)



From the Desk of Vaughn E. James - Director, Low- Income Taxpayer Clinic

It is time, I guess, for me to write the final article "From the Desk of Vaughn E. James, Director, Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic." Over the six years I have been Clinic, I have been joined by over fifty (50) Qualified Student Representatives in representing low-income taxpayers before the IRS and the United States Tax Court. This past year, seven such Representatives joined me: **Jacinda Ballard, Andrea Farkas, Charlie Gonzales, Holly Monaghan, Molly Johnson (formerly Socha), Codie Kraus, and Bill Wells.** They worked hard: they wrote memos, negotiated with IRS agents, filed Tax Court petitions, appeared at Collection Due Process hearings, submitted Offers in Compromise, and, during the Spring semester, clocked several hours volunteering at the CCAV's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program where they prepared tax returns for low-income taxpayers. As a group, the Qualified Student Representatives put in 469.5 hours to the VITA program. They did this while still maintaining their case loads at the Clinic and, of course, attending to their other classes. What a tremendous group of friends I have!

The clinic was also well-served by our Community Outreach Coordinator, **Nancy Mojica.** Nancy successfully organized community outreach activities to continue to

educate the community about our existence and the services we provide. She was also successful in organizing community educational workshops and *pro bono* Income Tax Clinics in the community. I always looked forward to those *pro bono* clinics. The taxpayers who showed up were "real" people with significant and challenging problems. Thanks, Nancy, for enabling us to meet and assist these wonderful people.

As usual, we had the constant assistance of **Elma Moreno** and **Jennifer Martin**, the two people who hover in the background to ensure that we have all we need to assist our clients. We always knew that we could depend on them to schedule rooms for our client conferences, know where every file was hiding, magically get the photocopier working again, guide us in times of crises, and help us keep track of our time. These two women are fantastic; without them, we'd be floundering.

So as we end this semester and this school-year, and as I sail away (but not into the sunset), I say a BIG thank you to Elma, Nancy, Jennifer, and the seven Qualified Student Representatives who worked so hard to serve the people of our vast service area. Elma, Nancy and Jennifer will remain, but the Qualified Student Representatives will graduate this weekend and will begin the next chapter of their lives. I wish them the best as they graduate, take and pass the bar exam, and continue to make us proud. I also welcome aboard Professor Terri Morgeson who will take over the reins of leadership at the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. I wish her well.

LOW INCOME TAX CLINIC

The Low-Income Tax Clinic was formed in April 2000 to provide professional skills training to law students and to provide law students the opportunity to gain practical experience in administrative proceedings before the Internal Revenue Service and in judicial proceedings before the United States Tax Court. The clinic serves residents in the West Texas Panhandle area of Texas and Eastern New Mexico by offering representation to taxpayers who are unable to obtain professional tax counsel.

Students develop important lawyering skills by interviewing and counseling clients, conducting factual investigations, legal research and analysis, negotiating compromises, drafting documents and litigating. Students are responsible for their own caseloads but are closely supervised by the clinic director. The director of the clinic assists the students in all phases of their clinical education.

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Low Income Taxpayer Clinic** for the 2014-2015 academic year:

Joseph Aguilar, Eddie Montemayor, Clayton Parry, Sarah Smith, Jinghin Sun, and Christopher Trieu



Pictured L to R:

Front row:
Charlie Gonzales, Holly Monaghan, Andrea Farkas, Jacinda Ballard, and Nancy Mojica

Back row:
William Wells, Codi Kraus, Professor Vaughn James, and Molly Socha Johnson





From the Desk of Wendy Tolson Ross - Family Law and Housing Clinic Director

This semester we had a new addition to the Family Law and Housing Clinic. The Family Law and Housing Clinic Assistant Director, Rebekah Filley, gave birth to a new baby girl, Kennedy Filley. Congratulations to Rebekah and her husband.

The Spring Semester has been exciting for the students. We were able to do several contested divorce and custody cases. Students were able to litigate many cases and obtain child support and custody orders for their clients. One of these

cases required the student to file motions and orders in Federal Bankruptcy Court to the stay so that she could proceed with the divorce proceeding in State Court. In the state court proceeding, we were able to get her child

support and spousal support. Additionally, we were able to successfully litigate a reduction of child support for a client who was unemployed for an extensive amount of time. The reduction of child support was granted to reflect the reduced income during the time of the client's unemployment.

Finally, a new clinic was added to the Family Law and Housing Clinic. We were able to partner with the Dispute Resolution Center to help clients with housing matters on the first two Fridays of each month. At this housing clinic, students interviewed and counselled prospective clients, and participated in

mediation with the client. One of these housing cases resulted in a mediated settlement agreement where the client was able to get her deposit and rent returned. We also were able to successfully

negotiate repairs for an elderly client. We were able to negotiate necessary repairs to sewage, window, and doors. These repairs allowed the tenant to return to her house in a safe and sanitary house.

I feel fortunate to have been part of the Family Law and Housing Clinic. The most rewarding feeling is assisting clients with their legal matters and helping them through a difficult time in their lives. I will walk away from this experience more knowledgeable in the law, confident in my abilities, and ready to take on any challenge. I would highly recommend this experience to any law student.

Jessica DuBose
Family Law and Housing Clinic

FAMILY LAW and HOUSING CLINIC

This is a full-year 12 credit hours (6 per semester—2 for class room component and 4 for case work) course limited to 8 students. Students accepted into the clinic must be registered for both Fall and Spring semesters. Students assume primary responsibility under faculty supervision of all phases of representation in assigned cases in a variety of civil matters including, but not limited to, family law and housing matters. The course focuses on the development of professional skills and values in a closely supervised clinical setting, including interviewing and counseling, case analysis and planning, problem solving, fact investigation, negotiation and mediation, document drafting, written and oral advocacy.

Classroom component will provide instruction in substantive and procedural law applicable to cases handled by the Clinic as well as ethical issues and professional values; professional skill development; and case rounds.

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Family Law/Housing Clinic** for the 2014-2015 academic year:

Kathryn Hansen, Stephanie Hynes, Kayla Massey, Danielle McAllister, Bridget O'Shaughnessy, Yvette Perez, Ashley Philip, James Rex, and Danielle Saavedra



Back Row (L to R): Clinic Fellow Rebekah Filley, Andrew Aus, Douglas Knauth, Malorie Crosley, Sarah Stephens, Danielle McGuire, and Professor Wendy Ross

Front Row (L to R): Kelli Tipton, Elizabeth Hatch, Angelica Rolong, and Jessica DuBose



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

The three Criminal Defense Clinics were honored last year with the University Departmental Award for Teaching Excellence given by the University Teaching Academy and the University Provost. Along with the Award came special recognition at the faculty convocation in April 2013, and a cash award of \$25,000 to be used to fund the expenses of lawyers, teachers, storytellers, and activists committed to the rights of the individual to come to our school for the benefit of the students. In the Fall semester we were fortunate to bring in Katheryn Kase from the Texas Defender Service of Houston to speak on capital punishment issues to the student body and to fund two lawyers, Deandra Grant and Chris Hoover, of Dallas, to spend a day and one-half working with our students on the representation of those charged with driving while intoxicated.

As is our custom, the students in the 2013 Criminal Defense Clinic were busy all year representing real people in real cases in real time. This year, the students handled 100 cases for 67 clients. Of these cases, 24 are still pending, 41 were disposed of through some type of negotiated plea, and 37 cases were dismissed. Of the 24 still pending, 8 are currently set for pleas of guilty, 3 cases are set for dismissal, 8 are set for negotiation conferences, 1 client has failed to appear and warrants have issued, 1 case remains unfiled, and 3 clients will have to be reassigned. Cases consisted of 88 misdemeanors and 12 felonies. This is an average student case load of over 8 clients per student and over 12 cases per student, which is well in excess of the clients and cases promised in the clinic catalogue. Students handled all phases of representation from initial interview through appearance in court. Members of the clinic represented clients in the Lubbock Municipal Court, before the Justice of the Peace, in the Magistrate Court, in

both Lubbock County Courts at Law, and in all three felony District Courts of Lubbock. Clinic students for this year were **Carly Castetter Barton, Deniz Kadirhan, Krizia Martinez, Mario Olivarez, Katie Owens, Bukky Oyewuwo, Martin Pina** and **Ariana Salinas**. Please congratulate every one for all their hard work. These students are trained and ready for the practice of criminal law. During the school year, these students performed well in excess of 3200 hours of pro bono representation of the poor. With the tireless and invaluable help of Professor Terri Morgeson the cases were handled, or are still being handled, by the clinic students.

This wide variety of cases along with the collaborative nature of our clinics gives the students exposure to the daily challenges of the criminal defense practitioner well in advance of graduation. Most students agree their clinical

Clinic has by far been my best experience in law school. Without this past year I would not feel confident to go out and practice law at a firm or on my own. I have built relationships that I know will last beyond law school graduation, and I will be forever grateful.

Ariana Salinas
Criminal Defense Clinic

experience ranks among their best experiences in law school. During the weekly two hour classroom component, students shared with each other their accomplishments on their cases, their goals, fears and concerns. By freely sharing and participating in these open class discussions, students assisted each other in the learning experience and helped formulate strategies, themes and theories of their cases, and performed very complicated and sophisticated legal analysis. Collaborative class discussions were often very spirited and were always an enjoyable exchange of ideas. As the others in the clinic will tell you, when we have class, everyone hears us. We are there to learn and enjoy our work. Several learning environments are available to the students, including mandatory office hours leading to collaborative learning while the students work in close proximity, sharing ideas and developing strategies while keying off the knowledge of their peers. It is my hope this becomes a custom that will follow them into practice as the criminal defense bar freely shares knowledge and experience with younger attorneys. Other experiential learning was courtesy of the criminal defense bar from throughout Texas and the United States. In April the CDC participated in the Law School's

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CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

This is a full-year 12 credit hours (6 per semester - 2 for class room component and 4 for case work) course limited to 8 students. Students accepted into the clinic must be registered for both Fall and Spring semesters. The CDC provides a community service by representing defendants in criminal cases who would otherwise be unable to afford their own legal representation. Cases involve misdemeanors, felonies, and juvenile offenses in Lubbock County and the surrounding metropolitan area. Prerequisites include: Students must be 3L status, not be on academic probation, and have taken Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Responsibility. Recommended 3L courses include Texas Criminal Procedure, Trial Advocacy, and/or moot court or mock trial experience. Students may not be concurrently enrolled in this class and another clinic or externship; all other qualifications being equal, students with no prior clinical or externship for credit experience are given preference for placement in the CDC; students may not have outside employment if enrolled in this clinic, however, exceptions can be made; and students may not sit for the February bar exam.

From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze

(continued from page 5)

annual chili cookoff which has become a departmental tradition. This year the CDC won first place and bragging rights that once again CDC had the “best real chili” at the cookoff. The Clifford Brown Award for 2014 was awarded to Deniz Kadirhan for her “excellence in the art and science of criminal defense advocacy.” I only wish I had awards for all the students, they all deserve one. There was significant effort and

professionalism shown this year by all members of the Clinic. I hope the experience was meaningful and a jumpstart to a successful practice in criminal law. Additionally, my

students all showed a real interest in pro bono work and I know that such a commitment to the poor will continue throughout their entire career. Or, at least it better. Also, it is my sincere wish that each student remembers Texas Tech Law fondly with particular affection for

their clinical experience. As I tell the students, practicing law is about treating each client as a valuable individual, doing their very best for each client one at a time, representing that client to the best of their ability, and ethically seeking Justice by holding the State to their burden. Preparation is the key. Remember to RGDS and

all you need is that Gold Card. While studying for the Bar this summer, no drama, pass the Bar and stay in touch. Come back often.



Chili Cookoff Champs! Congratulations!



CONGRATULATIONS Deniz Kadirhan for being selected the recipient of the *Clifford W. Brown Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Award* and being recognized as a *Fellow for the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession* and as the *Vice Chair of Appellate Advocacy for the Board of Barristers*.



Pictured L to R:
Professor Patrick Metze, Martin Pina, Katie Owens, Ariana Salinas, Carly Castetter, Bukky Oyewuwo, Krizia Martinez, Deniz Kadirhan, Mario Olivarez, and Clinic Fellow Terri Morgeson

A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS

The Criminal Defense Clinic has been the best experience of my law school career. Professor Metze and Terri have given me the confidence that I can be both a competent and effective advocate for my clients when I graduate. I truly feel that I have made a difference in some of my clients' lives, but more importantly, they have taught me what it means to be a zealous advocate that seeks justice for those that all too often are forgotten and marginalized by our society.

Katie Owens
Criminal Defense Clinic

Clinic has taught me how to practice law in a way that you can only learn by doing work outside of a classroom setting. I am grateful for the chance that Texas Tech and the clinical programs have given me to learn.

Mario Olivarez
Criminal Defense Clinic

I've really enjoyed the spring semester with Caprock and I am really going to miss it when I graduate. This semester, my cases were challenging and interesting and I can see the difference in my skills compared to last semester. I'm so glad that I joined the clinic and I'm looking forward to practicing criminal defense with the skills that I've learned.

Jessica Rugeley
CRPDO Clinic

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Criminal Defense Clinic** for the 2014-2015 academic year:

Kevin Bailey, Amber Beard, Sarah Broxson, Stephanie Carnero, Sonya Herrera, Megan Metsgar, Kimberly Nhim, and Emily Quast



From the Desk of Donnie Yandell - Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic

It has been another great year at the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office/Clinic. This year there were eight student attorneys: **Venus Tesfaye, Melissa Olney, Justin Rosas, Jennie Radulescu, Aaron Tress, Tyler Mayo** and **Jessica Rugeley**. The student attorneys were assigned 95 cases and cleared 43. Overall, the office had a 63% dismissal rate, a 13% pretrial diversion rate, 5% of the clinic's clients were placed on probation and 18% received a sentence that were straight fines and/or jail time.

The students represented clients in all manners of cases including Driving While Intoxicated, Possession of Marijuana, Resisting Arrest, Driving While License Invalid, Theft, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Dangerous Drug, Assault, Criminal Trespass, Criminal Mischief, False Report, Failure to Identify, Interference with Public Duties, Burglary of a Vehicle, Burglary of a Habitation, Deadly Conduct, Engaging in Organized Criminal Activity, Fictitious License Plate, Harassment, Violation of Protective Order, Obstructing a Highway, Possession of an Inhalant, Terroristic Threat, Unlawful Carrying of a Firearm, Unlawful use of a Criminal

Instrument and finally, Fleeing or Attempting to Elude a Police Officer.

Once again this year the Caprock student attorneys received high praise from a prosecuting attorney. The prosecuting attorney was so frustrated with the student attorneys finding error and getting dismissals that he stated he was going to go through the jail and find the person charged with a crime that had the strongest airtight case for conviction and beg the person to ask for a court appointed attorney. When the person requested a court appointed attorney, the prosecuting attorney stated he would beg the judge to appoint Caprock so the student attorneys in Caprock would be forced to accept a plea offer and plead one of their client's guilty. A defense attorney does not get much higher praise than that! I cannot wait to hear about the exploits of these graduating student attorneys once they get into practice.

The Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic has been the most practical and beneficial experience of my law school career. Being able to utilize and put into practice the skills we have learned over the last few years, while helping people in need, is a very rewarding experience.

Justin B. Rosas
CRPDO Clinic

Finally, I welcome next year's student attorneys into the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office/Clinic. They are **Bryan Livingston, Brooke Dacus, Evette Eguia, Frank Urbanic, Kaelan Henze, Karen Thompson** and **Tarryn Johnson**. They have some big shoes to fill but I am sure they will do fine!

Good luck to those of you who have a little test to pass prior to your summer officially beginning. Remember to keep me posted on your studies. Have a great summer everyone!

CAPROCK REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER CLINIC

This is a full-year 12 credit hours (6 per semester - 2 for class room component and 4 for case work) course limited to a maximum of 8 students. Students accepted into the clinic must be registered for both Fall and Spring semesters. The CRPDO provides a community service by representing defendants in criminal cases who would otherwise be unable to afford their own legal representation. Cases involve misdemeanor and juvenile offenses in a 10 county region. Students are closely supervised by Donnie Yandell.

Prerequisites include: Students must be 3L status, not be on academic probation, and have taken Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Responsibility. Recommended courses include Texas Criminal Procedure, Trial Advocacy, and/or moot court or mock trial experience.

Students may not be concurrently enrolled in this class and another clinic or externship; students may not have outside employment if enrolled in this clinic, however, exceptions can be made; and students may not sit for the February bar exam.



Pictured Sitting (L to R): Jessica Rugeley, Melissa Olney, Kathryn Heflin, and Venus Tesfaye
Standing (L to R): Donnie Yandell (Chief Public Defender), Professor Patrick Metze, Tyler Mayo, Justin Rosas, Aaron Tress, Jennie Radulescu, and Irma Shepler (Office Manager/Legal Assistant)

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From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze - Capital Punishment Clinic

The Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases office welcomed its fourth Capital Punishment Clinic this past Spring semester. The office is the only statewide defender for capital cases with eight regional offices throughout Texas. Our clients are, each of them, in the unenviable position of prolonged incarceration, generally single celled, alienated from family, and without hope of eventual release. This semester only two students were chosen from those that completed the Fall 2013 Capital Punishment seminar. Completion of the seminar indoctrinates the chosen students into the unique world of the capital defender. The students chosen this year were Suraiya Syed and Deniz Pinkerton. They were immediately assimilated into the framework of not only the capital trial teams assigned to each case, but into the entire fabric of the office. They were instructed in the various office protocols, as well as the roles of the fact investigators, the mitigation specialists, and the line attorneys.

Having the honor to assist the Regional Public Defenders Office in real world capital cases was an eye opening and life changing experience. I highly recommend it.

Deniz Pinkerton
Capital Punishment Clinic

With that limited exposure, they were quickly utilized by all of the RPDCC staff and morphed immediately from observer to valued contributor. Assignments included the mundane (research and drafting motions), the exhausting (automobile trips throughout West Texas to spend hours with clients in jails), the nerve wracking (participating in the individual jury selection in a real capital case), and the exhilarating (resolution of a client's case with a sentence other than death). Biweekly office staffings are a critical communication technique utilized by the RPDCC. Each case is thoroughly discussed, and various strategies vetted with all staff members participating. These student attorneys not only attended the

staffings, but were regular contributors to the development of the mitigation and litigation plans for each client. The classroom component of the Capital Punishment Clinic

melded nicely with the field component. Whereas the RPDCC focused on the "how to" aspect of defending the capital case, the classroom emphasized the "why" aspect why the defense teams function in a particular way. Methodology and its underlying foundation is critical to the success of the capital defense practitioner, and is literally a matter of life and death for the client.

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

Being a part of the Caprock Regional Public Defender's Office has been inspirational. The benefits of gaining real world experience while still being in school are insurmountable and the greatest part is being able to help those who do not have anyone to fight for them. Thanks to the clinic experience, I will be graduating with the confidence and knowledge of someone who has had hands-on experience of a variety of cases. Although I will miss the clinic and the friends I have made, I look forward to utilizing the skills and knowledge I have gained after graduation!

Katie Heflin
CRPDO Clinic

The Caprock Clinic has been the most beneficial experience in my law school career. Taking what I learn in the classroom and applying it to the courtroom has made me more confident in my skills as a litigator. The Clinic has not only prepared me for life post-graduation, but also has allowed me to defend people who cannot defend themselves.

Venus Tesfaye
CRPDO Clinic

Being a part of the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic this past year has been a great opportunity for me. There is only so much that you can learn in a classroom, the real value of the Clinic is actually being a client's attorney and advocate throughout the legal process, from filing to resolution of the case. The best part of the Clinic is seeing the happiness and satisfaction from our clients after resolving their cases. Not only because their legal trouble is behind them, but because for the first time, they have someone that will actually fight for their best interests.

Tyler Mayo
CRPDO Clinic



Pictured :
Professor
Patrick
Metze and
Suraiya Syed

Elizabeth Howard (Criminal Defense Clinic 2012-2013) is practicing criminal defense and family law with Harrell, Roberts & Associates, PLLC in Lampasas, Texas (412 S. Live Oak, Lampasas, Texas, 512 556 3639). Elizabeth states *My boss is Paul Harrell and is also an alum of Tech Law and the Criminal Defense Clinic. We are striving every day to assist the folks of Lampasas and surrounding counties by protecting their state and federal Constitutional rights and with their personal family struggles. I have been welcomed into the community with open arms and have really enjoyed my time so far in Central Texas. I continue to put to use the things the Criminal Defense Clinic taught me and I am so thankful I had the opportunity to get to spend my least year in law school learning from Terri and Professor Metze! Please tell everyone hi for me and extend my biggest congratulations to Terri on her new endeavor!*

From the Desk of Larry Spain and Gene Valentini - Advanced ADR Clinic

The semester began with four full days of mediation training during the week before classes began for the spring semester. The course qualifies for 40 hours of classroom hours of training in dispute resolution for court appointment as an impartial third party under Chapter 154 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. Students had the opportunity to observe experienced mediators conducting mediations in addition to co-mediating or acting as a solo mediator in a variety of disputes through the Office of Dispute Resolution for Lubbock County.

Over the course of the semester, the students mediated 129 individual cases with 94 cases resulting in an agreement, a 73% resolution rate. A total of 261 mediation hours were contributed by the students participating in the Advanced ADR Clinic. The largest claim settled

by students in mediation amounted to \$11,000. Approximately 300 hours of mediation services were donated by students. The general breakdown of types of cases mediated by students included the following:

CPS Cases	7%
Divorce	20%
Suits Affecting Parent/ Child Relationship	13%
Other Civil Claims	5%
Justice Court	6%
District Attorney (Criminal Complaints)	13%
Pre-Pleas	27%
Direct Referral	3%
Modification	2%
Adjudication Panel	3%

Participating in the ADR Clinic has been one of the most valuable experiences I have had in law school. Not often in school do you get practical chances to help real people with their real problems. It's very rewarding.

Luke Reeves
Advanced ADR Clinic

In addition to the mediation of actual disputes, every student videotaped an introductory statement for a simulated mediation and completed a research paper and oral presentation on an ADR topic of their choice.

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Advanced ADR Clinic** for the 2014 Fall semester:

Kellie Ball, Regina Bost, Aaron Bonifield, Adam Brzostowski, Dong hee Choi, Lizette Cortez, Leonardo DeLaGarza, Michael Duran, Amelia Jones, Berenice Medellin, Esther Mijares, Caleb Miller, Catherine Schragle, Erica Sisemore, Lance Sumrall and Ainslie Watkins



Pictured Top to Bottom
(L to R):

Cammie Taylor, Christopher Reeves, Alejandro Garcia, Craig Oglesby, Sarah Smith, Adjunct Gene Valentini, Sameen Abdullah, Kelsey Huddleston, Cale Cormier, Stacy McDougal, Ozen Eren, Sandy Aziz, Lauren Allen, Cory Clements, Katie Olson, Christina Lee, Jack Withem, Brittney Ervin, and Professor Larry Spain

ADVANCED ADR CLINIC

- Students receive intensive mediation and conflict resolution skills training and course qualifies as the 40 hour basic mediation training
- Students will have the opportunity to observe mediations, co-mediate and solo mediate actual disputes through the Lubbock County Dispute Resolution Center
- Class format will consist of a combination of lecture, class discussion and interactive participation, skills exercises, mediation role plays, videotape review
- The course will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills essential to effective problem-solving that can be integrated in the practice of law as well as advise, counsel and prepare clients for mediation.

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Advanced ADR Clinic** for the 2015 Spring semester:

Vanessa Alfaro, Alexander Beltaifa, Brent Brown, Josue Galvan, Theresa Golde, Nicole Holland, Rebekah Jacobson, Sue Lee, Amber Rivera, and Katie Williamson

(Slots are still available for this clinic—if you are interested, please contact elma.moreno@ttu.edu for instructions on how to apply)

CONGRATULATIONS CLINIC STUDENTS HONORED DURING HONORS AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Several clinic students were honored on April 10th during the Texas Tech University School of Law Honors and Awards Ceremony.

Recipient of the *Professor Marilyn Phelan Tax Award* was **William Wells** (Tax Clinic). This award is given in honor of Horn Professor Emeritus Marilyn Phelan by Michael Denham ('99) to a graduating student who "has excelled in the Tax Clinic".



The *Clifford W. Brown Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Award* was presented to **J. Deniz Kardirhan** (Criminal Defense Clinic). This award recognizes excellence as a student attorney in the Texas Tech Criminal Defense Clinic and is funded by the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.



Deniz was also recognized as a *Fellow for the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession* and as the *Vice Chair of Appellate Advocacy for the Board of Barristers*. Students accepted into Phase 3 of the Academy devote substantial time to the study of leadership and complete a substantial project showcasing their leadership abilities.

Elizabeth Hatch (Family Law and Housing Clinic) was awarded the *Professor Dean G. Pawlowic Award* which recognizes a student who demonstrated interest, ability, or aptitude in any aspect of commercial law and has potential development of keen legal analysis, based in part on classroom participation, interaction with other students or attorneys in the area of commercial law, and on applicable work outside of the class. The award was established by former students of Professor Pawlowic: Michael Denham ('99), R. Lee Barrett ('00), and Wade King ('03). **Elizabeth** was also the recipient of the *Frank R. Murray Award* which is presented to the student with the highest grade in Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy. This award is sponsored by the West Texas Bankruptcy Bar Association.



Olubukunola "Bukky" Oyewuwo (Criminal Defense Clinic) was the recipient of the *Student Academic-Citizenship Award* which recognizes a student who achieved excellence in academics during Spring, Summer, and Fall 2013 and who, during the same period, demonstrated outstanding citizenship/service as well as other qualities. This award is presented by the Texas Tech Parents Association. **Bukky** was also the recipient of the *Linda J. Kamp Service Award*. This award is presented to a graduating law student whose service to the law school best represents the dedication service and spirit of Linda Kamp who served the law school community for 21 years and was registrar of the law school from 1991 to 2002. The award was established and is funded by the Class of 2002. Finally, **Bukky** was also recognized as an *Associate for the Academy for Leadership in the Legal Profession*. Students accepted into Phase 2 of the Academy devote substantial time to develop their own leadership style and skills.

The *ALI-ABA Scholarship & Leadership Award* was presented to **Sierra Fisher** (Civil Practice Clinic). This award is presented to a student who best represents a combination of scholarship and leadership - the qualities embodied by the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association.



The *Robert J. and Ann Burbridge Criminal Clinic Award* was presented to **Aaron Tress** (Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic). This is an award created through an endowment given by Ann Burbridge who was a long-time registrar at the law school. It was created in memory of her husband and is given to a third year law student in a criminal defense clinic who has provided zealous advocacy for those accused of committing crimes in rural or underserved communities of Texas.



(continued on page 11)

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

The ADR Clinic was one of the most exciting and challenging experiences I have ever had in law school. I especially felt a sense of accomplishment when I helped college students get a second chance in life through pre plea agreements.

Özen Eren
Advanced ADR Clinic

The clinics at our school are wonderful! While our school is known for its advocacy program, the ADR clinic lets us see out-of-court settlements at work! Specifically, we get the opportunity to gain a hands-on experience during our law school career. It is such an honor to be part of a program that makes a difference in people's lives every day! :)

Sandy Aziz
Advanced ADR Clinic

Participating in the ADR Clinic has been one of the most valuable experiences I have had in law school. Not often in school do you get practical chances to help real people with their real problems. It's very rewarding.

Luke Reeves
Advanced ADR Clinic

The ADR Clinic allowed me to work with clients and facilitate resolutions to their disputes. Each case was different and helped me sharpen my legal skills as well as my interpersonal skills. I loved being a part of the ADR spring 2014 clinic!

Cammie Taylor
Advanced ADR Clinic

Working in the Tax Clinic really helped put a different perspective on my legal education. Instead of just looking at the words on the page, we were helping people and providing a service to the community. I feel that working in the Tax Clinic reminded me that being a lawyer is about helping others.

Bill Wells
Tax Clinic

CONGRATULATIONS CLINIC STUDENTS HONORED DURING HONORS AND AWARDS CEREMONY

(continued from page 10)

Joshua Leamons (Advanced ADR Clinic) was the recipient of the *Cheri Livermore and Donna Williams Student Award*. This award is given annually to a member of the Admissions Office's Student Recruitment Council who reflects the best of Texas Tech Law: a student dedicated to the mission of the law school and committed to public service, particularly serving prospective students. This award is funded by Cynthia Hall ('09).

The 2014 *Elma Moreno Pro Bono Award* was presented to **Andrew Kaldenbach** (Civil Practice Clinic) for his volunteer contributions to Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas.



This award was created in 2000 by Timothy and Daisy Floyd and is named in honor of Elma Moreno, original coordinator for the Private Attorney Involvement Program for West Texas Legal Services. This award recognizes a law student whose pro bono activities best exemplify the lawyer's obligation to ensure equal access to justice. The award is currently funded by the first award recipient and managing attorney at Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Tamara Duncan ('00).

Clinic students recognized as Phi Kappa Phi Inductees for 2014 include: **Elizabeth Hatch** (Family Law & Housing Clinic), **Andrew Heston** (Advanced ADR Clinic), **Reid Johnson** (Advanced ADR Clinic), **Steven Kubik** (Civil Practice Clinic), **Holly Monaghan** (Tax Clinic), **Jessica Rugeley** (CRPDO Clinic), and **Molly Socha** (Tax Clinic).

Jessica Rugeley (CRPDO Clinic) was also recognized with the 2013 *National Order of Scribes Award* which recognizes graduating law students who excel in legal writing.

Congratulations **Cory Clements** (Advanced ADR Clinic), **Sierra Fisher** (Civil Practice Clinic), and **Angelica Rolong** (Family Law & Housing Clinic) were recognized as *Dean's Community Teaching Fellows* which assist with the law school's partnership with the Estacado High School Law and Justice Magnet Program.

Congratulations to the following clinic students for being recognized as *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges* for 2014:

Advanced ADR Clinic: Cory Clements, Cale Cormier, Reid Hudgins, Reid Johnson, Joshua Leamons, Craig Oglesby, Katelyn Blackburn-Rader, Luke Reeves, Andrew Wipke, and Jack Withem

Civil Practice Clinic: Sierra Fisher, Kathy Kassabian, and Steven Kubik

Criminal Defense Clinic: J.Deniz Kadirhan, Krizia Martinez, Mario Olivarez, and Bukky Oyewuwo

CRPDO Clinic: Jessica Rugeley

Tax Clinic: Molly Socha Johnson and Holly Monaghan

Family Law & Housing Clinic: Angelica Rolong and Kelli Tipton

Finally, congratulations to all the students recognized by the *Law Journal Executive Boards!!!*

THANKS TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS SUPPORTING *PRO BONO*

Thanks to the following faculty who assisted at *Pro Bono* Clinics held in conjunction with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas during the Spring semester: **Professors Dustin Benham** (1 clinic), **Gerry Beyer** (2 clinics), **Cassie Christopher** (1 clinic), **Patrick Metze** (1 clinic), **Larry Spain** (9 clinics), and **Arturo Torres** (2 clinics); Law Library Faculty **Elizabeth Caulfield** (5 clinics); and **Meryl Benham** (3 clinics).

The Law School faculty co-sponsored two *Pro Bono* Clinics held at St. John's United Methodist Church and a *Pro Bono* Clinic held at Mae Simmons Community Center during the month of February as well as assisting with three *Pro Bono* Clinics during the Spring semester organized by the Student Public Interest

Initiative (SPII), Volunteer Law Student Association (VLSA), and Family Law Society. In addition, all students in the Civil Practice Clinic and Family and Housing Clinic participate in the *Pro Bono* Clinics as part of their clinical work. In addition, the following students volunteered at the *Pro Bono* Clinics during the Spring semester: **Michael Ada**, **Regina Bost**, **Whitney Garnett**, **Miranda Grummons**, **Stephanie M. Ibarra**, **Samantha Kelly**, **Leah Kosmitis**, **Esther Mijares**, **Stacy Riker**, **Kate Shearer**

If you are interested in participating in a future *Pro Bono* Clinic, contact **Meryl Benham** meryl.benham@ttu.edu or **Larry Spain** larry.spain@ttu.edu for more information.

LITC PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



I participated and attended various resource and health fairs, and coordinated educational workshops and outreach clinics during the Spring semester. I completed direct and indirect outreach to several of our 88 county service areas. I also attended a bilingual talk show at one of our bilingual radio stations as well as distributing public service announcements throughout our service area. I received a permanent spot for the entire 2014 year from one of New Mexico's radio station. All to spread the word about the amazing work our Tax Clinic Director, Professor Vaughn James, and his magnificent seven tax law students have done and will continue to do for the betterment of Texas Tech University School of Law's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic and the community.

St. John's Outreach Clinics were held February 13th and March 13th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the St. John's United Methodist Church, 1501 University, Lubbock, Texas, to provide federal income taxpayers assistance with their tax law issues to those who could not otherwise attend our regular 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. office hours. Tax Clinic Director, Professor Vaughn James, along with tax clinic students and myself were on hand to provide assistance.

Several of the Tax Clinic students conducted educational workshops at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site located at 5601 Villa Drive, Lubbock, Texas during tax filing season.



Codi Steiner and **Jacinda Ballard** made an awesome presentation on February 19th to a group of approximately 16 taxpayers regarding "Tax Preparation for Small Business Owners".

Andrea Farkas and **Jacinda Ballard** presented an educational workshop on February 26th to taxpayers on "How to Prevent Identity Theft". 10:00 a.m. Great job Ladies!

Charlie Gonzales provided an educational workshop to taxpayers regarding "The Affordable Care Act", on March 8th. There seemed to be a big interest in this topic! He also made a presentation on March 15th on the topic of "Earned Income Tax Credit". Thank you Charlie for a great job!

Finally, **Holly Monaghan** spoke to a group of approximately 46 students and 66 parents at the Upward Bound College Prep, held at the Texas Tech University, Human Sciences Building Room 169, on February 22nd, on the following topic: "The Importance of Having Parents File Their Taxes for FASFA Purposes; "Tax deductions for College" and provided information on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Holly provided brochures and flyers to each in attendance regarding the LITC and VITA Site.

Several students and myself attended various resource fairs in the community. On February 11th, I attended the resource fair sponsored by 2-1-1 Texas South Plains. This event was held at Prosperity Bank, 1501 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Texas. There were at least 20 vendors on hand as well as speakers who provided us with some great knowledge of their programs and services provided. I always enjoy meeting new people who are ready to help those less fortunate in our community. Great networking event!

Codi Steiner and **Molly Socha** joined me on March 7th at the Overton Elementary Resource Fair which was held at 2902 Louisville Avenue, Lubbock, Texas. We visited with approximately 400 children and provided them our program information to give to their parents and family members. Each individual class stopped by the participating booths. Each booth had to educate the individual classes regarding their program in 5 minutes or less. This event was really a joy for us and well organized. Thank you Molly and Codi for doing such a wonderful job with this large group of future taxpayers!

PRO BONO DIVORCE NIGHT COURT CLINIC

This project is co-sponsored by Texas Tech University School of Law Clinical Program, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and Lubbock County Courts.

Law students meet with the qualified applicants and help them file for a divorce under the supervision of the Civil Practice Clinic and Family Law/Housing Clinic professors. Law students prepare the paperwork, file it with the courts, and finalize the divorces before the Honorable Judy C. Parker.

Clinics are held the third Thursday of every month beginning in August and ending in April (no clinic in December). Clinic offices are used for the interviews and all prove-ups are held in the Don Hunt Courtroom.

For an individual to qualify for these services they must meet the following requirements:

- Meet the income guidelines which are based on family size;
- Must not have children of the marriage;
- Minimal to no property;
- No physical abuse during the marriage; and
- Be a Lubbock County resident.

LANWT screens all individuals and schedules the appointments.

(continued on page 13)

LITC PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

(continued from page 12)

Charlie Gonzales and I participated at the Dupree Elementary Resource Fair located at 2008 Avenue T, Lubbock, Texas, on March 14th. There were about 275 students at this event.

Once again, I had the opportunity to assist with the initial intake process for the LITC and completed 17 applications this semester for Professor Vaughn James' staffing and review.

This process was very enjoyable and a great way to learn all about the tax law just by dealing directly with prospective clients. This will help me with my outreach efforts.

Thank you, Professor James, for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful program. Take care and good luck to you on your next venture!

- Nancy Mojica
Community Outreach Coordinator

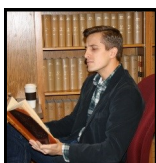
RECENT CASES OF INTEREST

Sierra Fisher (Civil Practice Clinic) obtained a fully favorable decision after a hearing before an administrative law judge on a disability claim filed on behalf of a 35 year old individual diagnosed with bipolar disorder, anxiety/obsessive-compulsive disorder, personality disorder, and attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder. The claimant was found disabled retroactive to June 15, 2011. The client will receive \$28,035 in retroactive benefits and \$1,092.00 monthly in ongoing benefits.



Sierra Fisher (Civil Practice Clinic) negotiated an \$800 settlement on behalf of a client whose personal property had been sold at auction by a storage company where there was an issue as to whether lease payments were in default and improper notice of sale was given.

Steven Kubik (Civil Practice Clinic) represented a 19 year old individual who had been found disabled prior to the age of 18 based on borderline intellectual functioning, depression, anxiety, obesity, and a learning disorder. When the Social Security Administration sought to terminate benefits upon attaining the age of 18,



an appeal was taken to a hearing held before an administrative law judge. Steven was able to establish that the claimant had no medical improvement in her condition and that she met the listing of impairments resulting in a continuation of benefits.

Bryan Martin (Civil Practice Clinic) was able to negotiate a partial refund of the purchase price of a used vehicle sold "as is" where the dealer promised to repair the vehicle after it broke down shortly after the purchase but failed to do so.



Holly Monaghan (Tax Clinic) represented an 88 year old taxpayer who had been denied the Earned Income Credit for 2010, 2011, and 2012 before the Appeals Office and Tax Court. Client was finally allowed the credit and received refunds totaling \$8,438.00.

Molly Socha (Tax Clinic) successfully negotiated a Tax Court case wherein parties reached an agreement that there was no deficiency in income tax due from, nor overpayment due to, the taxpayers for 2011. In addition, no penalty was due from the clients. A court decision was entered.

WORDS FROM OUR CLIENTS

Danielle is very professional and intelligent. I enjoyed her handling my case. Her compassion for her client and a job well done shines through. It is my blessing to know her.

M.R.
Family Law & Housing Clinic Client

There are not enough words to express how professional and politeness the professor Director of Low Income Taxpayer Clinic have been to have taken their time and effort to help me with my tax problem. I strongly recommend them. God Bless You All!

D.R.
Tax Clinic Client

I appreciate Andrea Farkas so much. There were times I doubted my case would ever have a solution but Andrea was so caring & very professional in everything she did & said. She will make excellent lawyer one day. I am recommending ya'll to people. God Bless. Thank you so much Andrea.

G.V.
Tax Clinic Client

I would like to say thank you to the Texas Tech School of Law for the hard work and dedication for the services that the clinic program provides for individuals who cannot afford to pay for legal services. Thank you.

W.N.
Tax Clinic Client

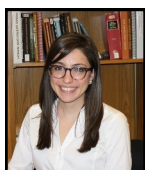
*Ms. Salinas,
I'm sending you this letter to say thank you from my heart, thank you for coming out to see me. Thank you for your time and all your effort... Thank you for putting a smile on my face and spending time on the phone with my fiancé ..., assuring her that everything will be ok. I want to wish you the best. You will make a great attorney.....*

M.B.
Criminal Defense Clinic Client

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CLINICAL PROGRAMS VISIT:

<http://www.law.ttu.edu/acp/programs/clinical/>

A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS



The Criminal Defense Clinic has provided me with invaluable practical experience that will allow me to 'hit the ground running' when I start practicing. Professor Metze says that all we need now is a license, and I believe that he is right. I am eternally grateful to Professors Metze and Morgeson for teaching me how to be a diligent, effective attorney.

J. Deniz Kadirhan
Criminal Defense Clinic

Throughout my law school journey, clinic has been the best experience. This program taught me that I have the ability and skills necessary to practice criminal law. I am glad I was able to get my first-year jitters out of the way under the supervision of amazing attorneys.



Bukky Oyewuwo
Criminal Defense Clinic

The real world experience I gained in the Civil Practice Clinic is one of the most practical things I participated in law school. Working hands on with clients and real world issues broadened my world perspective and gave me great insight into what being a lawyer is really about.



Sierra Fisher
Civil Practice Clinic

Being in the civil clinic was exactly the kind of practical experience I was wanting to transition from the law school atmosphere to actual practice. It has given me the skills I need and allowed me to develop them while helping clients who would not otherwise have an attorney, making it all the more worthwhile.



Bryan Martin
Civil Practice Clinic

Throughout law school I've interned with a Judge and worked for attorneys. The Tech clinic was different because it allowed me to see cases from start to finish,

and I viewed those cases from the attorney perspective. I know I am going to enjoy practicing law. I even had a few clients tell me how much they appreciated my work. That meant a lot. I wouldn't trade my clinic experience for anything.



Aaron Tress
CRPDO Clinic

The Civil Practice Clinic has been the most rewarding law school experience. Being able to help real people, with real problems, against real opposing parties with the supervision of an experienced attorney is the best way to gain legal training. I have enjoyed it immensely.

Drew Kaldenbach
Civil Practice Clinic



The clinic allowed me the opportunity to engage in the legal process while observing and learning from skilled professionals in their areas of expertise. In this short time I gained valuable knowledge which will continue to impact me throughout my career. I am thankful to have been able to participate in such a positive experience.

Danielle McGuire
Family Law and Housing Clinic

During my 3L year, I was very fortunate to be a part of the Civil Practice Clinic. It gave me the opportunity to work with Terri Morgeson and Professor Spain, who were truly devoted to maximizing our learning experience, and guided us with their wisdom and knowledge to make it a very successful year. Working with clients allowed me to feel more confident about practicing the legal skills I had learned in my previous two years and helped me to set a solid foundation for my solo practice in South Texas. Also, clinic staff was supportive and helpful, and working with my clinic peers enhanced my overall experience. Applying and participating in the clinic was one of the best decisions I've made in law school.



Macarena Ortiz
Civil Practice Clinic

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Lindsay Phillips (Criminal Defense Clinic 2012-2013) "I have just recently become the 118th Judicial District's Assistant District Attorney...this week (May 5th) is actually my first week on the job! The 118th District covers the counties of Howard (my home county), Glasscock, and Martin. I am one of 2 lawyers in the office with the other lawyer being the DA himself. I am learning a lot and find my experience with the CDC to have been an invaluable experience for which I will always be grateful."

Dag Teferawork (Tax Clinic 2012-2013) is doing contract/lease and title work for an oil and gas company out in Tyler, TX.

Jackie Baltrun (Tax Clinic 2012-2013) started a new job in December with Martin, Millican, Henderson & Shrum in Lampasas.

Neha Casturi (Civil Clinic - Fall 2013) is a summer associate for the In house department of a Fortune 500 company (Stripes LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Susser holding corporation). She will start clerking for a federal magistrate judge in Abilene in the fall!

Chad Hughes (Criminal Clinic 2012-2013) is working as a criminal defense lawyer in Waxahachie with Griffith & Associates and lives in Ennis.

Benson Varghese (Criminal Prosecution Clinic 2008-2009) is the Managing Partner at Varghese & Smith, PLLC, Fort Worth, Texas. As a former Tarrant County Prosecutor he was selected as Top 100 Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers Association. Article recently published and can be viewed online at <https://www.prweb.com/releases/2014/05/prweb11817033.htm>.

Alyssa Parrish (Health Care & Bioethics Mediation Clinic Fall 2007) is the Director of Legal Affairs at Universal American, Houston, Texas

CCAV HONORS LAW STUDENTS WHO ASSISTED LOW-INCOME TAXPAYERS DURING TAX FILING SEASON



2014 marked the 12th year the *Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers* (a partner of the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic) has administered the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

program. An estimated 100 volunteers were trained in early January to assist with volunteer income tax preparation. Former Tax Clinic students **Levi Siebenlist** (Class of 2009 and an attorney at *Field, Manning, Stone, Hawthorne & Aycock, P.C.*) and **Cory Beth Davis** (Class of 2008) assisted with the trainings. Among those trained were law students, community volunteers, and students with the TTU Personal Financial Planning who were recruited to assist with tax preparation for low-income taxpayers during tax filing season.

As a result of the efforts of student and community volunteers a total of **3,277** taxpayers whose average gross income was **\$16,590** had their tax returns prepared for free at the VITA site. This saved them approximately **\$490,000** in tax prep fees. The low income residents helped received an estimated \$1.9 million in Earned Income Credits and more than \$3.8 million were returned to families within the community. An appreciation luncheon was held on May 2nd at Skyviews Restaurant honoring all volunteers.

The volunteers recognized with *Certificates of Appreciation* included several law students who took time to assist in tax preparation and the quality review process. The law students who volunteered during tax filing season included all students enrolled in the Tax Clinic, as well as the following law students: **Joseph Austin**, **Alexandra Fielder**, **Jeri Leigh McDowell**, **Berenice Medellin**, **Jongwook Patrick Sok**, and **Travis Weaver**.

Congratulations to the following Tech Law Clinic students for being recipients of several awards:



Alexandra Fielder (Advanced ADR Clinic) - "Tax Preparer of the Year" award; and

Bill Wells (Tax Clinic) - "Quality Reviewer of the Year".



Other awards presented included the "Site Coordinator of the Year Award" presented to Randy Laycock (Lubbock National Bank), "Greeter of the Year Award" presented to Cristina Barragan (Educator- Atkins Middle School), "Student Volunteer of the Year Award", "PFP Volunteer of the Year Award" presented to Stephanie Pape-Courtney, and "Volunteer of the Year Award" presented to Laura Martinez (Prosperity Bank).

Several VITA sponsors, as well as luncheon sponsors, were recognized with a plaque or certificate.



I also had the honor of being recognized with a plaque for my contribution to CCAV and as a founding member. The plaque reads "The Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers gratefully recognizes Elma Moreno for enabling CCAV to assist more than 33,000 low income taxpayers since 2002 through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program."

*Thanks to all our volunteers and sponsors
CCAV had another successful year!*



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Stephen Doan (Civil Practice Clinic 2012-2013) is working as a Petroleum Landman and has been working on the Eagle Ford Shale.

Tahlia Stewart (Family Law and Housing Clinic 2012-2013) states "I currently work in a small solo's office who does primarily family law but dabbles in criminal law and probate. I have been working with her since October and love it! I live in San Marcos and work in Seguin. I have started working in the Misdemeanor court as a court appointed attorney and will be putting my name on the CPS court list as soon as I get back from vacation. The attorney I work for said we will discuss long term plans for me at this office in the coming months. When I took this job 7 months ago it was only supposed to be contract work for 5-10 hours a week, but turned into full time work within 2 weeks. I wanted to let you know that I originally got this job because I had clinic experience and in particular had experience with ProDoc. I was able to hit the ground running day one. Having two semester's worth of experience convinced my boss that I could actually do work right away and not have to be trained in EVERYTHING."

Valerie Finella (Family Law and Housing Clinic-Fall 2012) got married last summer and is currently living in Wichita, Kansas, where her husband is stationed. She is currently working as a research attorney to Judge Anthony Powell who sits on the Kansas Court of Appeals.

Denise Hernandez (Family Law and Housing Clinic 2012-2013) is working with the Travis County Attorney's Office in Austin.

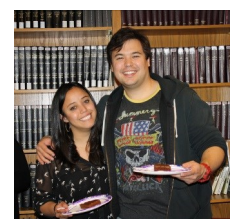
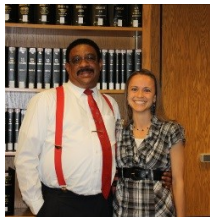
Jonathan Ellis (Tax Clinic 2012-2013) is working in the law firm of BlackBrush Oil & Gas LP in San Antonio.

Mariah Mayworm (Tax Clinic 2012-2013) is an associate attorney at Pratt, Aycock & Associates, PLLC, in Denton.

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Snapshot Corner



CLINIC DIRECTORS:

Larry R. Spain
Civil Practice Clinic
Advanced ADR Clinic

Wendy Tolson Ross
Family Law and Housing Clinic

Vaughn E. James
Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic

Patrick S. Metze
Criminal Defense Clinic
Capital Punishment Clinic
Caprock Regional Public
Defender Clinic

CO-DIRECTORS/
INSTRUCTORS:

Gene Valentini
Adjunct Professor
Advanced ADR Clinic

Donnie Yandell
Chief Public Defender
Caprock Regional Public
Defender Office

Terri Morgeson
Civil Practice Clinic
Criminal Defense Clinic

Rebekah Filley
Family Law and Housing Clinic

STAFF:

Elma Moreno
Office Manager/Legal Assistant

Jennifer Martin
Sr. Business Assistant/Clinic
Secretary

Nancy Mojica
LITC Community Outreach
Coordinator

Irma Shepler
Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Caprock Regional Public
Defender Office

CONGRATULATIONS MAY GRADUATES!
Good luck with the Bar Exam!

***Congratulations to all students who passed the
February Bar Exam!***
Job well done!!!

CLINICAL PROGRAMS FACULTY AND STAFF

***CLINIC NEWS***

Spring 2014 Edition

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