



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
School of Law™

# CLINIC NEWS

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



SPRING 2008

## FAREWELL TO PROFESSOR MARILYN E. PHELAN

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There are simply not enough words that can describe how much Professor Phelan has contributed to the law school and the clinical program. She has been an inspiration and mentor to many of the students, faculty, and staff.

Her many contributions have been well known throughout the legal profession not only locally, statewide, and nationally but internationally. Professor Phelan took over the responsibilities as Tax Clinic director during the summer of 2003 at which time she moved her office to the clinical program suite. It has been a great pleasure working with Professor Phelan and having the opportunity to know such a wonderful person. As a tribute to Professor Phelan, we asked former tax clinic students to contribute comments to this article which I have incorporated within. The comments themselves describe the impact she has made in many lives.

*"I am sad to hear that the future Tech Law students will not have the full-time access to such an incredible professor. Professor Phelan was not only an amazing mentor but also an outstanding example of the level of professionalism that we as Tech Law graduates should aspire to replicate. She is the first professor that I have ever felt a kinship to. Maybe it was the speed of our speech or the speed of our minds but she made me feel normal inside a world where people think and speak much slower than we do."*

Michelle Cheney  
Tax Clinic - Spring 2004

*"Professor Phelan is a talented instructor and her method of teaching by example is a true credit to the legacy of the Texas Tech School of Law. Involvement in her clinic,*

*while a trial by fire ordeal, made real the proposition of litigation against a government agency. The lessons learned in her clinic have proven to be a real blessing in my practice."*

Peyton Inge  
Tax Clinic - Summer 2005

*"When I started law school in 2001, I knew with 100% certainty that I wanted to practice family law. Tax had never entered my mind. I then took Income Tax with Professor Phelan as a requirement. To my surprise, I really enjoyed the class. Professor Phelan was so enthusiastic about the subject that I could not help but be interested. I participated in the summer session of the Low Income Tax Clinic and learned a great deal in a short time. After graduation, I thought I still wanted to practice family law and did so for several months. I learned very quickly that family law was not for me. I then turned to tax and started working with taxpayers who owed the IRS. I have now worked in tax for nearly 3 years and enjoy it thoroughly. If it had not been for Professor Phelan and her passion for the subject, I never would have found my passion."*

Maria O. Abercrombie  
Tax Clinic - Summer 2003

*"Professor Phelan was such a great role model for me as a young aspiring female attorney. I was always impressed by Professor Phelan's energy and knowledge of tax law. My experience in the Tax Clinic at Tech with Professor Phelan was invaluable. Thank you Professor Phelan for all of the hard work you put into each and every one of your students - it was greatly appreciated."*

Greta L. Cantwell  
Tax Clinic - Fall 2003

## *Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas - Equal Justice Volunteer Program Honors 2007 Pro Bono Volunteers*

The Pro Bono Awards Luncheon was held in conjunction with Lubbock's The Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas Equal Justice Volunteer Program and the Lubbock County Bar Association's Monthly Meeting on Friday, February 15, 2008 at the Lubbock Club, 1500 Broadway, Lubbock, Texas.

Several awards were presented to individuals for their continued commitment and support.

Nominations for the **Johns Crews Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award** are based on the number of cases accepted, number of hours contributed and number of clinics attended.

Nominations for the **clinic awards** are based on the number of clinics attended and number of hours contributed.



**Pictured Above: Alma Gonzales - Incoming 3L-2007 Legal Clinic Volunteer Law Student**

Certificates were awarded in recognition of meeting the 50 Hour Annual Aspirational Goal for Pro Bono Services to indigent persons as recommended by the State Bar of Texas. These certificates were based on the number of

hours reported to the coordinator during the past year on cases being handled through the Equal Justice Volunteer Program of Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas and/or number of hours contributed at the legal clinics. This year we had two (2) recipients and they are as follows: **Professor Wendy Ross and Professor Larry Spain, Texas Tech University School of Law Clinical Program.**



**Pictured above (L to R): Professor Wendy Ross, Elma Moreno, and Professor Larry Spain**

The 2007 Site Clinic Sponsors were recognized with Certificates of Appreciation. Site sponsors included:

Gaines County Neighborhood Center, (Seminole, Texas), Mae Simmons Community Center, St. John's United Methodist Church, and Texas Tech University School of Law.

Law firms and bar associations also recognized for sponsoring the pro bono clinics included: McCleskey, Harriger, Brazill & Graf, Texas Tech University School of Law, West Texas Bankruptcy Bar Association, Mullin, Hoard & Brown, Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam, McWhorter, Cobb & Johnson, Lubbock County Young Lawyers Bar Association, and Craig, Terrill & Hale.

Thank you Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas and the Lubbock County Bar Association for sponsoring the luncheon!



The 2007 John Crews Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award was awarded to:

**Professor Wesley J. Cochran - Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, Texas**

The 2007 Legal Clinic Volunteer Attorney Award was awarded to:

**Professor Gerry Beyer - Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, Texas**

The 2007 Legal Clinic Volunteer Lay Advocate Award was awarded to:

**Jamie Sorley - St. John's United Methodist Church, Lubbock, Texas**

The 2007 Legal Clinic Volunteer Law Student Award was awarded to:

**Alma Gonzales - Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock, Texas (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)**



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

I have been fortunate to have had an incredible group of dedicated and conscientious students to work with in my section of the Civil Practice Clinic over the past year which include Julie Bohrer, Sherri Colson, Emily Cook, Sarah Gardner-Cox, Elizabeth Lieb (fall semester only), Preston Mundt, Deena Reynolds and Jonathan Stovall. It has been particularly gratifying to see each of them gain an increasing level of confidence in their ability to handle client cases entrusted to them as they achieved successful outcomes for their clients. Each of them has been able to develop a variety of lawyering skills which will prepare them for practice after graduation.



Pictured L to R: Elizabeth Lieb (Fall only), Sarah Gardner-Cox, Sherri Colson, Deena Reynolds, Emily Cook, Julie Bohrer, Preston Mundt, Jonathan Stovall and Professor Spain  
 Congratulations Elizabeth on passing the February Bar!!

Over the course of the spring semester, a total of 16 new client cases were undertaken, 28 cases were completed and closed and 18 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 judges in the evening at the Law School. Each of the students also participated in a special Wills Clinic this year, preparing Wills and other advance planning documents for low income individuals. In addition to these activities, each of the students has been kept busy carrying an individual caseload of 4-5 clients throughout the year and assumed primary responsibility for representing clients in matters involving family law, disability claims, civil rights claims, estate planning, and consumer matters.

## From the Desk of Larry Spain and Gene Valentini

Eighteen students participated in the Advanced ADR Clinic during the Spring Semester: Jason Anderson, Shatoree Bates, Adriana Bhatt-Kriz, Curtis Brancheau, Jared Bylund, Amanda Cleghorn, Pamela Dallefeld, Cory Davis, Sarah Dowdy, Joseph Dyson, Eric Johnson, Chibuike Nwaokemele, Amit Patel, Jonathan Platt, Jose Ramirez, Stacey Reeh, Matthew Sherwood, and Katherine Sparks. 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 Lubbock County Dispute Resolution Center. The cases ranged from family law matters, consumer disputes, landlord-tenant issues, criminal cases and other civil cases, among others. Every student also videotaped an introductory statement in mediation and completed a research paper and oral presentation on mediation topic of their choice.



## 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.

Congratulations to the following students selected for the 2008-2009 academic year:

Professor Spain's Section:  
 Andrew Anderson, Renee Brosch, Julie Caskey, Leslie Chaggarris, Britton Douglas, Jorge Leal, Suzanne Meredith, Victor Rodriguez, and Aaron Shnider

Professor Ross' Section:  
 Alma Gonzales, Alexander Kessler, William McCamish, Gilda McDowell, K'Lisha Pace, Melinda Powell, Mathew Sapp, and Crystal Soria





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

Six students, James Beam, Kyle Kovel, Kerri Lawton, Jibin Luke, Savannah Meyer, and Travis Rodak enrolled in the Tax Clinic in the fall and spring semesters to help taxpayers in their controversies with the IRS. Most of the issues confronting the students involved their clients' entitlement to the earned

income credit, to dependency deductions, to head of household status, and to innocent spouse treatment. The students have been successful in obtaining noncollectible status for some of their clients and have been successful in resolving issues relating to tax liability for others. They have represented taxpayers in appellate hearings and have filed petitions on their behalf with the Tax Court. They sustained their clients' positions in three cases that were pending before the Tax Court. The students have filed offers in compromise for some taxpayers and have obtained substantial reductions in tax liability for these clients.

The students' work in the clinic on actual tax cases and the class sessions on rights of taxpayers and the procedures in place to contest tax deficiencies, which the students must attend, have proved very helpful both to the students and to their taxpayer clients. The students also helped with the volunteer income tax assistance program and provided help to many persons while they improved their tax return preparation skills. The six students should be well prepared to represent clients with tax problems when they begin the practice of law. In addition, the School of Law is

providing a benefit to the community in representing, without charge, taxpayers who cannot afford the services of a tax attorney.

As I am retiring effective July 15, 2008, I will no longer serve as Director of the Tax Clinic. Professor Vaughn James, who is a CPA as well as an attorney, will succeed me and already has plans for a great 2008-9 year for clinic students. Good luck to all you and a fond farewell. I will miss the students and staff. It has been great working with you and directing the tax clinic.



**Pictured Standing L to R: Kyle Kovel, Professor Phelan, Travis Rodak, Jibin Luke, James Beam**  
**Sitting L to R: Cory Beth Davis (Summer '07), Kerri Lawton, and Savannah Meyer**

a CPA as well as an attorney, will succeed me and already has plans for a great 2008-9 year for clinic students. Good luck to all you and a fond farewell. I will miss the students and staff. It has been great working with you and directing the tax clinic.

## 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 an 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.



*A dinner in honor of the retirement of Paul Whitfield Horn Professor Marilyn Phelan was held on Saturday, April 26, 2008 In the Convocation Area of the Lanier Professional Development Center Dinner attended by many including "all" of her grandchildren (pictured below)!*



Congratulations to the following students selected for either the summer sessions or 2008-2009 academic year clinic:

Summer: Bretton Gilmore

2008-2009: Cory Boggess, Ryan Damiano, Alexandra Eaker, Dominica Moore, Traci Robison, Levi Siebenlist, Jack Starks, and Elizabeth Watson



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

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

The majority of cases worked on by the students were family law cases. We have accepted many divorces, both with and without children and some custody suits. One case involved a divorce with international issues and working with international officials.

We have continued this year to provide service to Women's Protective Services. Students interviewed women at the Women's Protective

Service's Shelter, and provided representation with divorces and other family law matters.

This semester we had a number of non-family law cases. One case involved assisting a lady in attempting to force her insurance company to repair her roof. Other cases involved investigating a dispute for improper withholding of wages and representing a lady in a car title case.

Finally, we obtained a couple of clients through the Wills Clinic this semester. Students were able to interview and prepare wills for people in the community through Legal Aid of Northwest Texas.



Pictured Standing L to R: Rob Ambrosino, Allison Stephens, Kacee Harvey, Laura Tones, and Oscar Mendez  
Sitting L to R: Kyle Burgamy, Ashley Smith, Professor Ross, and Sammy Lucario

*"I was represented with the upmost qualified person on staff! Please give this man a raise, please! Thank you Sammy!!!"*

Civil Practice Clinic Client  
Ross Section

## CLINICAL PROGRAM RECOGNIZES STUDENTS DURING STUDENT RECOGNITION RECEPTION



clinical programs. A slide show presentation was made in appreciation to the students.

Since the inception of the clinical programs approximately

745 clients have been served through the clinical program which include the 160 clients served by the Wills Project which began during the Fall 2002 semester. The total does not include the total number of cases handled through the Innocence Project since its inception.



Students who were honored participated in the Health Care and Bioethics Mediation Clinic, Tax Clinic, Civil Practice Clinic, Criminal Justice Clinic, Innocence Project Clinic, and ADR Clinic.

## 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 in the law school courtroom.

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





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

This has been an extraordinary year for the seven students enrolled in the 2007-2008 Prosecution Section of the Criminal Justice Clinic. Each one has experienced the thrill of trying a criminal case. Collectively, they have completed forty four trials and compiled an impressive record of thirty eight wins and six losses. Along the way, they have seen the critical role that prosecutors play in our criminal justice system. Tamara Baggett, Aimee Bateman, Alex Benavides, Lindsay Epley Kinzie,

Sheena Molsbee, Earl Oaks, and Cheryl Pitre - I am proud of each one of them.



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

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

## THANKS TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS SUPPORTING PRO BONO

Thanks to the following faculty members participated in *Pro Bono* Clinics with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas during the spring semester of the 2006-2007 academic year: **Deans J. Wesley Cochran** (3 clinics) and **Arturo Torres** (2 clinics); **Professors Gerry Beyer** (1 clinic), **Jarod Gonzalez** (1 clinic), **Vaughn James** (2 clinics), **Brian Shannon** (1 clinic) and **Larry Spain** (5 clinics).

The Law School faculty co-sponsored with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas the *Pro Bono* Clinics held at St. John's United Methodist Church during the

month of February and assisted with three *Pro Bono* Clinics during the spring semester co-sponsored by the Student Public Interest Initiative, Volunteer Law Student Association and Family Law Society. All students in both sections of the Civil Practice Clinic participate in the *Pro Bono* Clinics as part of their clinical work. In addition, several students from the Student Public Interest Initiative, Volunteer Law Student Association and Family Law Society assisted at the *Pro Bono* Clinics during the spring semester.

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

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

The clinical program suites continued to become a familiar environment to students with the Estacado High School Law and Justice Magnet Program during the Spring semester. Students were able to assist clinic staff and administrative staff with various tasks (including some old fashioned typing), as well as sit and observe a few law courses.

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

Elma Moreno and Samirah Abdalah, clinic staff, have been working closely with the students and the program instructor, Lucio R. Trevino, to make the preceptorship rotation visits a learning experience.

## CRIMINAL PROSECUTION CLINIC

This is a full-year 8 credit hours (4 per semester) course limited to 8 students. Students who are accepted into the clinic must be registered for both Fall and Spring semesters.

The *Criminal Prosecution* section provides students an opportunity to investigate, prepare, and try misdemeanors on behalf of the City of Lubbock. Under the guidance of experienced prosecutors, students serve as lead counsel on their own cases.

Prerequisites include: Students must be 3L status, not on academic probation, 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 court, however, exceptions will be made; and students may not sit for the February bar exam.

Congratulations to the following students selected for the 2008-2009 academic year:

Megan Batchelor, Meredith Coffman, Pamela Dallefeld, James Frost, Kathryn Kennon, Brandon Price, Joseph Rueda, and Benson Varghese

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



The Innocence Project of Texas (IPOT) Clinic had a very successful Spring 2008 Semester. Our 14 students (Angela Dunlap, Brandi Dosser, Bekah Herrmann, Gail Bickford, Dustin Howell, Becca Stewart, Natalie Kersey, Alma Gonzalez, Charity

Mireles, Aaron Shnider, Renee Castillo, Karyna Soldatova, Cynthia Clements, and Becky Behl-Hill) worked diligently on several claims of actual innocence received in our downtown office, and they also drafted numerous recommendation memos regarding Dallas County DNA-based innocence claims. Additionally, they continued work on our new Houston Crime Lab project, which permits IPOT clinical students to review those cases already identified by an independent investigative committee as having 'serious errors' with serological testing.

Early on in the semester, the students celebrated the release of Innocence Project of Texas client Charles Chatman, who spent more than 26 years incarcerated for a Dallas County sexual assault that he did not commit. Only a few short days after his release, he visited with

our students at the Lubbock clinical office. Chatman and two of his family members shared their stories with our very inquisitive group, and the students expressed their concern over the increasing number of wrongful convictions in the State of Texas. To date, 16 Dallas County men have proven their innocence using modern DNA testing techniques. Statewide, 32 men have had their convictions reversed as a result of DNA test results that conclusively establish that they were not in fact the actual crime perpetrators. Several additional Texas men and women have had their convictions set aside on grounds other than DNA test results, bringing the total number of Texas exonerees to over 100.

Because of the diligent work of this year's IPOT clinical students, we expect that more men and women will be exonerated during the coming months. To date, our 2007-2008 Texas Tech students have reviewed more than 100 claims of actual innocence, and they have recommended eight cases for DNA testing. Our recently selected summer students will pick up where the 2007-2008 group is leaving off at the end of the semester, and as a result of the dedicated work ethic exhibited by this year's students, they will undoubtedly inherit a strong group of innocence claims and investigations that are ripe for legal action.



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

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

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

The IPOT Clinic wishes to congratulate all of our current students on a fantastic year. We couldn't have been so successful without your cooperation and enthusiasm, and we thank you for your continued support of our cause!

*"The Innocence Project has taught me the importance of diligence in representation of clients. From a student perspective, I'm thankful I was able to be part of a movement aimed at restoring justice in the darkest of places. My most memorable experiences involve talking to exonerees and listening to their stories of hope and faith. Moreover, I was able to work with attorneys and volunteers who are passionate about justice and reform in the Texas Criminal Justice system."*

Alma R. Gonzalez  
J.D. Candidate 2009

## INNOCENCE PROJECT

This Project is a vital part of the Innocence Project of Texas. The mission of Innocence Project of Texas is:

- to identify, investigate and document claims of actual innocence
- to work to exonerate those persons who have been wrongfully convicted
- to educate students, citizens and public officials about wrongful convictions, how they occur and how they can be prevented
- to advocate for criminal justice system reforms to prevent wrongful convictions and achieve justice
- to assist the wrongfully convicted with their adjustment back into society

Each student is in charge of doing an investigation and determines if an inmate is innocent. From there it is determined how we can prove his/her innocence and how to get them out of jail. Finally, the student drafts an application for a writ of habeas corpus or a clemency petition.

Congratulations to the following students selected:

Summer: Stephen Coy, Ray Lopez, and Adam Tisdell

2008-2009: Victoria Beles, Vanessa Burgess, Paul Cash, Christina Conway, Stefanie Gonzalez, Michelle Jackson, Victoria Muniz, Joel Norris, Bertrand Pourteau, Kelli Stumbo, Amber Thompson Lara Tomlin, Natalie VanHouten, Nicholas Vilbas, and Tania Ward.

## INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AWARDS TAX GRANT

The TTU Low Income Tax Clinic began its 8th year of operation in 2008 with a \$53,624.00 tax grant award. The Internal Revenue Service has awarded \$8 million in matching grants to Low Income Taxpayer Clinics (LITCs) for the 2008 grant cycle (January 1 thru December 31, 2008). A total of 154 clinics have been funded for 2008 representing 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

The clinic provides representation to low income taxpayers who may not be able to afford a tax professional when they have tax disputes with the IRS or are trying to comply with tax laws. The clinic also informs taxpayers for whom English is a second language or who have limited English proficiency of their tax rights and responsibilities. The grant continues to fund a part-time Community Outreach Coordinator position which has helped promote the Tax Clinic in various outreach efforts. Unfortunately, our current Community Outreach Coordinator, Janie Gonzales, has resigned her position effective April 25, 2008. Janie assisted the LTC in developing long lasting community partnerships with various agencies and community leaders. She developed educational brochures, conducted community outreach and workshops, and kept all clinic brochures and flyers up to date with yearly eligibility guidelines. Janie was an asset to the LTC and will be missed.

## CCAV CONTINUES TO ASSIST LOW INCOME TAXPAYERS

The Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers (a partnership of the LTC) and staff from the Internal Revenue Service trained an estimated 100 volunteers in early January to assist



**Pictured L to R: Non-Resident site Volunteer of the Year Ken Suitt and Site Coordinator and Board Vice-President, Marion Bryant.**

with volunteer income tax preparation. The Lubbock Housing Authority located on 18th and Cricket Avenue donated the south side of their building during the tax filing season. As a result of the efforts of these volunteers a total of 2,950 people whose average gross income was \$12,903 had their tax returns prepared for free. This saved them approximately \$590,000 in tax prep fees. The low income residents helped received more than \$1,300,000 in Earned Income Credits and a total of \$2,800,000 were returned to families within the community. An appreciation luncheon was held on April 28th at the Lubbock Club honoring all volunteers.

The volunteer pool included several law students who took time to assist in tax preparation. All

volunteers were presented with *Certificates of Appreciation*.

Luncheon sponsors and VITA sponsors formally recognized included Lubbock Area Foundation, American Bank of Commerce, Lubbock National Bank, American State Bank, City Bank, and Security State Bank. Special recognition plaques were presented to Lubbock Housing Authority, Walt Hanel, Shari Flynn, Marion Bryant and Cory Beth Davis.

Other VITA sponsors recognized included Plains Capital Bank, First Bank & Trust, Platinum Bank, Lubbock Avalanche Journal, Xanadoo, WesTex Document, Inc., Dr. Teresa Lightner (TTU School of Business), Dr. Robert Ricketts (TTU School of Business), Dr. Thomas Longoria (TTU Center for Public Service), Professor Bryan Camp (TTU School of Law), Professor Joe Marnell (Wayland Baptist University), and Alan Garrett (website).

Thanks to all our volunteers and sponsors we had a successful year!



**Pictured L to R: Cory Beth Davis (Law student & Assistant Site Coordinator), Adelaida Montemayor, Kasey Morales and Bill Phillips.**

## HEALTH CARE AND BIOETHICS MEDIATION CLINIC

This course and clinic gives students an opportunity to develop their communication, facilitation, and mediation skills. Through reading, simulated exercises, field work, and live co-mediations, students will learn the law, ethics, and procedures involved in mediating disputes. The study and work will focus on problems and disputes that arise in health care settings, including those that arise pre-admission, during hospitalization/ residency, immediately before discharge, and post-discharge. The issues may relate to conflicts between patients, their families, and providers. The actual matters handled will depend on referrals and approvals from participating hospitals and nursing homes.

Students who have received credit for the other ADR Clinic will not be able to enroll in this clinic. The students' training will satisfy the 40 hour requirement for Texas mediators.

This clinic is a 4 credit hour course held during the Fall semester and is limited to 10 students. 2L and 3L status students are welcomed.

**Congratulations to the following students selected for the 2008 Fall semester:**

Kristin Avots-Avotins, Jennifer Bartnesky, Jaime Canaves, Mandi Lea-Tejeda Duncan, Bretton Gilmore, Chelsea Kartler, Brandon Lipps, Matthew Rittmayer, Andrew Ross, and Lisa Wischkaemper





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

The students in the Defense Section of the Criminal Justice Clinic were busy this year representing real people in real cases in real time. This year students have handled 106 cases for 75 clients. Of these 106 cases, 11 are still pending, 68 were disposed of through some type of negotiated plea, 26 cases were dismissed, we suffered 1 loss, 98 were misdemeanors, 8 were felonies, with 1 being an appeal of a first degree felony aggravated sexual assault. This is an average student case load of 9.375 clients per student and 13.25 cases per student, 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. Having represented clients in the Municipal Court, the Justice of the Peace, the Magistrate Court, the Administrative Law Court, both Lubbock County Courts at Law, all three felony District Courts and the 7<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals were Joseph Baker, Latoya Colley, Steve Forsberg, Abigail L. Glisan, Aaron Holt, Kathleen Nacozy, Christina Schwartz and LaShonda Taylor. Please congratulate everyone all for all their hard work.

Cases handled to date include: 14 DWI's, 11 Failure to Identify to Police Officer, 12 Possession of Marijuana <2 oz, 11 Misdemeanor Theft, 14 Domestic Violence Assault (including 2 felonies), 4 Evading Arrest, 1 Unlawfully Carrying a Weapon, 3 Prohibited Weapon (including 1 felony), 5 Felony Possession of a Controlled Substance, 2 Felony Theft, 2 Prostitution, 3 Resisting Arrest, 2 Criminal Mischief, 3 Criminal Trespass, 1 Traffic Ticket, 1 Administrative License Revocation, 1 Possession or Use of Volatile Chemicals, 6 Driving While License Invalid, 1 Intoxication Assault, 1 Felony Tampering With Evidence, 2 Disorderly Conduct, 1 Interference with 911 Call, 2 Reckless Driving, 1 civil matter, 1 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, 1 Appeal on an Aggravated Sexual Assault.

In their spare time the students rewrote and edited a Trial Notebook to be published by the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and

released this summer at the organization's premiere event in San Antonio, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Rusty Duncan Advanced Criminal Law Course.

Each month the students spent time with one of eight different criminal defense lawyers in Lubbock rotating on a monthly basis through each office, experiencing criminal practice by observing and by doing. Mentors for the Criminal Defense Clinic for 2007-2008, all local attorneys practicing criminal law, were Chuck Lanehart, Danny Hurley, Dwight McDonald, Steve Hamilton, Trey McClendon, Robin Matthews, Anne and David Hazelwood, and Laurie Key. All mentors are members of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, a financial supporter of the Texas Tech School of Law and the Criminal Defense Clinic.

November 15, 2007, the Clinic hosted Lydia Clay-Jackson of Conroe, Texas, Board Certified in Criminal Law, Dean of the Texas Trial College in Huntsville, Texas and currently Secretary of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association who spoke to students on "Why the Law?" and worked on a one-on-one basis with the students of the Criminal Defense Clinic in developing the theme and theory of their cases. Many thanks to Abby Glisan, Christine Schwartz and Latoya Colley for their assistance in coordinating Ms. Clay-Jackson's appearance and to the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association for their financial support of the Clinic.

February 28 and 29, 2008, the students of the Criminal Defense Clinic attended a two day Evidence Boot Camp in Plano, Texas, courtesy of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Center for American and International Law. Thanks to local attorney Donnie Yandell for his assistance during the trip to and from Plano.

This year other guest speakers included local attorney Steve Hamilton who demonstrated administrative license revocation techniques, local attorney Mark Snodgrass who spoke on bail bond procedures, local attorney Chuck Lanehart who gave a talk on the history of the Lubbock County Bar, Director of Court Administration for Lubbock County David Slayton who instructed

(continued on page 10)

## CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

This is a full-year 8 credit hours (4 per semester) course limited to 8 students. Students who are accepted into the clinic must be registered for both Fall and Spring semesters.

The *Criminal Defense* section 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 on academic probation, 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 court, however, exceptions will be made; and students may not sit for the February bar exam.

Congratulations to the following students selected for the 2008-2009 academic year:

Tifanee Baker, Gail Bickford, Paul Harrell, Luz Martinez-Bernal, Melissa Moreno, Jason Rew-Hunter, Thomas Roberts, and Sosa Thomas

## From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze (continued from page 9)

students on how local rules in Lubbock and throughout Texas affect procedures in securing court appointments for criminal clients, and Dr. Philip Davis who worked with the students discussing mental health issues including understanding the criminal client and how to maintain a healthy attitude while practicing criminal law.

"Being able to observe two trials from some of the best defense attorneys in Lubbock, Danny Hurley and Steve Hamilton, were the most invaluable experiences of the year. Specifically, being able to watch how these lawyers handled jury selection will prove invaluable in my future career. As we all know, many trials are won or lost during jury selection."

Joseph Baker

"I walked into the Lubbock County Courthouse uncertain as to the fate of my client. I knew some errors were present in his case but I was angst about how effective a defense strategy this was. After discussing the case with my supervising attorney I felt more assured about presenting my defense. I entered the negotiation room and explained the errors that I had discovered in the reports. The DA agreed that the errors were present but made an offer that was still unfavorable to my client. I looked to my supervising attorney for assurance and made one final protest. But this time when I spoke I became aware that I spoke much differently than the person who had entered the Criminal Defense Clinic in early August. As I spoke I realized that I was finally fighting the battle that my supervising attorney had encouraged me to fight earlier in the semester. Because of this fight the DA agreed to dismiss the charges which had the greatest impact on my client. Based upon this experience I now welcome the opportunity to speak up and advocate for my clients. I learned from this experience that you cannot be victorious unless you are willing to fight the battle."

Latoya Colley

"I remember meeting my first client. He was pretty cynical. At one point he said "I know how the system works. The prosecutor gets paid, you get paid, and here in jail I sit." (actually, I wasn't getting paid, but that is besides the point.) We ended up getting most of his charges dismissed, but not before he had spent a couple months in jail for what amounted to a Class 'C' misdemeanor. In the end, the "system" worked and his serious charges were dismissed. But the same "system" kept him in jail for months for something that a more

fortunate person would have simply written a check for and been done with on day one. I don't even want to think about what might have happened to him if he hadn't been appointed an attorney."

Steve Forsberg

"One thing I remember that was kinda funny – when we all got new appointments on a Thursday afternoon, and they all had status conferences the following Monday, and we called Lindy at the jail to make appointments to see our clients the next day. One person called her and then we passed the phone around the table, each hoping there would still be an appointment time left. Whoever ended up with the phone last was probably going to the jail on Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. to see their client."

Abigail Glisan

"I think my favorite case is the one that has had the greatest impact on my attitude towards criminal defendants. When we were handing out cases, Pat said "This guy is in the Aryan Brotherhood and has a rap sheet thicker than a phone book, so I can't give it to any of the girls or African-Americans. I can't give him to anyone small, because I don't want them to be physically intimidated. That leaves Steve and Aaron." Being 6'5" and 230lbs, I got this domestic assault case. The arrest report told a story of stark violence, but not marks or bruising, during an argument and a classic he said/she said. So I put on my best I-will-not-be-intimidated face and arranged a meeting with the 6'2" and 200lbs client. Unfortunately, the jail sheet did not show the swastika tattooed on his neck and I found myself staring a number of times throughout the first interview. As our case went along, two things I had not expected became readily apparent: 1) we might be able to win; and 2) I actually liked the guy.

The case isn't concluded, so I can't say if we will win or lose, but being a semi-conservative DA-wanna be, just the fact that I began to accept this arch-criminal with a Nazi tattoo on his neck spoke volumes about the change in my preconceived notions of criminal defendants.

Despite his many, many, many flaws, you really can't judge people based upon appearance. There is a whole other side human side to the criminal system that gives you insight into a person's fears, dreams, and character. In short, I learned that criminal defendants are people too."

Aaron Holt

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## 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 2009 Spring semester:

Nicholas Arrott, Meredith Brant, Jonathon Clark, Linda Clark, Cynthia Clements, Marguerite Gabriele, Tommy Chase Garrett, Mark Gleason, Elizabeth Henderson, Aaron Hendley, Rebekah Herrmann, Natalie Kersey, Frances Jean Moss, Carrie Nguyen, Sean Nottingham, Konstantin Parkhomenko, Sally Pitman, and David Thompson

**Congratulations to  
Mahon Professor of  
Law  
Susan Saab Fortney  
for being selected as a  
Paul Whitfield Horn  
Professor!**

## From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze

(continued from page 10)

"Last week one of my clients looked at me and said, 'Alright, I trust you so I'm gonna tell you something....' Even though I've told every client they can tell me anything because of confidentiality rules, it felt like something different when my client said this. I knew then that I had earned his trust."

Kathleen Nacozy

"I was definitely nervous about the whole situation. I did not know what to expect; especially in criminal defense. I knew that I was going to have to visit the jail, negotiate pleas with the prosecutors, answer to the judge, but I never knew that in 8 months I would have done so much growing. I learned a lot about myself through the process. I was going to be a prosecutor; perhaps a career prosecutor. I had already accepted the low pay and all that came with it, but in the clinic I learned that I was not going to accept

people not being listened to or given a fair shot. I tried my best to relate to my clients; I worked hard to make sure that my clients were receiving justice. I did not think I was doing anything special but I can't explain the feeling you get when you know you have helped someone and changed their lives. I have received a bouquet of chocolate covered strawberries, invitations to my client's home for dinner and even letters from other inmates wanting my help. All I know is that I want that feeling every day and I am now going into criminal defense. I am so glad that I could have been a part of such a great program."

Christine Schwartz

"Funny client memory – I conducted an initial client interview in jail on a Friday evening around 6:30 p.m. in preparation for a status conference the following

Monday morning. The client informed me that he plead guilty at his arraignment to a class A misdemeanor, which carries a punishment of up to a \$4000 fine, up to 1 year jail, or both. The client requested appointment of counsel at the arraignment as well. As such, the judge did not accept his plea and instead appointed counsel. At the time of the interview the client had been in jail for about 30 days. The client confirmed that he understood the purpose of an arraignment—solely to inform the defendant of the charges against him. Nevertheless, the client thought that he had "served his time" even without being found guilty of the crime and being sentenced. I guess he figured that 30 days was a reasonable amount of time in his opinion. Furthermore,



Pictured Standing (L to R): Aaron Holt, Professor Patrick Metze, Joseph Baker, Steve Forsberg  
Sitting (L to R): Lashonda Taylor, Kathleen Nacozy, Christine Schwartz, Latoya Colley, and Abigail Glisan

the client refused to sign the Consent to Student Representation that evening because he "needed to talk to some people because [he] didn't understand what I was supposed to do because he had already served his time." Mind you, it was 6:30 p.m. on a Friday evening and the client had a status conference the following Monday morning. Apparently, the client's cell mates and neighbors give better advice."

LaShonda Taylor

This report shows significant effort and professionalism by all members of the Clinic. I hope the experience was meaningful and a jump start to a successful law practice. Also, it is my sincere wish that each student remembers Texas Tech Law fondly with particular affection for their clinic experience. As I tell the students, its not about numbers, its about treating each client as a valuable individual, doing your very best for each client to represent them to the best of your ability, and to ethically seek justice for your client by holding the State to their burden. Preparation is the key. Good Job to all! Stay in touch.

## Recent Cases of Interest (continued)

**Innocence Project of Texas** - The latest exoneree released last week in Dallas County with the help of Innocence Project of Texas. James Woodard served 27 yrs for a crime he did not commit. 60 minutes did a special featuring the Innocence Project of Texas (IPOT) and Dallas County on Sunday, May 4th. Mr. Woodard is the innocent man who has served the most time in this country. His case was investigated by IPOT volunteer law student Alexis Hoff, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, and IPOT attorneys Michelle Moore and Jeff Blackburn.

For more information about this segment, please visit <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/05/02/60minutes/main4065454.shtml>

"I cannot thank you enough for taking on this unusual and challenging case, and for all your effort. Counsel for the Client Security Fund was very complimentary of you also. I would also like to personally thank whoever at the clinic was responsible for agreeing to represent the client on this issue. I doubt he would have been successful on his own."

The Assistant Disciplinary Counsel for the State Bar of Texas



## RECENT CASES OF INTEREST

**Deena Reynolds** was able to accomplish the amendment of a birth certificate for her client's 12 year old child, whose birth certificate at birth did not list a first name nor take the name of the child's father, whom she had married in Mexico but was living in the United States undocumented. Since shortly after the child's birth, she had attempted to get the birth certificate amended through the assistance of two other individuals without success.



Obtaining the necessary documentation to accomplish the amendment of the birth certificate was complicated by the necessity of obtaining an acknowledgement of paternity executed in the United States which would be difficult for the father who was not a citizen of the United States and could not enter legally. As an alternative, an apostille for the marriage license issued in Mexico could be provided to establish the authenticity of their marriage and the presumption of paternity which was done.

**Deena Reynolds** received a fully favorable decision after a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge on the disability claim of a 51 year old individual having a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education with diagnoses of morbid obesity; osteoarthritis of the back and right knee; diabetes; hypertension; and dysthymia. The ALJ found the claimant disabled retroactive to August 28, 2006. She received a back award of \$7,866 and monthly benefits of \$4241

**Sarah Gardner-Cox** received a fully favorable decision after a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge on the disability claim of a 49 year old individual with a high school education who was diagnosed with toxic optic neuropathy with visual impairment secondary to alcohol abuse. Based on medical evidence established through his treating physician, the ALJ concluded that the claimant was disabled retroactive to July 1, 2006.



**Julie Bohrer** received a favorable decision after a hearing before an administrative law judge for her 21 year old client who had initially been determined disabled and eligible for SSI benefits at age 8 with a diagnosis of mild mental

retardation, pervasive developmental delay and disruptive behavior disorder. When the client turned 18, a continuing disability review was conducted and he was determined no longer disabled and that determination was appealed. Principally by obtaining additional medical evidence, including an assessment by his treating psychiatrist, testimony from a vocational counselor and evidence of failed work attempts, Julie was able to persuade the ALJ that the client was unable to engage in any substantial gainful work activity as result of pervasive developmental delays, depression and schizoaffective disorder and remained disabled.



**Jonathan Stovall** represented a client on a warranty claim involving the purchase of a used motorcycle and was able to obtain a favorable settlement of the case before filing suit.

**Emily Cook** represented a client whose claim had been denied by the Client Security Fund of the State Bar of Texas involving a refund of fees paid to an attorney who had failed to effect service of an employment law claim resulting in a dismissal of the claim which was then barred by the Statute of Limitations. The client had made a request of the Client Security Fund without the assistance of an attorney and only contacted the Clinic after his claim had been denied. The client's attorney had been ordered by the Disciplinary Board to repay the client the fees paid as a retainer and, when he failed to do so, was disbarred. The initial decision of the Client Security Fund denying payment was based on the rationale that the attorney had earned at least a portion of the fee that he had been paid. In a detailed thorough request for reconsideration analyzing the criteria for a reimbursable loss under the criteria established for the Client Security Fund, we argued that if the retainer was viewed as an advancement of fees, the attorney did not perform even a minimal amount of work that would justify his retaining any portion of the funds received since, by failing to effectuate service on the defendant, any services that the lawyer performed were wholly ineffective. **The Client Security Fund reversed their initial decision and awarded him \$1,350 (The \$1,500 retainer minus the \$150 filing fee).**

(continued on page 13)



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Gabriel Meyrat** (Civil Clinic 2006-2007) is a staff attorney at the LANWT office in Plainview.

**Carrie Mills** (Civil Clinic 2006-2007) is an Assistant District Attorney in Smith County (Tyler).

**Holly Haseloff** (Tax Clinic—Spring 2005) is an Associate Attorney with Craig, Terrill, Hale & Grantham in Lubbock.

**Brent T. Sykora** (Tax Clinic—Spring 2004) is an Associate Attorney with The Gilbreath Law Firm, PLLC in San Antonio.

**Greta Cantwell** (Tax Clinic—Fall 2003) is currently working as an Enforcement Attorney for the Texas State Securities Board in the San Antonio Branch Office

**Mogey Lovelle** (Civil Clinic—Fall 2003) is the Assistant Director of the Houston Branch Office for the Texas State Securities Board.

**Maria Abercrombie** (Tax Clinic—Summer 2003) is an Executive Director at Certified IRS Solutions, LLC, The Woodlands, Texas.

**Eric A. Navarrette** (Civil Clinic—2006-2007) is with Mullin Hoard & Brown, L.L.P. in Lubbock. He practices family law and civil litigation.

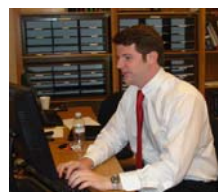
## RECENT CASES OF INTEREST

(continued from page 12)

**Sherri Colson** filed an appeal to the Appeals Council from a partially favorable decision issued in a social security disability case after a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge she conducted during the fall semester. Although the ALJ found the client was disabled as a result of obsessive-compulsive disorder, severe major depression, dependent personality, panic attacks, and difficulties with confusion, concentration and memory, we are appealing the onset date of her disability which affects her entitlement to Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits. A brief has been submitted to the Appeals Council and we are awaiting a decision.

**Sherri Colson** represents an elderly couple who contracted with an unlicensed individual to re-roof their house based on false and deceptive representations and who performed the work in a substandard manner resulting in water damage and the need for a new roof. A demand has been made under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act against the individual and, absent a settlement, suit will be filed on their behalf.

**Preston Mundt** represented a 45 year old woman with Hepatitis C, depression and a lateral meniscal tear in the right knee on a disability claim before an Administrative Law Judge in February. A decision in her case is still pending.



## A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS:

*"My clinic experience this year was very valuable. I learned how to interview clients to get the full picture, even when they are not aware that something is important information. I have also learned a little about what it is like to deal with the IRS' bureaucracy. Sine I want to practice tax law, I expect that my new understanding will be very helpful. Overall, the Clinic was an amazing experience."*



**Kerri Lawton**  
Tax Clinic Student

*"My most memorable experience was trying my first case. It was great to be back in a practical, rather than academic environment and apply many of the things I have learned in law school. Each trial I have done has been fun and challenging and taught me something about myself."*

**Aimee Bateman**  
CJC - Prosecution

*"My most memorable experience in the prosecution clinic was my first trial. It was a disorderly conduct against two roommates, the cases were consolidated because they involved all the same evidence, for having a loud party. I felt nervous, a little unsure of what I was doing, and kind of bad for prosecuting someone for something I have probably done. But, once I got in there, got through the formalities of reading the complaint and opening, and began asking questions I really started to get the hang of*

*it and really started enjoying it. It was actually kind of fun and that is something I never thought I would say about speaking in public. I thought, for the first time, I can actually do this. Plus, I won!! So, it was a good ending to a very important day in my life—my very first trial ever."*

**Sheena Molsbee**  
CJC - Prosecution

*"During the closing argument of my first jury trial I felt a strong connection with the jurors. Each person listened - some even nodded in agreement - as I reviewed favorable evidence. I felt comfortable. My nervousness had dissipated, replaced by a feeling of being in a conversation with the men and women in front of me. I achieved my primary goal for the prosecution clinic: to see how jurors would react to me. They liked me."*

**Tamara Baggett**  
CJC - Prosecution

*"My clinic experience served to reinforce my belief in giving back when possible. The clinic also allowed us to confront issues of professionalism in the process of helping others. This, I believe will make us better lawyers. When someone comes in and depends on you, you cannot help but feel the responsibility to do a good job ..... IN all, I enjoyed my clinic experience. I feel that is both gave me the confidence necessary to come out of law school knowing that I will do a good job and it also helped me to understand that I can make a difference in people's life."*



**Kyle Kovel**  
Tax Clinic Student

## ELMA MORENO SELECTED AS RECIPIENT OF 2008 HISPANIC INSPIRADORA AWARD



The Hispanic Association of Women (HAW) provide business and community members the opportunity to nominate outstanding women in the community. Categories for nominations include Education, Medical, Legal, Civil/Church, Media/Public relations, Business/Professional, and Youth. Elma was nominated by Christy Martinez-Garcia (pictured above) for the legal category. Banquet was held on April 10th at Lubbock Christian University



Pictured above (L to R): Esther Pena (Hispana of the Year Committee Member), Elma Moreno, and Daniel Sanchez (President of TTU/TTUHSC Latino(a)/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association

## A WORD FROM OUR CLIENTS:

*"Rob was great to work with. He explained everything to me and made sure I understood. He will be an asset to any firm."*

Civil Practice Clinic Client  
Ross Section

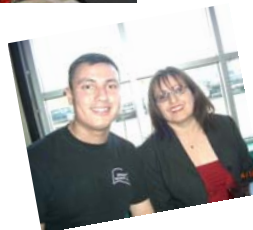
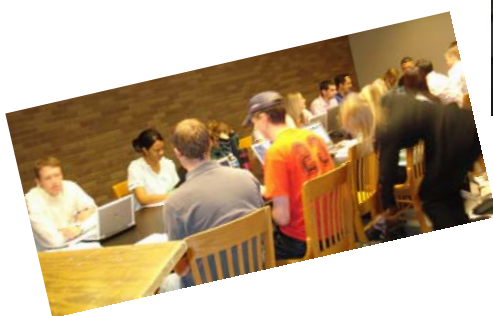
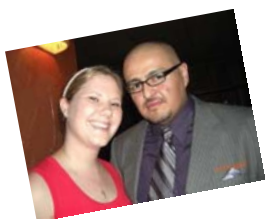
*"Laura was great. I enjoyed working with her. She will be an excellent lawyer one day!"*

Civil Practice Clinic Client - Ross Section

*"Dearest Rob,  
Thank you so much for all you did for me and the time you spent. You were very professional and you represented me wonderfully. Good luck in the future and thank you so much!"*

Sincerely,  
Civil Practice Clinic - Ross Section

## Snapshot Corner





# CONGRATULATIONS MAY GRADUATES!

## GOOD LUCK WITH THE BAR EXAM!

### CLINIC FACULTY AND STAFF

#### Clinic Directors:

Larry R. Spain  
Civil Practice Clinic  
ADR Clinic

Marilyn E. Phelan  
Tax Clinic

Wendy Tolson Ross  
Civil Practice Clinic

Glenn Roque-Jackson  
Criminal Justice  
Prosecution Clinic

Patrick S. Metze  
Criminal Justice Defense  
Clinic

Susan Fortney  
Health Care & Bioethics  
Mediation Clinic

Jeff Blackburn  
Innocence Project of Texas

#### Co-Directors:

Gene Valentini  
Health Care & Bioethics  
Mediation Clinic and ADR  
Clinic

Natalie Roetzel  
Innocence Project of Texas

#### Staff:

Elma Moreno  
Office Manager/Legal  
Assistant

Samirah Abdalah  
Receptionist/Legal  
Secretary

Janie Gonzales  
LITC Community  
Outreach Coordinator



Standing (L to R): Samirah Abdalah, Professor Glenn Roque-Jackson, Adjunct Gene Valentini, Professor Larry Spain, and Elma Moreno. Sitting (L to R): Professor Wendy Ross, Professor Marilyn Phelan, Professor Susan Fortney, and Janie Gonzales.  
Pictured below: Adjunct Jeff Blackburn, Associate Natalie Roetzel, and Professor Patrick Metze



### CLINIC NEWS

Spring 2008 Edition

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