



**SPRING 2013**

# CLINIC NEWS

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

## CRIMINAL CLINICAL PROGRAM RECIPIENT OF TEACHING ACADEMY DEPARTMENTAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

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Congratulations to **Professor Patrick Metze**, Director of the Criminal Defense Clinics, and the **Criminal Clinical Program** for being selected the recipient of the *Texas Tech University Teaching Academy Departmental Excellence in Teaching Award for 2013*. This award recognizes a “department demonstrating the existence of a ‘teaching culture’ which reflects commitment to students, makes teaching a high departmental priority and facilitates teaching excellence throughout the department”.

A reception was held on April 17th by the *Texas Tech University Teaching Academy* honoring the Criminal Clinical Program. Law school faculty, staff, students, and attorneys from the legal community were in attendance in support of the program and its accomplishments.

The program was also recognized during the Faculty Honors Convocation on April 23rd. The award was presented by the *Teaching Learning and Professional Development Center* and carries a \$25,000 prize. TTU Interim President Lawrence Schovanec presented Professor Patrick Metze with the honor and the \$25,000 award check!



Larry Spain, Director of TTU School of Law Clinical Programs stated “*Patrick joined our*

*faculty as a Visiting Faculty Member in 2007 after a distinguished career in practice; has subsequently been promoted to a full Professor with tenure; and has consistently served as an excellent role model and mentor to his students. He has also been instrumental in expanding our clinical program through the development of a Capital Punishment Clinic and the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic in addition to our Criminal Defense Clinic.*”

Additionally, Professor Metze was chosen to receive the university-wide *Spencer A. Wells Award for Creativity in Teaching*. This award recognizes the “creativity of the professor’s approach to excellent teaching as attested by students, faculty members, and administrators”. Professor Metze was recognized during the Faculty Honors Convocation ceremony as the recipient of this award.

We would also like to congratulate Tax Clinic Director and Judge Robert H. Bean Professor of Law, **Vaughn E. James**, for being named the recipient of the *President’s Excellence in Teaching Award*. Professor James was honored with the award during the Faculty Honors Convocation on April 23rd. The President’s Excellence in Teaching Award is a result of excellence in a teaching role and is nominated by the dean’s letter summarizing teaching activities.





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

During the spring semester, the following students continued their participation in the Civil Practice Clinic: **Allison Brauer, Lindsey Cantu, Meagan Fescenmeyer, Lauren Munselle, Spenser Piercy, Vanessa Rosa, Abigail Rosen, and Lauren Serrano.** I have been ably assisted by **Terri Morgeson**, our Clinical Fellow, who has supervised students on individual cases and is always available to students for questions and individual assistance.

Over the course of the semester, a total of 25 new client cases were undertaken, 35 cases were completed and closed and 24 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, employment, consumer matters, and VA claims.



During this semester, most of the students have had an opportunity to complete a divorce case from beginning to end and have a final hearing held before the court.

### 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.

Standing (L to R) Lindsey Cantu, Vanessa Rosa, Clinic Fellow Terri Morgeson, Allison Brauer, Megan Fescenmeyer, and Professor Larry Spain  
Sitting (L to R) : Lauren Serrano, Lauren Munselle, Spenser Piercy, and Abigail Rosen



**Congratulations** to the following students selected for the **Civil Practice Clinic** for the 2013-2014 academic year:

**Neha Casturi (Fall only), Sierra Fisher, Andrew Kaldenbach, Katherine Kassabian, Steven Kubik, Bryan Martin, Macarena Ortiz, Mari Park, and Prya Sivaraman**



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

During the Spring semester, eight Qualified Student Representatives continued to represent low-income taxpayers in our service area before the IRS and the United States Tax Court. The eight students were **Jackie Baltrun, Thomason Bush, Jonathan Ellis, Mariah Mayworm, Natalie Myers, Dag Teferawork, Nicholas "Nico" Toulet-Crump, and Dustin Wilson**. These students spent several hours representing taxpayers in the community, as well as volunteering at the CCAV's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program where students prepared tax returns for low-income taxpayers. This has always been a rewarding experience. Once again, it was another wonderful and educational tax-filing season. The students worked very hard, served our clients well, and had much success. However, they would not have survived the Spring semester without the day-to-day supervision and guidance provided by **Meredith Nieto**, our capable Tax Clinic Fellow.

Our Community Outreach Coordinator, **Nancy Mojica**, was very successful in organizing community outreach activities to educate the community about our existence and the services we provide. She organized community educational workshops and established and implemented *pro bono* Income Tax Clinics in the community, bringing us into contact with the people who matter most, our clients.

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.

So as we end this semester and this school-year, I say a BIG thank you to Meredith, Elma, Nancy, and Jennifer. The devotion and commitment these individuals make to the daily operation of the LITC is what makes it a success! Thanks, also, to the Qualified Student Representatives who worked so hard this semester to provide this service to our community and for all they accomplished for their clients. They did a tremendous job and will now leave us and continue with their next chapter in life. I wish them all the best as they graduate, take and pass the bar exam, and continue to make us proud. I wish them 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 2013-2014 academic year:

**Andrea Farkas, Jacinda Geis, Charlie Gonzales, Holly Monaghan, Molly Socha, Codi Steiner, and William Wells**



Pictured L to R:

Front row:  
Nancy Mojica, Jackie Baltrun,  
Dag Teferawork

Middle row:  
Jonathan Ellis, Nicholas Toulet-Crump, Professor James,  
Meredith Nieto, and Mariah Mayworm

Top row:  
Thomason Bush, Natalie Myers,  
and Dustin Wilson



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

This semester I had eight (8) students enroll in my section of Family Law and Housing Clinic. These students were:

**Kyle Crowl, Stephen Doan, Denise Hernandez, John Langner, Michael LeMond, Venessa Rodriguez, Paula Perez, and Tahlia Stewart.** A big thank you goes

out to each of the students for the hard work performed on their cases.

The majority of the cases this semester were divorce and custody suits. One of the divorce cases resulted in a Temporary Orders Hearing where both parties were fighting over who would have temporary custody of a two-year old child. The father was seeking sole custody of the child. However, the student was able to persuade the judge to award joint custody

of the child and split evenly the physical possession of the child.

In another divorce case, the student was able to help the client by providing closure to a bad chapter in her and her children's lives. The student helped the client to terminate her spouses' parental rights in the divorce case after the husband had been convicted of abusing his biological child and his stepchild. (The husband had previously received a life sentence in jail for this abuse.)

Finally, we also completed an adoption case this year. This case

involved paternal grandparents who had physical custody of their two grandchildren. These grandparents had been acting as the parents to the children since they were babies because both biological parents had histories with drugs. Although the grandparents had been

trying to adopt the children for several years, they were unable to complete the adoption until now because of difficulties with one of the biological parents.



L to R: Professor Wendy Ross, Michael LeMond, Family Law client, Alexandra Gongora, and Judge Judy Parker

**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 2013-2014 academic year:

**Andrew Aus, Malorie Crosley, Jessica DuBose, Elizabeth Hatch, Douglas Knauth, Danielle McGuire, Angelica Rolong, Sarah Stephens, and Kellie Tipton**

Front Row (L to R):  
Stephen Doan, Venessa  
Rodriguez, Tahlia Stewart

Middle Row (L to R):  
Michael LeMond, Denise  
Hernandez, Professor  
Wendy Ross

Top Row: (L to R): John  
Langner, Kyle Crowl,  
Paula Perez, and Clinic  
Fellow Rebekah Filley





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

The three Criminal Defense Clinics were honored this 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 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 addition, I was fortunate to receive the Spencer A. Wells

Faculty Award for creative excellence in teaching given by the Texas Tech Parents Association. Both of these awards are credit to the staff of the clinics and in particular to the students. Without the student's desire to learn, a teacher's effectiveness and creativity can only carry education so far. Thanks to all the students of this year's clinics and all former students who made these awards possible. It is with your success that we measure our success.

As is our custom, the students in the 2012 Criminal Defense Clinic were busy all

year representing real people in real cases in real time. This year, the students handled 89 cases for 69 clients. Of these cases, 29 are still pending, 35 were disposed of through some type of negotiated plea, and 25 cases were dismissed. Of the 29 still

pending, 8 are currently set for pleas of guilty, 8 cases are set for dismissal, 5 are set for negotiation conferences, 1 client has failed to appear and warrants have issued, 2 are still pending trial, 3 have recently pled guilty, and 2 clients will have to be reassigned. Cases consisted of 76 misdemeanors and 13 felonies. This is an average student case load of almost 7 clients per student and almost 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

**Irene Garcia, Elizabeth Howard, Chad Hughes, Robert Hundemer, Kiara Martinez, Lindsay Phillips, Sonia Salinas, and Christopher Schulte.** 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 following cases were handled, or are still being handled, by the

clinic students: Misdemeanors: 11 Possession of Marijuana <2 oz, 3 DWI's, 14 Class B Thefts, 5 Domestic Violence Assault, 3 Class A Thefts, 5 Driving While



L to R: Professor Patrick Metzger, Charlie Pelowski, Terri Morgeson, Donnie Yandell, Professor Larry Spain, Phillip Wischkaemper, and Dennis Reeves

## 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.

(continued on Page 6)

## From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze

(continued from page 5)

License Invalid, 3 Misdemeanor Assaults, 8 Criminal Trespass, 4 Failure to Identify to Police Officer, 2 Criminal Mischief, 2 Resisting Arrest, 3 Evading Arrest, 3 clients with 10 citations in Lubbock Municipal Court, 2 Prostitution, 1 Discharging Firearm, 1 Deadly Conduct, 1 Public Intoxication, 1 Organized Crime, 1 Interference with Public Official, 2 Class A Possession of Marijuana, and 1 misdemeanor forgery, a total of 76 misdemeanor cases; Felonies: 4 Possession of Controlled Substance, 4 Felony Thefts, 1 Criminal Mischief, 1 Felony DWI, 2 Tampering with Governmental Records, and 1 Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle, a total of 13 felony cases. 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 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 November, because of the generosity of the Innocence Project of Texas and the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, students attended a two day Forensic Science Seminar in

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## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS

*"This clinic has provided me with such a wonderful experience. After you have completed a year in the clinic all you really need is a license. Professor Metze and Terri do a wonderful job in getting you ready to practice criminal law. They give you just enough room for you to make mistakes and grow from them but also supervise you in a manner that is not intrusive and makes you feel that you have great guidance every step of the way. The atmosphere in the clinic is amazing. Both Terri and Professor Metze's door are always open and the bonds that I have formed with other students while working in the clinic is one that I will truly miss."*

Kiara Martinez  
Criminal Defense Clinic

*"In no other place will a Texas Tech law student experience what it's like to be an attorney like in the Criminal Defense Clinic. I learned how to develop my case but most importantly I learned how to get the best possible outcome for my clients' needs."*

Sonia Salinas  
Criminal Defense Clinic



Front Row (L to R):

Chad Hughes, Lindsay Phillips, Kiara Martinez, Elizabeth Howard, and Terri Morgeson

Back Row (L to R):

Christopher Schulte, Sonia Salinas-Cerda, Professor Metze, Robert Hundemer, and Irene Garcia

**Congratulations** to the following students selected for the **Criminal Defense Clinic** for the 2013-2014 academic year:  
Carly Castetter, Jane Kadirhan, Krizia Martinez, Mario Olivarez, Kathryn Owens, Olubukunola Oyewuwo, Martin Pina, and Ariana Salinas

## From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze

(continued from page 6)

Dallas, Texas. Waxahachie Attorney Mark Griffith in October came to speak on the role of psychodrama in criminal defense. Also, Austin Attorney Sam Bassett, former chair of the Texas Forensic Science Commission came to speak on his work on the commission and the resulting controversial use of science in the criminal law. In April, all three criminal clinics participated in the Law School's annual chili cookoff which has become a departmental tradition. This year the Criminal Clinic had to acknowledge the victory of the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic over what some thought was the "best real chili" at the cookoff. The Clifford Brown Award for 2013 was awarded to Chad Hughes for his "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.

## CLINICAL PROGRAMS GOES "BLUE" FOR CHILDREN

The Lubbock Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention (CCAP) sponsored a *4for4* campaign asking individuals or groups in the community to wear **BLUE** on April 4th as a challenge to have at least 4000 Lubbock residents wearing blue on behalf

of children who become victims of child abuse and neglect. The Clinical Programs supported the cause, formed a "Blue Group" and several members of the faculty, staff, and students wore **BLUE** on that day!!!



## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS

*"Working for the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic is by far the best experience I have had in law school. I can't imagine having to start practicing law on my own without having been in the clinic. The clinic has taught me so many valuable practical lessons about criminal law such as having responsibility for your own clients, communicating effectively with clients, advocating on behalf of clients, and successfully negotiating with prosecutors and the court. I am truly thankful to all our attorneys in the clinic, who are all examples of what a great attorney is, who take the time everyday to teach us and help us gain the confidence and skills we need to be successful lawyers as soon as we pass the bar."*

Lauren Mullins  
CRPDO

*"The Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic has been an invaluable learning experience. Donnie Yandell and Charlie Pelowski, the two supervising attorneys in this office, have been amazing mentors and have taught me so much in the last nine months – more than I could have learned simply by sitting in a classroom and reading about handling cases from beginning to end. Each day in this clinic worked to better prepare me for success after I become a licensed attorney."*

Liza Trevino  
CRPDO

*"Being in law school teaches you the law. Being in the clinic teaches you how to be a lawyer. Participating in the Criminal Defense Clinic was my favorite part of law school, no contest."*

Lindsay Phillips  
Criminal Defense Clinic



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

This has been a busy and interesting year. The twelve students who have been handling cases since August in the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office and Clinic are **Ibukun Adepoju, Sarah Stefaniak, Zach Gore, Lauren Mullins, Nathan Young, James Phillips, Yolanda Rodriguez, Sulema Retana, Neil Harris, Mitchell Mills, Liza Trevino** and **Audrey Rugg**. These students have done a great job for their clients and I hope they have learned a lot!

The office this year has handled approximately 173 cases. Of those cases, 112 have been resolved. The office overall had a 53% dismissal rate. 4% of the cases received pretrial diversion, 4% of the cases received deferred adjudication. This means that all of the clients represented by the office have a 61% chance of *not* having a conviction once

they completed the terms of their agreement with the prosecutors and/or judges. The types of cases handled by the office this year include but are not limited to: DWIs, Possession of Marijuana, Burglary of a Vehicle, Driving While License Invalid, Evading Arrest, Criminal Trespass, Domestic Violence Assaults, Thefts, Terroristic Threats and Theft by Check. Finally, we set at least three cases for trial. Two of the three cases were dismissed after a lot of work by the student attorney handling the case. The last case is currently set for trial on May 20, 2013. Unfortunately the student attorney handling that case will be busy getting ready for those little tests everyone takes this time of the year. With all the hard work they have put into this case though, Charlie Pelowski should have little difficulty getting ready for trial.

In closing, I would like to say that this year's group was a joy to work with. They have all worked extremely hard and have made my job easy. I wish them all luck with their finals and that little pop quiz in July. Good luck everyone!

**Congratulations** to the following students selected for the **Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic** for the 2013-2014 academic year: **Kathryn Heflin, Tyler Mayo, Melissa Oney, Jennie Radulescu, Justin Rosas, Jessica Rugeley, Venus Tesfaye, and Aaron Tress**



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### Top Two Rows (L to R):

Irma Shepler, Mitchell Mills, Donnie Yandell, James Phillips, Charlie Pelowski, Nathan Young, and Professor Metze

### Bottom two rows (L to R):

Ibukun Adepoju, Audrey Rugg, Neil Harris, Liza Trevino, Joseph Gore, Yolanda Rodriguez, Lauren Mullins, Sulema Retana, and Sara Stefaniak

## 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 12 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 14 county region. Students are closely supervised by Donnie Yandell, Chief Public Defender, and Charlie Pelowski, Assistant Public Defender. 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.



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

The Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases office welcomed it's third Capital Punishment Clinic this past Spring semester. The office is the only statewide defender for capital cases expanding recently to 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. Only four students are chosen from those that complete the Fall Capital Punishment seminar. Completion of the semester seminar indoctrinates the chosen students into the unique world of the capital defender. The students chosen this year were **Nathan Munier, Chelsea Seaton, Son Trinh** and **Kimberly Carpenter**. 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. On day one, these students underwent an intense orientation which instructed them in various office protocols, as well as the roles

of the fact investigators, the mitigation specialists, and the line attorneys. 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 through West Texas to spend hours with clients in jails), the nerve wracking (presentation of crucial pretrial motions to trial courts) 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 our 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

*"The Capital Punishment Clinic provided practical experience and valuable courtroom experience. The value of the experience and the real-life courtroom experience arguing motions cannot be overstated. Capital criminal law is the most important area of law because nothing is more valuable than life itself. I cannot think of anything more precious than due process and upholding Habeas Corpus."*

Son Trinh  
Capital Punishment Clinic

*"I have learned so many rules of the criminal litigation game this year; so much so that I can confidently say that I am more prepared than most of my classmate to enter the proverbial "real world." The amount of knowledge I have acquired from being in the clinic as a 3L exceeds all that I learned the first two years of law school. I will be eternally grateful to Professor Metze, Donnie, and Charlie for taking a chance on me by accepting me into the Public Defender clinic, and for all that they have taught me. This experience is invaluable, and if I had one last opportunity to say anything at all to 1Ls, and potential law students, I will advice them to join a clinic."*

Ibukin Adepoju  
CRPDO

*"The clinical program has been the most practical and valuable part of my law school experience. Learning from practicing attorneys and dealing with real clients on my own has been rewarding."*

Neil Harris  
CRPDO



Pictured L to R:

Nathaniel Munier, Chelsea Seaton, Kimberly Carpenter, Son Trinh and Professor Patrick Metze

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

Eighteen students participated in the Advanced ADR Clinic during the Spring Semester: **Alicia Daugherty, Jacob Farr, Lee Gyomlai, Nadia Haghighatian, Tanner Hartnett, Cassandra Hernandez, Erik Jacobson, Alondra Johnson, Jamie Kroon, Kelli Leisure, Chris Mahaffey, Christian Mayer, Lindsay Nichols, Katherine Owens, Bradley Parkin, Nathan Robinson, Brittany Sloan, and Neal Spradlin.** In addition to the course satisfying the requirements for completing 40 hours of Basic Mediation Training, the students had the opportunity over the course of the semester to observe as well as to co-mediate or solo mediate a minimum of four disputes through the Office of Dispute Resolution for Lubbock County. Most of the students mediated more than four different cases over the course of the semester. The cases ranged from family law matters, consumer disputes, landlord-tenant issues, criminal cases, juvenile and other civil cases, among others. Every

student also videotaped an introductory statement in mediation and completed a research paper and presentation on a mediation topic of their choice.

During the semester, Advanced ADR clinic students prepared and submitted comments to Texas Supreme Court on various aspects of proposed rules regarding the use of ADR in expedited actions involving non-family cases. The Court initially proposed that a trial court could not order litigants to mediation in non-family cases involving claims for monetary relief of \$100,000 or less. Student comments mirrored the final rules, which delegate to the parties the authority to decide whether to engage in mediation. The new parameters effective March 1st are:

1. Mediation cannot be longer than half a day
2. A fee for mediation cannot be more than twice the cost of county's filing fee
3. Mediation must be completed within 60 days of trial absent court approval.

***Congratulations*** to the following students selected for the ***Advanced ADR Clinic*** for the 2013 Fall semester: Dustin Dempsey, Alexandra Fielder, Shawn Gyomlai, Andrew Heston, Reid Hudgins, Reid Johnson, Austin Jones, Richard Keeton, Joshua Leamons, Megan Loder, Eric Smith, Andrew Wipke, and Michael Zant.

## 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
- Course will provide students with opportunity to develop skills essential to effective problem-solving that can be integrated in the practice of law as well as well as advise, counsel and prepare clients for mediation.

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

Sameen Abdullah, Lauren Allen, Cale Cormier, Ozen Eren, Brittany Ervin, Kelsey Huddleston, Christina Lee, Stacy McDougal, Craig Oglesby, Katie Olson, Kelsey Paris, Grace Preston, Christopher Reeves, Sarah Smith, Cammie Taylor, and Jack Withem



Sitting (L to R): Jacob Farr, Christian Mayer, Katherine Owens, and Neal Spradlin

Standing (L to R): Lee Gyomlai, Professor Spain, Jamie Kroon, Alondra Johnson, Tanner Hartnett, Lindsay Nichols, Bradley Parkin, Cassandra Hernandez, Brittany Paxton, Erik Johnson, Alicia Daugherty, Nadia Haghighatian, Gene Valentini, and Kelli Leisure

## CLINICAL PROGRAMS HONOR STUDENTS DURING RECOGNITION EVENT

The *2013 Student Recognition Event* was held on April 18th in the Lanier Auditorium. A total of 83 students were recognized with a *Certificate of Appreciation* for their dedication and participation in the clinical programs. Clinical Programs Director, Larry Spain, welcomed the students and guests. A slide show capturing former events and clinic students, faculty and staff was shown prior to the presentation of certificates.



Since the inception of the clinical programs which began with the LITC in April 2000, a total of 936 students have participated in the programs and contributed thousands of student hours.

Students honored participated in the *Health Care Mediation Clinic, 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.*

This event marked the 10th 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.

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!*

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

Thanks to the following faculty members who assisted at *Pro Bono* Clinics held in conjunction with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas during the spring semester : **Associate Dean Arturo Torres** (1 clinic), **Professors Dustin Benham** (1 clinic), **Gerry Beyer** (2 clinics), **Cassie Christopher** (1 clinic), **Vaughn James** (2 clinics), **Patrick Metze** (1 clinic), and **Larry Spain** (7 clinics); **Clinic Faculty Rebekah Filley** (1 clinic) , and **Terri Morgeson** (1 clinic).

The Law School faculty co-sponsored two *Pro Bono* Clinics held at St. John's United Methodist Church during the month of February and assisted 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 Law and Housing Clinic participate in the *Pro Bono* Clinics as part of their clinical work. In addition, the following students from the Student Public Interest Initiative, Volunteer Law Students, and Family Law Society assisted at the *Pro Bono* Clinics during the Spring semester: **Ibukun Adepoju, Andrew Aus, Zach Gore, Shawn Gyomlai, Neil Harris, Robert Hundemer, Katie McCracken, Bryan Martin, Jeremy Morgan, Macarena Ortiz, Clayton Parry, Cindy Thompson, and Liza Trevino.**

Congratulations to all students passing the February Bar Exam! Job well done!!!

## LITC PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Wow, this semester was fast and furious not just for me but for all of us. Right after the holiday break it seemed to be all downhill from workshops to meetings and resource fairs to direct and in-

direct outreach as well as public service announcements and radio and television interviews.

During the months of January and March, I was a guest speaker on two separate radio interviews with Mr. Ben Gonzales of Power Talk 106.5 to inform the ESL taxpayers of Lubbock and our surrounding counties about our upcoming Low-Income Taxpayer Outreach Clinics scheduled for January 24th and March 21st.

On January 24th and March 21st the LITC sponsored the second and final outreach clinics for the semester at St. John's United Methodist Church. **Thomason Bush, Jackie Drake, Jonathan Ellis, Mariah Mayworm, Natalie Meyers, Dag, Teferawork, Nico Toulet and Dustin Wilson** were on hand to help with intake applications and interviews, along with the LITC Director, **Professor Vaughn James** and Clinic Fellow, **Meredith Nieto**.

On January 25th Professor Vaughn James made a presentation at the Muleshoe High School in Muleshoe, Texas, for Ms. Jennifer Gresham's Career Prep class on "Preparing Your First Tax Returns".

On February 5th, I attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SPCAA Community Resource Fair from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Eddie Richardson Center, 1110 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Lubbock, Texas and distributed posters, brochures and writing pads. There were an estimated 150 families in attendance.

Jonathan Ellis and Mariah Mayworm made a presentation to the parents and students who

are involved in the Texas Tech Upward Bound program on February 23rd. Many parents had questions after the presentation about the LITC, VITA and various tax issues (one parent in particular seemed very interested in seeking the LITC's services).

Natalie Meyers and Nico Toulet presented on the topic "Preparing to File Your 2012 Federal Income Tax Returns" to members of the Lubbock 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church located at 5300 Elgin, Lubbock, Texas, as well as their family and friends on March 20th.

The parents of Rise Academy students received some valuable information from Jonathan Ellis on "Income Tax Liabilities" on March 28th.

On April 3th Dag Teferawork and Dustin Wilson presented a workshop on "Preparing to File Your 2012 Federal Income Tax Return" for the members and community of the MLK 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church, Lubbock, Texas.

The last educational workshop for the semester was held on April 4th when Professor Vaughn James made a presentation on "Federal Income Taxes, 2012-2013: What's New, What's Out?" for the Teachers of Rise Academy, Lubbock, Texas.

As part of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC), and Advisory Board Member of the Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers (CCAV), I had the opportunity to participate

in this year's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program as the Assistant Site Coordinator. This has truly been an experience for me and the thought of helping those impecunious taxpayers in our community keep all their hard earned money was well worth it. Elma, thank you

for the opportunity!

Congratulations to all the graduates in the LITC program. Good luck!!!



## PRO BONO DIVORCE NIGHT COURT CLINIC

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 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.

**Congratulations** to the following students selected for the **Low Income Taxpayer Clinic** for the 2013 Summer Sessions: **Alexandria Dover, Jacquelyn Brynea Landrum, Amber Oldham, Neelam Pai, and Nicholas Ward**

## CONGRATULATIONS CLINIC STUDENTS HONORED DURING HONORS AND AWARDS PROGRAM

Several clinic students were honored on April 19th during the Texas Tech University School of Law Honors and Awards Ceremony. Recipient of the Professor Marilyn Phelan Tax Award was **Jonathan P. Ellis** (Tax Clinic). This award is given in honor of Horn Professor Emeritus Marilyn Phelan to a graduating student who "has excelled in the Tax Clinic".



The Clifford W. Brown Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Award was presented to **Chad Hughes** (Criminal Defense Clinic). This award recognizes excellence as a student attorney in the Texas Tech Criminal Defense Clinic.

**Yolanda Rodriguez** (Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic) was awarded the Fortney Award for Ethics. The Fortney Award for Ethics is given to a law student who "exhibits outstanding moral and ethical conduct among his or her peers while attending law school".



**Manuel Hernandez** (Health Care Mediation Clinic) was the recipient of the Judge Meade F. Griffin Award which is given to the graduating law student who "through industry, perseverance, integrity, and character, has best utilized the law-school experience to improve and prepare for service to the profession and to mankind".



Finally, the Robert J. and Ann Burbridge Criminal Clinic Award was presented to **Mitchell Mills** (Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic). This was a new 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 given to a third year law student in a criminal defense clinic.



Another award presented during the Honors and Awards Ceremony included the Elma Moreno Pro Bono Award. In 2000, Professors Tim and Daisy Floyd created an award named the "Elma Moreno Pro Bono Award" which 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 staff attorney at Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Tamara Duncan.

The recipient of the 2013 award was **Lindsey Cantu** (Civil Practice Clinic) for her volunteer contributions to Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas.



Pictured L to R: Elma Moreno, Lindsey Cantu, Tamara Duncan, and Rosa Price

## WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

"The Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic was very interesting. The experience gain by going into the community to help parties resolve their disputes through means other than litigation was both rewarding and humbling. It was rewarding because reaching agreements that satisfied both parties and ended the underlying dispute helped the parties move past their dispute and often helped them to rebuild a friendly relationship. It was humbling because there are so many ways to resolve disputes other than by litigation that the possibilities were endless. The skills I have gained through the clinic will undoubtedly assist me in future dispute resolution and negotiations."

Lee Gyomlai  
Advanced ADR Clinic

"As a result of being a part of the clinic, I have learned more about the daily practice of being a defense lawyer than from all of my other law school experiences combined. The clinic has provided me with a practical education and enough confidence that I am ready to practice law immediately after graduation. There is no equivalent to the hands on experience and experiential learning."

Zach Gore  
CRPDO

"I have really enjoyed working in the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic this past year. It has been an amazing opportunity to learn from such skilled attorneys. This experience has been invaluable."

Sarah Anne Stefaniak  
CRPDO

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CLINICAL PROGRAMS VISIT:

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

## RECENT CASES OF INTEREST

**Allison Brauer** represented a claimant before an ALJ who had previously been found disabled in 1994 due to a diagnosis of ADHD and borderline intellectual functioning and, after a continuing disability review, was determined no longer disabled as of March 1, 2011. Upon demonstrating that there has been no medical improvement in his condition, a fully favorable decision was issued reversing a decision to terminate his benefits based on a finding that he remains disabled.



**Vanessa Rosa** represented the grandparents of a 3 year old child in a contested trial over conservatorship after mediation failed to result in an agreement. The Court appointed the grandparents as sole managing conservators of the child and limited access to the child by the biological mother and father of the child to supervised periods on two weekend days each month from 8 am to 8 pm.



**Lindsey Cantu** represented the wife in a contested divorce involving issues related to conservatorship of the minor children, property and debt allocation, and child support. After an 8 hour trial involving the admission of multiple exhibits, Lindsey was able to obtain a favorable outcome for her client who was granted sole managing conservator with no geographical restriction; an increase in the amount of child support ordered; and an allocation of debts.



**Lauren Serrano** has been working on a complex case which initially involved filing a Motion for New Trial after a pro se party did not receive proper notice before a default judgment was entered against her despite having filed a proper answer. Subsequently, on behalf of the client, a motion was filed to include a child born during the marriage who is a presumed child. The case is currently in



discovery with a Motion for Summary Judgment pending.

**Lauren Munselle** filed an appeal and brief with the 7<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals on a procedural issue involving the timely entry of an Order granting a Motion for New Trial on a case in which our client had a default judgment entered against her despite a defect on the face of the officer's return of service of citation. The case is currently pending awaiting a decision.



**Mariah Mayworm** represented a couple with a tax liability of \$14,288.55. Tax court petition was filed by the taxpayers prior to coming to the Tax Clinic, however, the case was settled and the IRS reduced the tax liability to \$390.52. The Service agreed that taxpayers were due a refund and received a refund of \$1,256.48.



**Thomason Bush** represented a taxpayer who had an estimated tax liability of \$14,090. The IRS accepted an offer of \$2,160 paid in installments of \$90 a month for 24 months.



**Jackie Baltrun** was successful in settling a Tax Court case wherein taxpayer was assessed a little over \$5,300. Taxpayer was elderly, disabled, unemployed, and unable to pay the penalties assessed. The Service agreed and court decision entered indicates that taxpayer will not owe any tax or penalty thus leaving her with a zero balance.



**Dustin Wilson** was successful in completing a case which had been active for several years. This case also involved an elderly individual surviving only on social security and survivor's benefits. Taxpayer was approved for non-collectible status for the \$23,000 tax liability.



## WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

*The Caprock Regional Public Defender Office has truly been the most memorable experience of my law-school career. The clinic not only provided me with an invaluable education, but it also allowed me to establish lifelong friendships. I once knew Ibukun Adepoju, Zach Gore, Neil Harris, Lauren Mullins, James Phillips, Sulema Retana, Yolonda Rodriguez, Audrey Rugg, Sarah Stefaniak, Liza Trevino, Nathan Young, Irma Shepler, Charlie Pelowski, Donnie Yandell, and Pat Metze as fellow students and mentors. Today, I know these individuals as true friends! Thank you all for making this year so special!*

Mitchell Mills  
CRPDO

*"Several of my long-running cases were either dismissed or the charges were reduced to Class C misdemeanors. I was able to obtain a Deferred Adjudication for a 12 year old juvenile client in Dawson County who was facing a serious Class A drug possession charge. The help and guidance provided by Donnie, Charlie, and Prof. Metze was central so many of these successes."*

James Barton Phillips  
CRPDO

*"This was a great experience. Donnie, Charlie, and Professor Metze are incredible teachers and mentors. What I learned from them is invaluable. I learned a lot about defending indigent clients, but the most important thing I gained from this experience was confidence. Now, I think I know how to be a lawyer!"*

Audrey R. Oliver  
CRPDO

## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS



"The Texas Tech Family Law and Housing Clinic has been quite possibly the most instructive and rewarding experience I've had in Law School. I would encourage current 1L's to absolutely take the various clinical programs Tech Law has to offer into consideration when planning their curriculum moving forward."

John S. Langner  
Family Law and Housing Clinic

"Participating in the Civil Practice Clinic has been the pinnacle of my law school experience. It has provided me with a skillset and training that law school classes simply cannot refine. Throughout the year, I have been challenged with confronting my own inexperience and fears by meeting these challenges head-on and succeeding with the help of Professor Spain and Terri. I have grown leaps and bounds from where I started on my first day of Clinic! I truly feel prepared for my first day of work come September."



Vanessa Rosa  
Civil Practice Clinic



"Working with my fellow students, Mrs. Nieto, and Professor James was an absolute privilege. However, it was truly an honor to make a difference if the lives of my clients."

Nicholas Toulet-Crump  
Tax Clinic

"At the beginning of this year, I was wondering whether I had made the right choice by deciding to be in the clinic as opposed to other academic pursuits. Now, I'm incredibly happy that I made the decision to participate in this excellent program. It's been a lot of hard work, but the experience has been invaluable."



Christopher M. Schulte  
Criminal Defense Clinic

"In the Tax Clinic, I've learned a great deal about working with clients and balancing case loads. The

experiences I've gained working closely with different types of clients and delivering both good and difficult news to the clients will prove valuable when working at a law firm."



Natalie Myers  
Tax Clinic



"The Criminal Defense Clinic has had a profound impact on my education. I have had the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills that I will use daily, and have formed friendships I will cherish for life."

Robert Hundemer  
Criminal Defense Clinic

"The clinical program has been the most practical and valuable part of my law school experience. Learning from practicing attorneys and dealing with real clients on my own has been rewarding."

Neil Harris  
Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic



"The clinic has been the most valuable experience in law school, period!"

Dag Teferawork  
Tax Clinic

"I am very grateful that I got selected to be part of the civil clinic. By being a student attorney in the clinic, I had a head start on using a billing system. Also, in a firm this size you have to be hands on right from the start. The first time I met with a client was very soon after I was admitted to the bar. Although I don't practice family law nor am I a litigator, the experience I gained in the clinic helped me develop real skills that I could implement right away in the practice of law. For example, I was a lot more confident in meeting with clients because I already had met with clients on my own while in the clinic and I also was comfortable in tackling issues that were completely new."

Lilia Doibani  
Former Civil Practice Clinic Student  
Class of 2012

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Mary Porter Moretti** (CRPDO-Class of 2012) - is an Assistant Public Defender at the Kaufman County Public Defender's Office. She is certain that the experience she received and contacts she made in the clinic helped her get this job which she started in February. She states it is a great office to work for. She was immediately assigned to a courtroom and given more clients than she can count. She states that she has three attorneys to turn to for guidance, and a team of support staff who are great at their jobs. She is in court multiple times a week and will have her first trial the week of May 13th.

**Diana Le** (Tax Clinic, Class of 2012) is currently in Dallas and working for the United States Small Business Administration as an attorney adviser.

**Lilia Doibani** (Civil Practice Clinic, Class of 2012) started working in El Paso, Texas at Gordon Davis Johnson & Shane P.C. in September. It is a mid size law firm of about 20 attorneys. She works in the transactional division, business law, domestic and international tax, and some estate planning. She did substantial work on a brief for the 5th Circuit on an issue of first impression, *Rodriguez v. Commissioner* <http://appellatetax.com/category/pending-cases/rodriguez/>. She also helped the partner to prepare for the Oral Argument and I got to go to New Orleans for the argument.

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



This is the eleventh 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 & Aycok, 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 **2,907** taxpayers whose average gross income was **\$16,480** had their tax returns prepared for free either at the VITA site. This saved them approximately **\$436,050** in tax prep fees. The low income residents helped received an estimated \$1.75 million in Earned Income Credits and more than \$4.5 million were returned to families



within the community. An appreciation luncheon was held on April 29th 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: **Anna Rains**, **Brittany Ervin**, **Jacinda Geis**, and **Megan Loder**.

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

**Jonathan Ellis (3L)** - "Tax Preparer of the Year" award;



**Jackie Baltrun (3L)** - "New Volunteer of the Year" award and,

**Dag Teferawork (3L)** - "Student Volunteer of the Year" award.

Other awards presented included the "Site Coordinator of the Year Award", "Greeter of the Year Award", "Quality Reviewer of the Year Award", and "Volunteer of the Year Award".

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

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



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Mikela Bryant** (Civil Practice Clinic—Class of 2012) - Associate Attorney with The Brooks Firm PLLC, Lubbock, Texas.

**Shannon Crenshaw** (CRPDO, Class of 2012) - Practicing insurance defense at the law firm of Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson, and Galatzan in El Paso, Texas. Recently passed the New Mexico bar exam! Congratulations Shannon!

**Katy Krottinger** (Family Law Clinic, Class of 2012) - Currently working at The Monsour Law Firm in Longview, Texas. She is primarily working in mass torts with a focus in pharmaceutical and medical device litigation. Her docket includes Transvaginal Mesh, Zolof birth defects, Steven Johnson Syndrome, Mirena, Reglan, Wright Medical Hips, and Granuflo.

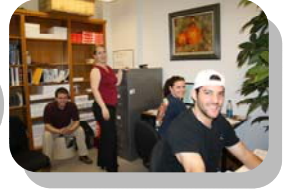
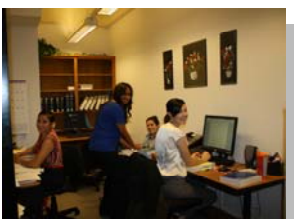
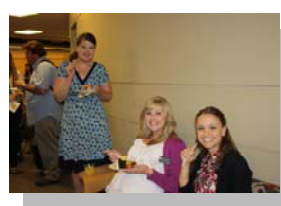
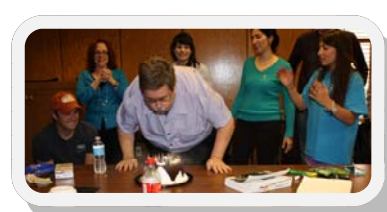
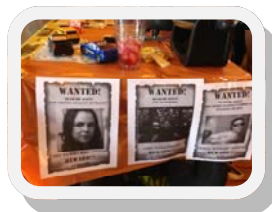
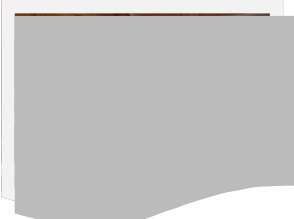
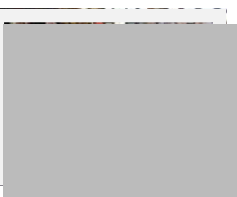
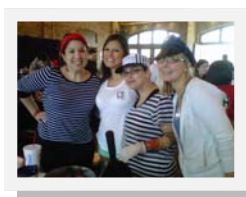
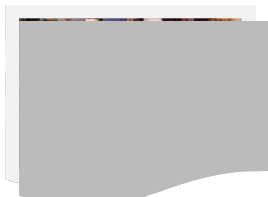
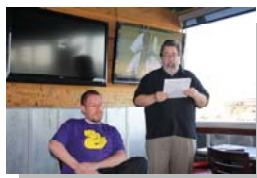
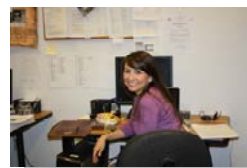
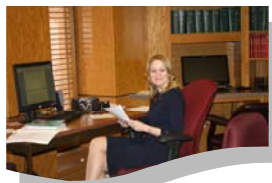
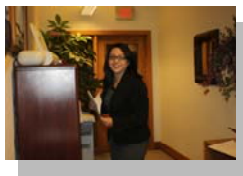
**Jack Hawthorne III** (Criminal Defense Clinic, Class of 2012) - Owner and Operator of The Hawthorne Law Firm in Boerne, Texas. He has just recently hired a paralegal. He primarily handles divorces and business law, in addition to mediation all over the state. For more information, you can visit his website at [www.hawthornelawtx.com](http://www.hawthornelawtx.com).

**Bradley Phillips** (Tax Clinic, Class of 2012) - Currently working at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Dallas in their hedge fund tax division. He is one of two attorneys on a team of seven. The other five are CPA's. PwC is one of the big four accounting firms.

**"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart."**

Author unknown

# 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

Charles Pelowski  
Assistant Public Defender  
Caprock Regional Public Defender  
Office

**CLINIC FELLOW  
ATTORNEYS:**

Terri Morgeson  
Civil Practice Clinic  
Criminal Defense Clinic

Meredith Nieto  
Low-Income Taxpayer 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!*

**CLINICAL PROGRAMS FACULTY AND STAFF**

Pictured L to R: Charlie Pelowski, Gene Valentini, Donnie Yandell, Professor Patrick Metze, Professor Vaughn James, and Professor Larry Spain



Pictured L to R: Nancy Mojica, Irma Shepler, Terri Morgeson, Elma Moreno, Jennifer Martin, Meredith Nieto, Professor Wendy Ross, and Rebekah Filley

***CLINIC NEWS***

Spring 2013 Edition

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