



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
School of Law™



FALL 2015

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CLINIC NEWS

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

CLINICAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR OF CIVIL PRACTICE CLINIC AND CLINIC STUDENTS HONORED FOR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

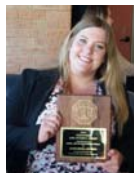


Texas Tech School of Law Professor and Director of Clinical Programs, **Larry Spain**, was nominated and approved as the new **Alvin R. Allison Professor of Law**. The appointment became effective September 1, 2015.

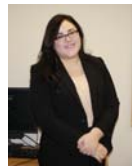
Professor Spain was well qualified and deserving of the Alvin R. Allison Professorship of Law for his dedication and commitment to Texas Tech School of Law, the legal profession, and for his abundance of support and commitment to public service. The appointment was a result of a recommendation of the Law School Foundation Board, and the approval of the TTU Provost and TTU President.

Congratulations Alvin R. Allison Professor of Law **Larry Spain**!

Congratulations to **Alexandra Morris** (Civil Practice Clinic) who was recognized by Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas during its 28th Annual Pro Bono Awards program as the **2015 Pro Bono Student Volunteer** for her commitment and dedication.



Congratulations to **Stephanie Ibarra** (CRPDO) for being recognized by the Texas Access to Justice Commission with the **2015 Law Student Pro Bono Award**.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW HOSTS 10TH ANNUAL FACULTY UPDATE CLE PROGRAM AND 2ND ANNUAL TEXAS TECH LAW LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CLE

In addition to their other *pro bono* and public service activities, the following members of the Law School faculty presented at the 10th Annual Texas Tech Law School Faculty Update for Legal Services Attorneys, Public Interest Practitioners & Pro Bono Attorneys which this year was combined with the 2nd Annual Texas Tech Law Library Technology CLE and held October 22-23, 2015, appropriately scheduled the week before National Pro Bono Week: Dean **Darby Dickerson**; Professors **Dustin Benham**, **Jarod Gonzalez**, and **Larry Spain**; Clinic Faculty **Terri Morgeson** and **Donnie Yandell**; Law Library Faculty **Jamie Baker**, **Marin Dell**, and **Joshua Pluta**; and Austin attorney, **Craig Ball**.



without cost in a faculty member's area of expertise. The program was provided live in Lubbock with 53 attorneys registered while approximately 24 individuals viewed the program by live webcast.

Topics this year included: *Mobile Devices and Attorney Ethics*, *Cross-Examination Tactics for Public Interest Attorneys*, *Hot Topics in Legal Ethics*, *Current Issues in Law Practice Technology*, *Social Media and Legal Ethics*, *Using Technology to Make Your Office More Efficient*, *Bitcoin & You: A Lawyer's Guide to Cryptocurrency*, *Ethics and Email*, *eDiscovery & Computer Forensics*, *Texas Employment Law Update*, and *Family law Legislative Update*.

This annual CLE program provides training for public interest practitioners and *pro bono* attorneys

Thanks to everyone who helped organize and who presented at the CLE. Job well done!



FROM THE DESK OF LARRY SPAIN - DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL PROGRAMS AND CIVIL PRACTICE CLINIC

During the fall semester, eight students were enrolled in the Civil Practice Clinic: **Fernando Candil**, **Andrew Cavazos**, **Alex Hyde**, **McKenzie Jordan**, **Anna Kincaid**, **Alex Morris**, **Melanie Rozbicki**, and **Sonya Subash**. In addition to directing the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, **Terri Morgeson** has worked closely with each of the students, available to students for questions and individual assistance, supervised them on individual cases, and accompanied them during court appearances.

Over the course of the semester, a total of 34 new client cases were undertaken, 8 cases were completed and closed and 36 cases remain open and will be carried over to the spring semester. Each of the students, in addition to being exposed

to a variety of legal problems through the evening *Pro Bono* Clinics, participated in the *Night Court Divorce Project*, a program offered in collaboration with the Lubbock County Courts to provide representation to low-income individuals in simple divorces with hearings held before Judge Judy Parker in the evening at the Law School.

Each of the students has been kept busy carrying an individual caseload of 3-4 clients at all times throughout the semester and assumed primary responsibility for representing clients in matters involving family law, disability claims, wills and other estate planning, consumer disputes, and other civil matters.



Teaches Civil Practice Clinic, Family Law, Professional Responsibility, and Advanced ADR Clinic.

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

In addition to law teaching and legal practice, he has also been active in the field of alternative dispute resolution, serving as Chair of the Governing Board of a university-affiliated community dispute resolution center as well as being a frequent trainer and practitioner in mediation skills. He currently serves on the Advisory Board for the Office of Dispute Resolution for Lubbock County.



Back Row (L to R):
Professor Spain, Alex Hyde,
Andrew Cavazos,
Melanie Rozbicki, and Sonya
Subash

Front Row (L to R): Anna
Kincaid, McKenzie Jordan,
Alex Morris, and
Fernando Candil

The civil practice clinic has been a challenge and a great experience, from learning to serve process in Mexico to handling a divorce for the first time. I am very happy that I got to get this experience at school.

Fernando Candil
Civil Practice Clinic

FROM THE DESK OF WENDY TOLSON ROSS - DIRECTOR, FAMILY LAW AND HOUSING CLINIC

This has been a very busy semester for the Family Law and Housing Clinic. We have had a lot of interesting cases both in the family law and housing areas.

Clinic Fellow, Dwight McDonald, and myself supervised 7 students in this clinic: **Michael Ada, Jaime Hernandez, Joseph McNulty, Stacey Riker, Alexis Sein, Jarrett Stone, and Marissa Young.** These students have worked very hard and have participated in a variety of family cases involving divorce, custody, and adoption. Students have represented clients in Temporary Orders hearings, mediation, and in final divorce hearings. We were able to start two adoption cases. In one of these adoption cases, we were actually able to finish the termination portion of the adoption so that all that remains is the final adoption. In one of the divorce cases we had, the student was able to participate in propounding discovery to the opposing side. We were eventually able to reach a settlement in this very tumultuous and hotly

contested divorce case. In another family law case, we are representing a father in a paternity suit to try to set aside a paternity finding where it was later discovered that he was not the biological father.

We also had a very complex title dispute case involving the purchase of a house. We represented the client at the Justice of the Peace Court and was able to successfully prevail at the Justice of the Peace Court. This case was subsequently appealed by the opposing party and is now pending in both the County Court at Law and District Court courts. The Case involves a claim for title of property and fraud. In litigating the dispute, the students participated in a deposition where the opposing parties were deposed.

I want to thank the students for all their hard work and dedication to the clients.



Teaches Family Law and Housing Clinic, Negotiations, and Race and Racism.

Prior to joining Tech Law at the beginning of the 2005 summer sessions, Professor Ross was a Clinical Instructor of Law at St. Mary's University School of Law. She served as a Clinical Instructor from 1999 thru 2005. She was also Acting Associate Director for the Office of Academic Excellence. Professor Ross joined the faculty in the fall of 2005 to teach a section of the Civil Practice Clinic and to teach negotiations. She earned her B.A. from Texas Tech University and her law degree from University of Missouri - Columbia Law School. In addition to teaching the Family Law and Housing Clinic, Professor Ross also teaches Race and Racism, Negotiations Workshop, and Marital Property.

Professor Ross has also served on various community organizations throughout the years.

"The Family Law and Housing Clinic has provided me with invaluable experience as a student attorney and has been the most rewarding part of law school. I have had a great support system to help me find my own professional identity. I know that this experience will place me at an advantage after I leave law school."

Stacy Riker
Family Law/Housing Clinic



Back Row (L to R):
Clinical Fellow Dwight
McDonald, Michael
Ada, Jarrett Stone, and
Joe McNulty

Front Row (L to R):
Stacy Riker, Marissa
Young, Alexis Sein,
Jaime Hernandez, and
Professor Ross

FROM THE DESK OF PATRICK S. METZE DIRECTOR, CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

Just a short note to let everyone know the students in the Criminal Defense Clinic are, as always, busy representing real people in real cases in real time. Since the beginning of this semester, through November 23rd, students have handled or are handling 97 cases for 53 different clients. Students handle all phases of representation from initial interview through appearance in Court. The responsibility of representation falls entirely on the clinic students shoulders under the ever watchful eyes of the Clinic Director and Clinic Fellow, Dwight McDonald.

This semester, to date, of those 97 cases, 15 have been completed with 6 pleas of guilty and 9 dismissals - for a 60% dismissal rate. These 97 cases represent 63 misdemeanors, 2 juveniles and 32 felony charges - a very ambitious docket.

Representing clients in the Magistrate Court, two Lubbock County Courts at Law, and in all three criminal District Courts of Lubbock County are:

Trevor Brown, Jessica Eaton, Jim Goff, Sonya Herrera, Samantha Jarvis, Matt Loving, William Ott and Tara Parker.

Please congratulate them all for their hard work. Space does not allow an individual account of all they have accomplished in 3 months. Suffice it to say, these students are practicing law at the highest level for the benefit of their clients every day. They

are learning the real life lessons of the practice of law and putting their education to great use.

All students are members of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Networking with criminal defense lawyers is just one advantage of membership in these organizations. In October, the students travelled to Dallas to attend a two day seminar on forensics, compliments of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Court of Criminal Appeals. Also, the students will attend the 36th Annual Prairie Dog Lawyer Advanced Criminal Law Seminar in January—all free of charge.



During the course of each semester each student will spend a minimum of 200 hours representing their clients in addition to a two hour seminar support course held once a week. This equates to a total time investment during each semester of a minimum of 1400 hours of pro bono representation for the clinic

clients. The Criminal Defense Clinic is proud to represent the indigent citizens of the South Plains by court appointment only and plays its part in the Law School's commitment to providing quality, ethical representation to the poor while educating each student of the importance of such work.



Patrick Metz became a full-time faculty member teaching and directing the Criminal Defense Clinic in 2008. Pat is an experienced criminal defense practitioner in Lubbock who is a Past President and Director of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and former Board member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He is enthusiastic about continuing the development of our Criminal Defense Clinic and providing a quality experiential program for our students.

He received a Bachelor of Arts from Texas Tech University and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from The University of Houston. He was admitted to practice in the State of Texas on April 29, 1974, celebrating this year 42 years in the practice of law. Prior to joining the faculty, he was one of only 14 attorneys qualified for appointment as first chair in Capital Murder cases in the 45 counties of the 9th Administrative Judicial Region and the only attorney in Lubbock who was qualified and solicited appointments to indigent clients for misdemeanors, juveniles, felonies, death penalty cases, and appeals in all courts.



Back Row (L to R): Jim Goff, Trevor Brown, William Ott, and Matt Loving

Front Row (L to R): Clinical Fellow Dwight McDonald, Sonya Herrera, Jessica Eaton, Tara Parker, Samantha Jarvis, and Professor Metz

FROM THE DESK OF DONNIE YANDELL

CAPROCK REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

The 2015 Fall Semester is complete and this year the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic has eight student attorneys: **Wesley Gould, Michael Bates, Stephanie Ibarra, Patrick Overman, Nolan McConville, Stephen Chapa, Sydne Collier** and **Ron Miller**. The student attorneys were assigned 68 cases. Wesley Gould and Michael Bates were in the first ever CRPDO summer clinic and will be finishing clinic at the end of this semester.

The students represented clients at all levels including an appeal that was drafted by Wesley Gould and Michael Bates this summer and is currently pending a ruling by the Eastland Court of Appeals. In addition to the appeal, Caprock Regional Public Defender student attorneys have handled several misdemeanors, nine felonies and one juvenile felony.

Offenses the students have handled include Domestic Assault, DWI, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Deadly Conduct, Possession of Marijuana, Criminal Trespass, Terroristic Threat, Theft, Abandoning or Endangering a Child, Criminal Mischief, False Report to a Peace Officer,

Indecency with a Child, Burglary of a Habitation, Resisting Arrest, Interference with an Emergency Telephone Call and Failure to Identify.

The students have worked very hard on these cases with great results for our clients. It cannot be said often enough how hard they work and how appreciative our clients are for their help.

Currently, as this semester ends, we have at least two cases we anticipate will go to trial next semester and we are hoping to have a favorable ruling on our appeal in Eastland soon, which would probably require another trial on the matter.

In closing, I would like to say that the first year of summer clinic went well. Wesley and Michael's help was invaluable to a successful summer term as well as their help with orienting the rest of the group in the August. Their experience and perspective will be greatly missed next semester. Good luck on the bar exam Wesley and stop in and see us every once in a while Michael! I hope you all have a great holiday break.



Donnie Yandell is currently the Chief Public Defender for the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office and teaches Law Practice Technology during the Fall semester.

Donnie attended Texas Tech University School of Law and graduated in December of 2001. Donnie was licensed in May of 2002 and immediately opened a private solo practice. He was in private practice until November of 2010 when he accepted the position of Chief Public Defender for the CRPDO.

Over the years, his practice focused more and more on criminal defense. He also handled family law, wills, probate and a few personal injury cases. He is licensed in federal court and has represented individuals in both civil and criminal cases therein. He has also represented individuals on appeal in the 7th Court of Appeals in Amarillo, the 11th Court of Appeals in Eastland and the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Donnie has tried several major felonies in state court. He is a member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association and the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association.



Back Row (L to R):
Professor Metze,
Steven Chapa,
Patrick Overman,
Ron Miller, Nolan
McConville, and
Donnie Yandell

Front Row (L to R):
Dwight McDonald,
Wesley Gould,
Michael Bates,
Stephanie Ibarra,
Sydne Collier, and
Irma Shepler

FROM THE DESK OF TERRI M. MORGESON — DIRECTOR, LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

As I begin my second year as the Director of the Low Income Tax Clinic, I am astonished by the caliber of work my students continue to provide low-income taxpayers of the Northern Texas and New Mexico. We are currently representing 41 taxpayers who owe over 596,000 to the IRS. The most common tax problem, we continue to deal with are our independent contractors who do not understand how to file a schedule C or save for quarterly tax payments. We have seen a decline in identity theft and people wrongfully claiming earned income credit.

This year, the tax clinic was astonishingly successful with US Tax Court cases. Since the United States Tax Court comes to Lubbock every September, IRS general counsel starts negotiating settlement as the spring semester ends. The tax clinic had 13 cases pending with the Tax Court when 2015 Spring Semester ended. We were able to successfully resolve 12 of these cases with \$0.00 liability for our clients. We saved our client over \$60,000 in tax liability. This is a dismissal rate of 93% for the tax clinic. The one case, which resulted in tax assessment, we agreed to the assessment of the tax from the beginning of the case. Nevertheless, we were successful in having all penalties waived reducing the total amount owed by the taxpayer. So even when we lose, the taxpayer wins.

One particular client illustrates the hard work of the tax clinical students. We had a grandmother who lives off \$650.00 per month, which she earns by working as a homecare provider. Her stepdaughter was pregnant and homeless so our client took her into her home and provided for her until she graduated high school. Our client tried to claim the step-granddaughter as a qualifying child but the IRS denied her claim. The tax clinic was able to successfully establish a common-law marriage between the teenager's mother and taxpayer's son. Eddie Montemayor did exceptional work on this case. He argued unsuccessfully with appeals for several months. He was able to show the case, the Appeals officer was relying, misinterpreted Texas Family Law and had no precedential value. Luckily, for the taxpayer, IRS general counsel agreed. This case was one of the last to settle with general counsel but ultimately we saved this grandmother approximately \$4000.00.

Lastly, I am happy to announce all the 2014-2015 tax clinical students passed the Texas Bar Exam. This is a great accomplishment for the clinic and most importantly for these hardworking students.



Terri Morgeson began her work with the Clinical Programs in the fall of 2007 as a full-time Clinical Fellow for the Civil Clinic, Family Law Clinic and Criminal Defense Clinics. She continued in this position while occasionally teaching a couple of upper level skills classes, negotiations and interviewing and counseling courses.

Terri graduated from Lubbock Christian University in 1994 and received her J.D. from Texas Tech in 2003. Before becoming an instructor at Texas Tech, Terri had a private practice here in Lubbock. She is currently a committee member for State Bar of Texas, Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters.

Additionally, Terri was a founding member of the Lubbock Private Defender's Office.

In May of 2014, Terri Morgeson agreed to accept the responsibilities and duties as Director of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic in addition to continuing as Clinical Fellow for the Civil Practice Clinic. Although the learning curve has been steep, she is enjoying the challenge and continuing the tireless work of her predecessors.



Back Row (L to R):
Chase Barnhill,
Shahzeb Atta, Clinic
Director Terri
Morgeson, Joseph
Austin, Carlos
Armendariz, and
Community Outreach
Coordinator Nancy
Mojica

Front Row (L to R):
Melissa Arano, Abbey
Cohen, Spencer Peeler,
Macy Cotton, and Jeri
Leigh McDowell

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

by Nancy Mojica, Community Outreach Coordinator



Once the 2015 Spring Semester was over and our tax clinic law students headed out for the summer break, the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic continued to provide assistance to eligible taxpayers in our service area.

Again, I had the pleasure of assisting these taxpayers with the initial contact throughout the summer and into the fall semester. The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic Director did an awesome job assisting these individuals with their income tax related issues during the summer months. But once the fall semester was in full swing the tax clinic law students were ready to take on cases and assist taxpayers with their tax related issues.

I participated as a vendor at the "Walk Like MADD" and Resource Fair on September 28, 2015.

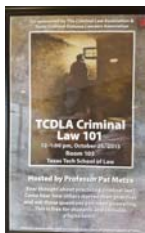


The event was held at the Lubbock County Courthouse lawn and hosted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for the West Texas area. It was a joy visiting with over 180 participants and their families and lots of their furred friends.

I will continue to get involved with any health or resource fairs available throughout our service area that will allow us to participate as vendors and promote our resources as well as continue with direct and in-direct outreach to all the counties within our service area of Texas and Eastern New Mexico. I will also be working on setting up a workshop during the annual *Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day* to help kick off the tax season and ensure that millions of low to moderate income workers get the credit they deserve and get it right.



FORMER TECH ALUMNI SPEAK AT TCDLA CRIMINAL LAW 101



Two Tech Alumni and former students in the Criminal Defense Clinic addressed a group of students on October 26th during the TCDLA Criminal Law 101 seminar. The seminar was co-sponsored by the Criminal Law Association and Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and hosted by Criminal Defense Clinic Director, Patrick Metzger.



Adam Alvarez ('11) and Megan Wells Harkins ('11) shared their experiences in working with law firms and

starting their own practices. Seminar was very well attended.

Adam's primary practice is in Austin, Texas. His areas of practice include criminal law, family law, immigration law, juvenile law, personal injury litigation, and wills/trusts/probate law. Megan's primary practice is in



Pleasanton, Texas. Her areas of practice include criminal law, family law, and wills/trusts/probate law.



WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS:

I have had an amazing time getting to work on real issues where I get to apply some of the things I have learned in law school. When you throw in the fact that I get to help a portion of the population that is vastly underrepresented, I cannot think of a better way to earn credit in school!

Chase Barnhill
Tax Clinic

Clinic has given me the confidence to actually enter the legal world. Prior to this experience, I worried about how I would react to unknown situations. Now, I know that I have the skills necessary to tackle any new situation that arises in my practice.

Jeri Leigh McDowell
Tax Clinic



The tax clinic gave me the opportunity of working on real cases from to start to finish. I was able to learn real world skills I otherwise wouldn't have been able to prior to going out into practice. It has been very rewarding to help others who wouldn't otherwise be able to afford legal representation find solutions to their difficult situations.

Melissa Arano
Tax Clinic

THANKS TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS SUPPORTING PRO BONO

Thanks to the following faculty who assisted at *Pro Bono* Clinics held in conjunction with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas during the fall semester:

Associate Dean Arturo Torres (3 clinics), **Professors Dustin Benham** (1 clinic), **Wesley Cochran** (1 clinic), **Cassie Christopher** (2 clinics), **Sally Henry** (1 clinic), **Patrick Metze** (1 clinic), **Larry Spain** (6 clinics), **Kristen van de Biezenbos** (1 clinic) and **Denette Vaughn** (3 clinics); **Law Library Faculty Jamie Baker** (1 clinic), **Marin Dell** (1 clinic); and **Meryl Benham, Associate Director for Pro Bono Projects** (1 clinic) and **Dwight McDonald, Clinic Fellow** (2 clinics).

The Law School faculty co-sponsored two *Pro Bono* Clinics held at St. John's United Methodist Church and a *Pro Bono* Clinic held at Mae Simmons Community Center during the month of September as well as assisting with three *Pro Bono* Clinics during the fall semester that various law students participated in that were coordinated by **Meryl Benham**,



Associate Director for *Pro Bono* Projects. In addition, all students in the Civil Practice Clinic and Family and Housing Clinic participate in the *Pro Bono* Clinics as part of their clinical work. In addition, the following law students assisted at the *Pro Bono* Clinics during the fall semester:

Rasha Abu-Zeyadeh, Carlos Armendariz, Jasmine Banks, Candice Barnard, Lee Baron, Marla Bratcher, Hailey Burroughs, Lucilla Clarke, Mike Cole, Miriam Cruz, Jared Daugherty, Josh Daws, Ashley Ellis, Amber Fly, Kate Foley, Joshua Ford, Triana Gonzalez, Jennifer Hartman, Spencer Peeler, Konrad Prus, Chloe Reyes, Christian Robertson, Shanae Salter, Aqsa Siddiqui, Matt Sims, Ross Smith, Erin Van Pelt, Amme Verbarendse, Mary Whittington, Alexandra Willen, and Libby Wise.

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

RECENT CASES OF INTEREST Civil Practice Clinic

After a hearing before an administrative law judge in early May, a 32 year old woman diagnosed with narcolepsy, fragmented sleep, seizures, depression, and anxiety disorder received a fully favorable decision entitling her to disability benefits retroactive to April, 2013. **Melissa Tran ('15)** had represented the client from the start and prepared the case for hearing, gathering crucial evidence from previous employers that the claimant was not able to work on a continuous and sustained basis without significant accommodations.

Melanie Rozbicki and **McKenzie Jordan** represented a client at a Temporary Orders hearing in a divorce after her husband left her following a 38 year marriage with limited income. After hearing, the Court awarded her the temporary use of the marital home with the husband to pay the mortgage and utilities along

with \$700 /month in temporary spousal maintenance.

Andrew Cavazos represented a 48 year old client before an administrative law judge who had previously been found disabled as a result of an industrial accident resulting in a below the knee amputation of her left leg. She was subsequently determined to have had medical improvement in her condition and a determination made that she was no longer disabled. In the appeal, the issue was whether the pain and neuropathy that she continues to experience and inability to use her prosthesis on a regular basis coupled with severe depression and post-traumatic stress disorder precludes her from any gainful work activity.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Amber Beard (Criminal Defense Clinic 2014-2015) is an Assistant District Attorney with the Denton County District Attorney's Office.

Megan Metsgar (Criminal Defense Clinic 2014-2015) is working at the Law Office of Mark Snodgrass and practicing mostly criminal defense, juvenile law, and CPS work.

Daisy Chaparro (Civil Practice Clinic 2014-2015) is working at Scherr & Legate, PLLC in El Paso, Texas. They are a civil litigation firm (personal injury/employment law). Website is www.scherrlegate.com.

Daisy states: "I started working in September and I have been learning so very much since then! I am very grateful for my clinic experience and I always say that at least one semester of clinic should be mandatory for ALL graduating law students. It gives you a great introduction into the practice of law and it allows you to learn and grow, while being mentored and supervised."

Ashley Tseung (Civil Practice Clinic 2014-2015) is working for the Whittenburg Law Firm in Dallas, Texas. The law firm specializes in immigration law.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY— COALITION SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR UPCOMING TAX SEASON



As a member of the Board of Directors of the *Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers* I am always seeing volunteers prior to the holiday break to assist with the tax season around the corner. As a joint effort,

Katherine Koll (ABA Law Student Division VITA Chair, 13th District). Stephanie Ibarra (ABA Law Student Division Lieutenant Governor of Public Interest/Pro Bono for 13th Circuit), and TTU School of Law Associate Director for Pro Bono Projects, Meryl Benham, partnered with me to promote and recruit law students. An information session was held on October 29th and was very well attended. As a result of the meeting and in addition to the tax clinic students who have assisted for several years, a total of 44 students have completed volunteer commitment forms! The LITC Clinic Director, Terri Morgeson, the LITC Community Outreach Coordinator, Nancy Mojica, and myself are also committed to volunteering during the tax filing season.

It's not too late to sign up to volunteer! The *Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers* asks that you consider volunteering your time and talents to prepare and e-file income tax returns FREE for low income taxpayers in our community. Tech Law students have played an important role in the community by serving as volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for

many years. Last year our volunteers enabled more than 2,900 taxpayers to save approximately \$450,000 in unnecessary tax prep and rapid refund loan fees, while bringing more than \$3.9 million in refunds into the local economy.

Volunteers prepare basic individual income tax returns on an easy-to-use computer software program and enjoy protections under state and federal Volunteer Protection Acts.

While volunteer Tax Preparers may choose to train and test at two different levels (Basic and Advanced), they are **only required to train and test at the Basic Level**. Training and testing must be done on-line.



This is a great opportunity for students to gain valuable experience that will look good on a resume while also giving back to the community.

CCAV also hosts a volunteer luncheon after tax filing season

at which time law students and other volunteers are recognized for their participation in the VITA.

We hope you'll choose to participate with us during the upcoming tax season which runs from January 19th thru April 18th by volunteering 2-4 hours of your time per week. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me at elma.moreno@ttu.edu if you have any questions or if you would like to pick up a packet before you leave for the holiday season.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW!

Frank Urbanic (CRPDO 2014-2015) took and passed the bar in Oklahoma and is in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, focusing on Criminal Defense.

Kimberly Nhim (Criminal Defense Clinic 2014-2015) is working at Sikes & Rachel, P.C., in Cleburne, Texas, as an Associate Attorney. The law firm specializes in civil litigation, family, and oil and gas. Kimberly states "Once I get my CLE credits, I'll be getting on the court appointed list for criminal cases so I haven't completely sold out!"

Chris Hill (Civil Practice Clinic-Fall 2014) is practicing eminent domain law at Ross Molina Oliveros, P.C. in San Antonio, Texas. Chris states "I look forward to getting involved in some of the local pro bono clinics when possible. I feel more confident to get involved thanks to my time spent working with the TTU School of Law Clinical Programs".

Danielle Saavedra (Family Law/Housing Practice 2014-2015) accepted a position as Associate Director for Student Life with TTU School of Law.

For more information on becoming a volunteer for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, please visit: www.freetaxprep4u.org, call (806) 765-0725 or email Elma Moreno at elma.moreno@ttu.edu



WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

Clinic was the best part of my law school experience. Without a doubt, the lessons learned and the experience gained were well worth all of the time and effort put in.

Sonya Herrera
Criminal Defense Clinic

Being a member of the Criminal Defense Clinic has provided me with the most real world first-hand learning experience that Texas Tech School of Law could offer. Having our own clients to represent and fight for, yet also having close guidance by some of the best supervisors possible has made for countless immeasurable moments in my law school career.

Jessica Eaton
Criminal Defense Clinic



The clinic is the most practical legal experience anyone can have in law school. In just a couple of months, I have appeared before a judge, handled guilty pleas, and negotiated with prosecutors on countless occasions.

Tara E. Parker
Criminal Defense Clinic

The most important thing that I have learned thus far in the Criminal Defense Clinic is how to communicate effectively with my clients. Getting the best result possible for them is my number one priority, which can be accomplished through effective communication. It's more than just knowing the client's side of the events, but also their life story.

Samantha Jarvis
Criminal Defense Clinic

Being a part of the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office has given me invaluable, practical experience over the course of my 3L year. Led by our fearless leader, Donnie Yandell, I have had the opportunity to not only serve underprivileged communities, but to also learn how to practice criminal law in the state of Texas. Without the mentorship and guidance provided by Donnie, I would have gotten my bar card next November and more than likely destroyed someone's life, by pleading them to over 10 days on a class B misdemeanor.



Nolan McConville
CRPDO

being able to truly help my clients. I am honored to have provided a valuable service to my clients while learning and growing throughout the process. More importantly, receiving their appreciation of my help made every moment enjoyable.

Sydne Collier
CRPDO

My time at the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office criminal defense clinic has given me the confidence to zealously and effectively represent clients. Clinic provides the platform to utilize what has been taught in classrooms over the last two years. Clinic is as "real world" as it gets.

My experience in the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office has been phenomenal. I greatly enjoyed the work I performed within the clinic, and

Stephanie Ibarra
CRPDO

The clinic, as well as its supervising attorneys, have taught me more about the actual practice of law than any class I have taken in law school to date. More than that, however, the clinic offers law students an meaningful opportunity to begin impacting their community well before most their peers have even begun thinking about passing the Bar.

William Strong-Ott
Criminal Defense Clinic

my legal skills and grow as a person. One of the reasons most people become lawyers is to help our communities, the Clinic reminds you of that.

Trevor Brown
Criminal Defense Clinic

The Criminal Defense Clinic has been the most effective preparation for my future legal practice during my time at Texas Tech School of Law. Having the opportunity to actually practice law and help real people under the supervision of experienced attorneys has allowed me to develop

The Caprock Regional Public Defender Office has given me the chance to spread my wings and fly!! It is a terrific experience surpassed only by the mentorship provided by my supervising attorney, Donnie Yandell!!! He is the "wind beneath my wings"!!!

Steven Chapa
CRPDO

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS



The Criminal Defense Clinic has truly been a life changing experience. I have learned more than I could have ever imagined and I know the clinic has prepared me for any area of practice.

Jim Goff
Criminal Defense Clinic



The tax clinic has been a wonderful experience. It is an opportunity to gain practical experience that is invaluable as a law student. It is fulfilling to know that I am able to give back to the community while I learn from my peers and my supervising attorney how to be a better lawyer.

Abbey Cohen
Tax Clinic



Having real clients totally changes your perception of law school. Discovering for yourself how important each little nook and cranny of the law can impact real lives is for sure a revelation.

Matthew Loving
Criminal Defense Clinic



Being in tax clinic ended up being a lot more fulfilling experience than I expected it to be coming in. Obviously it provided me the opportunity to get hands on experience helping people with their tax controversies, but it also gave me the opportunity to meet a lot of great people. Everyone who is part of the tax clinic is genuinely a fun person and entertaining to be around.

Shahzeb Atta
Tax Clinic



For me the clinic has been one of the most valuable and rewarding experiences in law school. It has allowed me to take what I have learned in the classroom and apply it to actual cases, and it has given me the opportunity help people who otherwise could not afford legal representation.

Alex Hyde
Civil Practice Clinic



Clinic has been a great opportunity to get hands-on legal training and to apply my legal education for the benefit of others.

Carlos L. Armendariz
Tax Clinic



Serving as a Qualified Law Student in the Civil Practice Clinic has been one of the most rewarding experiences in law school. Not only have I been able to practice law under supervision, allowing me to grow professionally, but I have also been able to make a difference in others' lives, allowing me to grow personally. The practical knowledge I have learned thus far will undoubtedly benefit my legal career.

McKenzie Jordan
Civil Practice Clinic



My experience with the Low Income Tax Clinic has been very rewarding. I have formed meaningful relationships with the other members of the Tax Clinic, helped assist people in need with no knowledge of the I.R.S. system, and have grown as an attorney.

Macy Cotton
Tax Clinic



Tax clinic has been a great experience for me during my third year of law school. Coming from a tax and accounting background, tax clinic has taught me the skill of tax controversy and has rounded me into hopefully becoming a productive tax associate right out of law school. The skills you learn in communicating with the IRS and your own clients is invaluable as a student, and you can only get this experience as a student in clinics.

Joseph Austin
Tax Clinic



"Participating in the Civil Clinic this semester has given me hands on learning experience in terms of drafting documents, speaking in court, and interacting with clients. I feel very confident about entering the workforce as an attorney because of the foundation I have gained through my Civil Clinic work."

Anna Acosta Kincaid
Civil Practice Clinic

Selection process for Students Interested in Participating in the Clinical Programs during the 2016-2017 academic year will begin in early February! Mandatory Information Session is scheduled for February 3, 2016—Lanier Auditorium! Watch for announcements in January and visit the clinic website at <http://www.law.ttu.edu/acp/programs/clinical/> for more information!

SNAPSHOT CORNER

The Clinical Programs hosted a table with information regarding the individual clinics and promoted the *Clinical Programs* on Wednesday, August 25, 2015, in the forum during the **Student Organization Fair**. Several students helped disseminate information.



Fall Clinic Orientations



In addition to the Fall Clinic Orientations provided by the Clinical Programs, the Clinic Faculty and former Criminal Defense Clinic students also assisted with the Tech Law orientation to incoming 1L students!



SNAPSHOT CORNER

Just for Fun!



CLINIC DIRECTORS:

Larry R. Spain
Civil Practice Clinic
Advanced ADR Clinic

Wendy Tolson Ross
Family Law and Housing
Clinic

Terri M. Morgeson
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

CLINIC FELLOWS:

Terri Morgeson
Civil Practice Clinic

Dwight McDonald
Family Law/Housing Clinic
Criminal Defense Clinics

STAFF:

Elma Moreno
Office Manager/Legal
Assistant

Irma Shepler
Legal Assistant

Nancy Mojica
LITC Community Outreach
Coordinator



FROM THE
FALL 2015 CLINICAL PROGRAMS
FACULTY AND STAFF



SEARCH TTU SCHOOL OF LAW CLINICAL PROGRAMS

CLINIC NEWS

Fall 2015 Edition

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