



SPRING 2022

CLINICAL PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED WITH 2022 PRESIDENT'S EXCELLENCE IN ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

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Texas Tech School of Law Clinical Programs was recognized and honored with the 2022 President's Excellence in

Engaged Scholarship Award on Monday, March 28th, at the Texas Tech Student Union Building during the 2022 Engaged Scholarship Symposium. The Engaged Scholarship Symposium took place during Texas Tech's Discoveries to Impact Week.

The award recognizes the exemplary and sustained commitment to engagement with community partners resulting in positive impacts the work done by the various clinics has on the community and the university. For the past 21 years, the various clinics have developed many community partnerships and provided many clients access to the courts. Under the direct supervision of clinic faculty, students have been provided experiential learning opportunities as well.

Dean Jack Nowlin and several faculty and staff attended the luncheon in the Student Union Building Ballroom. Keynote speaker, Dr. Nancy

Trevino, discussed the partnership and collaborations that have been formed through the Texas Tech Mental Health Initiative. Professor Larry Spain accepted the award on behalf of the Clinical Programs.

Following the keynote speaker and awards luncheon, the recipients of the 2022 President's Engaged Scholarship Awards were given an opportunity to discuss their award winning projects. Clinic directors shared information with regard to their particular clinics and services provided to their clients.



We appreciate the recognition receive and look forward to another successful academic year.

More information can be found by visiting:
<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/outreach-engagement/faculty/Awards/2022-Presidents-Award-Winners/index.php>



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On behalf of the Clinical Programs Faculty and Staff we thank the students for everything they have done and providing high quality representation to their clients! For more information on the Clinical Programs, please visit:
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics/index.php>



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

During the spring semester, the following eight students continued their work in the Civil Practice Clinic: **Xenna Davis, Rachel Hood, Sean Lewis, Alexis Mejia, Charles Mooney, Lissette Moreno, Trevor Shoels, and Morgan Vega.** Each of these students took seriously their professional responsibility for representing their clients effectively to accomplish their objectives.

Over the course of the spring semester, a total of 23 new client cases were undertaken, 20 cases were completed and closed, and 14 cases remain open and will be carried over to the next academic year. Due to COVID-19, students were unable to participate in evening in-person Pro Bono Clinics sponsored by Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, which were cancelled and replaced by virtual intakes. As a result, over the course of the spring semester, students in the Civil Practice Clinic interviewed 28 applicants seeking legal services through Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas across their service area of 114

counties of North and West Texas to provide brief advice and counseling. Each of the students were kept busy carrying an individual caseload of 3-4 clients at most times throughout the semester and assumed primary responsibility for the representation of clients in matters involving family law, disability claims, wills and other advance planning, and other civil matters. Over the course of the academic year, the students gained valuable lawyering skills which have prepared them well for entering the legal profession. I enjoyed working with each of them and expect great accomplishments from them in the future.

Xenna Davis was recognized during the Law School Honors and Awards Ceremony with the Civil Practice Clinic Award given to the top student in the Civil Practice Clinic for her exceptional service to clients and demonstrated excellent lawyering skills.

I also wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of **Terri Morgeson**, Director of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, who assists with supervising students in the Civil Practice Clinic on selected cases and is available to answer questions from students, and **Elma Moreno** and **Nancy Mojica**, who provide valuable administrative support to all the Clinics.

**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.



“Having the opportunity to give back to the Lubbock community through the Civil Practice Clinic has been one of the most rewarding and humbling experiences in my law school career. Not only do I feel prepared to enter the legal field after my experience in the clinic, but I also feel confident in my ability to diligently advocate for my clients.”

Xenna Davis
Civil Practice Clinic



**Pictured left side:
Professor Larry Spain, Alexis Mejia, Trevor Shoels, Andrew Mooney, and Sean Lewis**

**Pictured right side:
Morgan Vega, Rachel Hood, Xenna Davis, and Lissette Moreno**

“I am extremely grateful that I had the opportunity to be part of the Civil Practice Clinic and to be able to represent individuals on behalf of the clinic. It was truly a pleasure to be able to work with Professor Spain and the rest of the Clinical Team!”

Alexis Mejia
Civil Practice Clinic

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Civil Practice Clinic** for the 2022-2023 academic year:

- Brannen Caraway, Jaycie Cruz, Tabitha Dwyer, Rachel Givens, Jacey Harmon, Polette Ortega, Payton Saunders, and Lily Talamantes**



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

The students have done an awesome job in Clinic this year. The Spring Semester involved a mix of both zoom hearings and live hearings at the courthouse and thus, the students have done an excellent job at having to adjust to the format of the hearings.

The following students were enrolled in the Family Law and Housing Clinic: **Ryan Bennett, Jorge Dominguez, Carlos Gracia, Phillip Hecker, Kyrsten Horgan, Edgar Lopez, Megan Parry, and Kieran Wood.**

This Semester we had 10 Divorces: 4 divorces with children and 6 divorces without children. Two of these divorces were very complicated and the students had to deal with discovery issues. One of these cases, involved having more than one Motion to Compel hearing.

We also had a return of a divorce case. In this case, we filed a Motion to Enforce the Property Settlement provision of the Divorce Decree from last year. The student was able to successfully help negotiate a settlement where the client received a large cash sum at the hearing and an agreement was reached and approved in front of the Judge.

We started a couple of adoptions this semester. One of these adoptions involved a stepparent adoption. The stepfather is seeking to adopt his wife’s daughter to help solidify the family. The other adoption involves an aunt who is seeking to adopt her niece that she has had for most of the child’s life.

We also had a couple of grandparents who were seeking custody of their grandchildren. One of these cases involved an infant where the grandmother was seeking custody so she could raise the child. The biological parents were not interested in raising the child and agreed the grandmother would be the best parent to raise the baby. The other grandparent case involved a situation where the son who had custody

passed away. The son and the child had previously resided with the grandmother. So, the grandmother was seeking to replace her son as the person to have primary custody.

Finally, we had 3 landlord-tenant cases which we were able to resolve for our clients. In one of our cases, we were able to help the client terminate the lease and exercise constructive eviction. The landlord had refused to properly repair the apartment from water damage that caused mold, and refused to properly fix the front door lock of the apartment. The second case involved helping the client obtain repairs to her apartment. Finally, the last landlord-tenant case involved helping the tenant contest fees added to the rent and get a refund of these fees. The student was able to get the landlord to remove the fees and reimburse the tenant for the fees that had been paid already.

The Family Law and Housing Clinic students also were able to assist with intake hotline cases for Legal Aid of Northwest Texas. Students interviewed applicants and provided them with advice on their legal matter. We were also able to help finalize 3 of the divorce cases in the 72nd District Court as part of the Pro Se Divorce Court Program.

Thank you to the students for all the hard work this semester!!!



Pictured L to R:
Standing: Carlos Gracia, Jorge Dominguez, Phillip Hecker, Edgar Lopez, and Kieran Wood
Sitting: Professor Wendy Ross, Kyrsten Horgan, Megan Parry, and Ryan Bennett

**FAMILY LAW and
HOUSING CLINIC**

This is a full-year 12 credit hours (6 per semester—2 for classroom component and 4 for case work) course limited to 8 students. Students accepted into the clinic must be registered for both Fall and Spring semesters.

Students assume primary responsibility under faculty supervision of all phases of representation in assigned cases in family law and housing matters. The course focuses on the development of professional skills and values in a closely supervised clinical setting, including interviewing and counseling, case analysis and planning, problem solving, fact investigation, negotiation and mediation, document drafting, written and oral advocacy.

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

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Family Law/Housing Clinic** for the 2022-2023 academic year:

Braden Anderson, Emilie Huber, Curtis Phelps, Princess Rodarte, Hailey Schmitt, and Emily Spjut



**From the Desk of
Terri Morgeson -
Director, Low-Income
Taxpayer Clinic**

Spring Semester of 2022 was an extremely productive semester for the students and myself. The students continuing in the tax clinic were **Chad Culpepper, Abigail Ebrom, Victor Perez, David Rice, Madison Pyle, Yesenia Soria, Jimmy Vaughn** and **Matthew Walker**. The IRS starting picking up steam and allowed us to close cases which have been sitting around since COVID.

Our biggest most successful case, was a young woman who had been the victim of employment

related identity theft for 2016-2018. The person using her identity worked for the same employer in New Jersey at a blood bank. Our client is single mother with no formal education. She has lived in the same small north Texas town her entire life. To help our client in previous years, we filed criminal charges and filed a complaint to the Federal Trade Commission. We also wrote a letter to the employer. We finally received a ruling in April from the IRS. They ruled in her favor. She would receive three years' worth of refunds.

I will remember this group for Chad's intelligence, Yesenia's shoes, Jimmy's determination, Madison's laugh, Abigail's smile, Victor's crazy client, David's discovery of a possible, alleged criminal enterprise, and Matthew's luck in calling he IRS - his phone calls were always immediately answered.

**LOW-INCOME
TAXPAYER CLINIC**

This is a full-year 10 credit hours (5 per semester—2 for classroom component and 3 for case work) course limited to 8 students. 2-4 students can possibly be accepted for both summer sessions and students earn a total of 4 credit hours (2 per session).

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic was formed in April 2000 to provide professional skills training to law students and to provide law students the opportunity to gain practical experience in administrative proceedings before the Internal Revenue Service and in judicial proceedings before the United States Tax Court. The clinic serves residents in the West Texas Panhandle area of Texas and Eastern New Mexico by offering representation to taxpayers who are unable to obtain professional tax counsel. Students develop important lawyering skills by interviewing and counseling clients, conducting factual investigations, legal research and analysis, negotiating compromises, drafting documents and litigating. Students are responsible for their own caseloads but are closely supervised by the clinic director. The director of the clinic assists the students in all phases of their clinical education.



The TTU Low Income Taxpayer Clinic began its 22nd year of operation in 2022 with a \$100,000.00 tax grant award for grant cycle beginning January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022. In grant year 2021, the LITC Program awarded over \$12 million in grants to 130 organizations in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

The 2021 Program Report can be viewed at <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5066.pdf>



Pictured L to R:

Yesenia Soria, Victor Perez, Jimmy Vaughn, Madison Pyle, Chad Culpepper, David Rice, Abigail Ebrom, Matthew Walker, and Professor Terri Morgeson



"Tax clinic has been one of my favorite experiences in law school. It is amazing to see how much I have learned in my law school career and watch myself apply that knowledge to actual cases. The clinic offers excellent first hand experience working with clients, talking to government employees, and juggling facts that are relevant to cases. Terri has made the clinic extra enjoyable and is a great clinic director to have running such an amazing clinic. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone this year and thank you for the wonderful experiences and memories."

Chad Culpepper
Tax Clinic

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic** for the 2022-2023 academic year:

Leena Al-Souki, Connor Beique, Klaryx Martinez, Karina Neira, Mariah Paulger, Amanda Smith, Judy Tejada-Gonzales, and Morgan Walton



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

As is our custom, the students in the 2021-2022 Criminal Defense Clinic (CDC) were busy all year representing real people in real cases in real time. This year, the students handled 152 cases for 100 clients. Of these cases, 60 are still pending, 45 were disposed of through some type of negotiated plea, and 47 cases were dismissed. Cases consisted of 102 misdemeanors and 50 felonies. This is an average student case load of over 19 cases and over 12 clients per student, which is well in excess of the clients and cases promised in the clinic catalogue. These numbers do not take into consideration the 25 cases for 19 clients which were handled by the student attorneys during the year and transferred to other attorneys, mostly at the end of the year when the students ran out of time. Students handled all phases of representation from initial interview through appearance in court – including a jury trial.

Members of the clinic represented clients in the Lubbock Municipal Court, before the Justice of the Peace, in the Magistrate Court, in both

Lubbock County Courts at Law, and in all three felony District Courts of Lubbock. Clinic students during the Spring semester were: **Alejandra Aguillon, Thomas Beach, Lauren Beard, Alyssa Douglas, Jacob Gamble, Alicia Mpande, Symphony Munoz, and Anthony Salinas.** Please congratulate every one for all their hard work. These students are trained and ready for the practice of criminal law.

During the school year, these students performed over 3000 hours of pro bono representation of the poor. I am grateful for the tireless and invaluable help of **Professors Dwight McDonald, Donnie Yandell, and Terri Morgeson** who helped guide the students all year. The wide variety of cases, along with the collaborative nature of our clinics, gives the students exposure to the daily challenges of the criminal defense practitioner well in advance of graduation. Most students agree their clinical experience ranks among their best experiences in law school. During the weekly two-hour classroom component, students shared with each other their accomplishments on their cases, their goals, fears and concerns. By freely sharing and participating in these open class discussions, students assisted each other in the learning experience and helped formulate strategies, themes and theories of their cases, while learning to perform very complicated and sophisticated legal analysis.

(continued on page 7)

CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

This is a full-year 12 credit hours (6 per semester - 2 for classroom component and 4 for case work) course limited to 8 students.

Students accepted into the clinic must be registered for both Fall and Spring semesters. The CDC provides a community service by representing defendants in criminal cases who would otherwise be unable to afford their own legal representation.

Cases involve misdemeanors, felonies, and juvenile offenses in Lubbock County and the surrounding metropolitan area.

Prerequisites include: Students must be 3L status, not be on academic probation, and have taken Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Responsibility.

Recommended 3L courses include Texas Criminal Procedure, Trial Advocacy, and/or moot court or mock trial experience.

Students may not be concurrently enrolled in this class and another clinic or externship; all other qualifications being equal, students with no prior clinical or externship for credit experience are given preference for placement in the CDC; students may not have outside employment if enrolled in this clinic, however, exceptions can be made; and students may not sit for the February bar exam.



Pictured L to R:

Front Row: Lauren Beard, Symphony Munoz, Alyssa Douglas, Ally Aguillon, and Alicia Mpande

Back Row: Professor Dwight McDonald, Jacob Gamble, Anthony Salinas, Thomas Beach, and Professor Patrick Metze

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Criminal Defense Clinic** for the 2022-2023 academic year:

Justice Barkman, Riley Carter, Catherine Clopton, Pamela Gandy, Kevin Garcia, Jessica Lieck, Kayla McCaffity, and Taha Taha



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

The 2021-2022 Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic student attorneys have closed out another year. This year's student attorneys were **Lindsey Adams, James Colley, Haley Hickey, Evan Johnson, Emily Lawrence, Peter McCleod, Brookley Schroeder** and **Joshua Tennison**. The student attorneys this year have handled 154 cases. 40 of those cases were felonies, 100 were misdemeanors and 14 were juveniles. The student attorneys closed 18 felonies and 45 misdemeanors this year. All of these student attorneys have done an excellent job. The student attorneys have logged over 4,230 hours working cases, often on their own time, in an attempt to represent their clients to the best of their abilities.

This year's student attorneys handled everything from Driving While License Invalid cases all the way up to an Aggravated Sexual Assault, and everything in between. We had several cases set for trial through the year but unfortunately for

the students, most of them were resolved once the prosecutor realized the problem with the case. We currently have three cases set for trial but who knows if they will go or not.

We had a couple of cases this year that were extremely interesting. One involved an out-of-state protective order. Our client was accused of violating the protective order in Texas, however, he has never set foot in the state. Due to excellent legal research and negotiations, the student attorney was able to get the case dismissed. The student attorneys were introduced to another case that I like to refer to as the Grapes of Wrath case. The student attorney was able to prove that a client accused of shoplifting and was charged with a jailable offense was only guilty of committing a fine only offense by going out and determining how much grapes weigh. (If you want to hear more, let me know.)

I hope you all do well on your finals as well as that little pop quiz in July. I look forward to seeing all of you down the road and a few of you staying in the area in the courtroom. It was a great year and you will all make great attorneys!

CAPROCK REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER CLINIC

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

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

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



Pictured:

Left Row: Haley Hickey, Peter McCleod, Evan Johnson, Ethan Colley, Professor Donnie Yandell, and Professor Patrick Metzke

Right Row: Emily Lawrence, Lindsey Adams, Brookley Schroeder, Joshua Tennison, and Professor Dwight McDonald

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic** for the 2022-2023 academic year:

Claire Andrews, Beth Cavanaugh, Laycie Duncan, Darren Garcia, Lawson Hamilton, James Hand, Morgan Nelson, and Maggie Pipkin

"The Caprock Clinic experience was the best part about law school. Just a few months ago I was completely clueless about how to be a lawyer and thanks to Donnie I now have the confidence to be a lawyer. Everyone should consider joining a clinical program."

J. Ethan Colley
CRPDO Clinic



From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze - Director, Criminal Defense Clinic *(continued from page 5)*

Collaborative class discussions were often very spirited and were always an enjoyable exchange of ideas. We are there to learn and enjoy our work. Several learning environments are available to the students, including mandatory office hours leading to collaborative learning. The students work in close proximity, sharing ideas and developing strategies while keying off the knowledge of their peers. It is my hope this becomes a custom that will follow them into practice as the criminal defense bar freely shares knowledge and experience with younger attorneys. Other experiential learning was courtesy of the criminal defense bar from throughout Texas and the United States. The CDC was once again this year the best in show and chili at the Law School’s annual chili cookoff –a departmental tradition. The CDC continues with bragging rights that it produces the “best real chili” at the cookoff –even though the judges are often wrong – just not this year. The Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers

Association Clifford Brown Award for 2022 was awarded to Thomas Beach for his “excellence in the art and science of criminal defense advocacy.” I only wish I had awards for all the students –they all deserve one. There was significant effort and professionalism shown this year by all members of the Clinic. I hope the experience was meaningful and a jumpstart to a successful practice in criminal law. Additionally, all my students showed a real interest in pro bono work and I know that such a commitment to the poor will continue throughout their entire careers. Or, at least it better. Also, it is my sincere wish that each student remembers Texas Tech Law fondly with particular affection for their clinical experience. As I tell the students, practicing law is about treating each client as a valuable individual, doing their very best for each client one at a time, representing that client to the best of their ability, and ethically seeking Justice by holding the State to their burden. Preparation is the key. Remember to RGDS and all you need is that Gold Card. While studying for the Bar this summer, no drama, pass the Bar and stay in touch. Come back often.

ADVANCED ADR CLINIC

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

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Marya Lujan
LITC Community Outreach
Coordinator

Spring 2022 semester was an adventure. As tax season approached, I had several people calling and asking questions regarding their tax issues at events and at our office.

This semester we had two online zoom educational resource fairs with over 15 organizations from the Panhandle. I also had the opportunity to travel to Brownfield Middle School and talked to parents about tax issues. Students and parents both found out about the LITC services and how to apply for an extension. This year was the first time the LITC was a vendor at Techspo at the Texas Tech Ballroom where more than 450 students

(including Raider Red) stopped by at the table. In March, I also went to the Saddle up Health Resource Fair sponsored by Amerigroup. The total estimate of attendees were over 200 individuals.



Before the tax deadline I also edited a video with Terri Morgeson, Director of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, who talked about the deadline extension and the VITA resources. These videos were then published on our social media including our first Tiktok!

Future events include participating in the Glow in the Park event at Safety city on June 10th.

Congratulations to the following students selected for the *Advanced ADR Clinic* for the 2022 Fall semester:

- Kristi Berrier, Amy Blake, Alexis Carter, Ben Casey, Madelyn Deviney, Olivia Diaz, Garrett Elliott, Sruti Gopalakrishnan, Melissa Hightower, Kyle Jones, Lucas Minutillo, Donovan Ortega, Love Osemwegie, William Raftis, Jacob Rey, Tyler Roberts, Parker Stallings, and Jaret Thurston**



From the Desk of Allison Clayton - Director, Innocence Clinic

The Innocence Clinic put in thousands of hours of work on its cases this year, and it shows! This year's class spent hundreds of hours drafting briefs, tracking down records, and setting the stage for next year's clinic. Ninety percent of our cases involve homicide—many times multiple homicides in one case. They implicate different areas of forensic science, including blood spatter, bitemark, DNA, and hair comparison. And they

require the highest level of innocence advocacy and cutting-edge caselaw development.

In addition to the immense amount of work represented by each court filing, the student attorneys spent hours upon hours reviewing transcripts, working with clients even in these limiting times, and tracking down witnesses, evidence, and documents in their cases. They did this work for the least of our society, without expectation of even a thanks, because it was the right thing to do, and this group of students only knows how to do things above and beyond and exceptionally well. This year's group is adored by their clients, colleagues, and professor. Each one sets the bar for what it is to be a true advocate and counselor.

INNOCENCE CLINIC

This is a full-year 12 credit hours (6 per semester - 2 for classroom component and 4 for case work) course limited to 4 students.

Students accepted into the clinic must be registered for both Fall and Spring semesters. The *Texas Tech Innocence Clinic*, working in conjunction with the Innocence Project of Texas, provides a clinical opportunity to students interested in post-conviction appellate criminal law. The Texas Tech Innocence Clinic provides legal representation and investigative services to individuals seeking to prove their innocence of felonies for which they have been convicted.



"My experience with the Innocence Clinic is truly unmatched by anything else I have done in law school. It opened my eyes to the injustice that is so prevalent within our legal system. Our clients appreciate everything we do for them and often times we are their last hope at exoneration. This has not only put the issues I have in my life in perspective, but it gave my last year at Tech Law a powerful purpose. I am so lucky to have shared this experience with Allison and each of my intelligent peers who never seized to amaze me."

Bonnie Serrano
Innocence Clinic



The TTU Innocence Clinic was transformed on March 18th with the filming of a new Hulu documentary on one of our favorite clients to be aired in the near future! Stay tuned!! Another 20/20 documentary for an Innocence Clinic client is scheduled to be aired on Friday, May 20th, at 8 p.m.

Innocence Project of Texas seeks to exonerate wrongfully convicted Texas by providing first-rate legal counsel and investigative service at no cost. You can visit www.innocencetexas.org/ for more information.

Prerequisites include: Students must be 3L status, not be on academic probation, and have taken Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Responsibility.

Recommended 3L courses include Texas Criminal Procedure, Trial Advocacy, and/or moot court or mock trial experience.

Students may not be concurrently enrolled in this clinic and another clinic or externship; all other qualifications being equal, students with no prior clinical or externship for credit experience are given preference for placement in the clinic; students may not have outside employment if enrolled in this clinic, however, exceptions can be made; and students may not sit for the February bar exam.



Pictured L to R: Mallory Hancock, Kayla Ryan, Professor Allison Clayton, Bonnie Serrano and Sana Achraf



Pictured: Bonnie Serrano, Sana Achraf, Mallory Hancock, Professor Allison Clayton, and Professor Patrick Metzke

Congratulations to the following students selected for the *Innocence Clinic* for the 2022-2023 academic year:
Sarah Dickie, Linzy Hill, Addison May, and Katherine Turner



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

The Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases (RPDCC) office welcomed it's fourteenth Capital Punishment Clinic this past Spring semester. This office is the only statewide defender for capital cases with eight regional offices throughout Texas. Our clients are, each of them, in the unenviable position of prolonged incarceration, generally single celled, alienated from family with little hope of eventual release. This semester four students were chosen from those that completed the Fall 2021 Capital Punishment Seminar.

Completion of the seminar indoctrinates the chosen students into the unique world of the capital defender. The students chosen this year were **Cait Meriwether, Ana Mitchell-Cordova, Santos Garcia, and Mario Carranza-Flores**. They were immediately assimilated into the framework of not only the capital trial teams assigned to each case, but into the entire fabric of the office. They were instructed in the various office protocols, as well as the roles of the fact investigators, the mitigation specialists, and the line attorneys. With that limited exposure, they were quickly utilized by all of the RPDCC staff and morphed immediately from

observer to valued contributor. Usually, assignments include the mundane (research and drafting motions), spending time with clients in jails, the nerve wracking, and the exhilarating. Office staffing are a critical communication technique utilized by the RPDCC. Each case is thoroughly discussed, and various strategies vetted with all staff members participating. The student attorneys not only attended the staffing, but were a regular contributor to the development of the mitigation and litigation plans for each client. They were a real part of the team. This is a very unique opportunity given to only a few to view a capital trial from the defense perspective. Whereas the RPDCC focused on the "how to" aspect of defending the capital case, many discussions emphasized the "why" aspect -why the defense teams function in a particular way. Methodology and its underlying foundation is critical to the success of the capital defense practitioner, and is literally a matter of life and death for the client. During the semester the students saw progress in many capital cases and fully participated as members of the trial teams.



As a result of winning the 2013 University Departmental Award for Teaching Excellence given by the University Teaching Academy and the University Provost, each year we treat the school to lawyers, teachers, storytellers, and activists committed to the rights of the individual. This year we brought in Mark Thiessen and his wife, Taly Thiessen from Houston and attorney Sarah Roland from Denton to continue this tradition.



Pictured L to R:

Professor Patrick Metze, Mario Carranza-Flores, Cait Meriwether, Ana Mitchell-Cordova, Santos Garcia, and attorney Jeff Sheets

WORDS FROM OUR CLIENTS

"Matthew was very friendly and attentive to my needs. He worked diligently with the IRS on my behalf. I truly appreciate his hard work and dedication to my case. My burden has been lifted for now and I couldn't even explain the peace I feel right now."

V.J.
Tax Clinic client

"Matthew made me feel comfortable about opening up about my problems. I have all the confidence that he will be an excellent lawyer."

M.K.
Tax Clinic Client

"Keep up the good work! To all who help out others, thanks! Terri, thanks for the good work of these guys. Keep it going!"

J.V.
Tax Clinic Client

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations Rasha Zeyadeh Thompson (Criminal Defense Clinic 2016-2017) for being on the cover of Texas Rising Stars magazine. Rasha is a trial attorney at Rob Wiley, P.C.

You can view the article "Belonging Somewhere" by clicking [here](#)



"I really enjoyed my time working at RPDO. All the hands-on experience meeting with clients, working with mitigators, and participating in office activities will be invaluable moving forward as an attorney."

Santos Garcia
Capital Punishment Clinic

CLINIC STUDENTS RECOGNIZED DURING SPRING HONORS AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Annual Honors & Awards Ceremony returned to in-person on April 25th. Students were recognized during a noon luncheon. Congratulations to clinic students who were honored with the following awards:

Chad Culpepper (Tax Clinic) is the recipient of the *Edward R. Smith and Norton Baker Tax Award* which is an award presented to a student who intends to practice in the tax area and is permanently endowed by Karl Clifford ('72) and Steve Krier ('77). He was also recognized as the recipient of the *Professor Marilyn Phelan Award* which is an award given in honor of Horn Professor Emeritus Marilyn Phelan by Michael Denham ('99) to a graduating student who has excelled in the Tax Clinic.



Alyssa Douglas (Criminal Defense Clinic) is the recipient of the *Brendan Murray Public Service Award* which is funded by the Student Bar Association honoring a Lubbock native, Brendan Murray, who was a second-year law student when he passed in 2006. Recipient is selected based on his or her service to underserved populations, disability rights, defense and representation of low-income families, and volunteer work.



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



Thomas Beach (Criminal Defense Clinic) is the recipient of the *Clifford W. Brown Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Award*. This award recognizes excellence as a student attorney in the Texas Tech Criminal Defense Clinic and is funded by the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.



Alicia Mpande (Criminal Defense Clinic) is the recipient of the *The Fortney Award for Ethics*. This award is given in honor of former Tech Law Professor Susan Fortney to the law student who exhibits outstanding moral and ethical conduct among his or her peers while attending law school. She was also recognized as the recipient of the *George W. and Sarah H. Dupree Award*. This award is an endowed award given to the member of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the student's colleagues, best exemplifies the ability desired in one soon to join the legal profession.



Yesenia Soria (Tax Clinic) was the recipient of the U.V. Jones Excellence in Legal Research Award which is given to the 2L or 3L student who has successfully completed the Law Library's 20-hour extracurricular Excellence in Legal Research Program during the academic year and received the highest overall average on the final assessments for the courses they took.



Megan Parry (Family Law and Housing Clinic) is the recipient of the *Family Law Clinic Award* which recognizes a student attorney who exemplifies professionalism and goes above and beyond to represent their client.

Xenna Davis (Civil Practice Clinic) is the recipient of the *Excellence in Service Award* which is an award donated by Donna L. Courville ('94) and Judge Lee Ann Reno ('94) which recognizes a third-year law student who is a current member of any law review, a current or former member of the Board of Barristers, an SBA office, or class officer, and has excelled in overall service to the law school. She was also recognized as a graduating law student who excelled in legal writing by the National Order of Scribes. Xenna was also selected as the recipient of the *Civil Practice Clinic Award* which recognizes a student attorney who exemplifies professionalism and goes above and beyond to represent their client.



Sana Achraf is the recipient of the *Jack Wade Nowlin Innocence Clinic Award* which is awarded to a student attorney in the Texas Tech Innocence Clinic



CLINIC STUDENTS RECOGNIZED DURING SPRING HONORS AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

Congratulations to the following clinic students who were also recognized with the *Pro Bono Honors Award* for completing at least 60 hours of pro bono work over three years where at least half of their hours were legal-related pro bono: **Jorge Dominguez, Carlos Gracia, Edgar Lopez, Alexis Mejia, Alicia Mpande, David Rice, Victoria Rohloff, and Kayla Ryan**

Congratulations to the following clinic students who were also recognized with the *Pro Bono Achievement Award* for completing at least 150 hours of legal-related pro bono work over three years: **Thomas Beach, Lauren Beard, Alyssa Douglas, Samantha Espino, Matthew Fischer, Mallory Hancock, Ana Mitchell Cordova, Victor Perez, Madison Pyle, and Joshua Tennison**

Thank you for your service to Tech Law!

ELMA MORENO PRO BONO SERVICE AWARD

The *Elma Moreno Pro Bono Service Award* was created in 2000 by Professors Timothy and Daisy Floyd and is named in honor of Elma Moreno, original coordinator for the Private Attorney Involvement Program for Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas. She is currently the Legal Assistant/Office Manager for the TTU School of Law Clinical Programs and Director of Pro Bono Projects. This award recognizes a law student whose pro bono activities best exemplify the lawyer’s obligation to ensure equal access to justice. The award is currently funded by the first award recipient and managing attorney at Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Tamara Duncan (2000). Recipient gets a cash award and a plaque in addition to their name being added to the plaque which is displayed at TTU School of Law.



Congratulations Megan Greer who was selected as the recipient of the *Elma Moreno Graduating Pro Bono Student of the Year Award* demonstrating a steadfast commitment to pro bono work throughout her time in law school.

CHARLSIE MOORE ADR & MEDIATION AWARD



The Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc., a non-profit, volunteer organization in Conroe, Texas originally formed by the Montgomery County Bar Association which provides mediation and conflict resolution training to individuals, businesses, agencies, and the courts, funds an annual scholarship award in honor of a long-time member of their Board of Directors, Charlise Moore, to recognize the top student in the Advanced ADR Clinic for their demonstrated mediation skills. The recipients of this award, selected by the faculty teaching the Advanced ADR Clinic, and recognized during the Honors and Awards Ceremony, were **Rebekah Luna** and **Victoria Rohloff**. Rebekah and Victoria each received a scholarship award and will have their names inscribed on a permanent plaque displayed in the law school.



Congratulations Clinical Programs Director and Professor Larry Spain and Office Manager/Legal Assistant Elma Moreno for 20 years of service to Tech Law!

CLINICAL PROGRAMS HOST INFORMATION SESSION FOR 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR



The Clinical Programs hosted an information session and completed their selection process for 2022-2023 academic year. The session was well attended by 102 students interested in applying to participate in one of the clinical courses during the upcoming academic year. The student selection process begins in late January or early February of each Spring semester to fill all slots available in the clinical programs. A total of 62 slots needed to be filled for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Clinic directors provided information on the following clinics:

- Advanced ADR Clinic (Fall 2022 semester)
- Civil Practice Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic

- Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic
- Family Law/Housing Clinic
- Innocence Clinic
- Tax Clinic



Although a great number of students attended the session, 85 students applied to participate in one or more clinics. Students are allowed to rank their choices while completing the application. All clinic slots were filled. We look forward to the new group of students to participate in clinics during the 2022-2023 academic year!

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2022-2023 clinical program students! We are looking forward to having you in the clinics. See you during Clinical Programs orientation!

CLINICAL PROGRAMS HONOR STUDENTS DURING ANNUAL STUDENT RECOGNITION EVENT

The annual *Student Recognition Event* was back to an in-person event and held on April 27th in the Lanier Auditorium. Although not all were present, a total of 66 students were recognized with a *Certificate of Appreciation* for their dedication and participation in the clinical programs. Director Larry Spain welcomed and congratulated the students on another successful year.

The Clinical Programs has been recognizing students for many years for their participation, dedication, and commitment to representing low income individuals in the community who

cannot otherwise afford to retain the services of an attorney. Since the inception of the Clinical Programs which began with the LITC in April 2000, students have participated in the programs and contributed thousands of student hours and represented hundreds of clients with equal access to justice.

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



Civil Practice Clinic



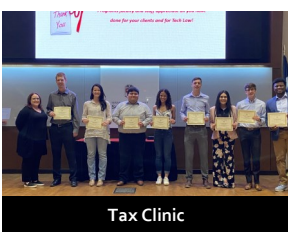
Innocence Clinic



Family Law/Housing Clinic



Fall 2021 Advanced ADR Clinic



Tax Clinic



Capital Punishment Clinic



CRPDO Clinic



Criminal Defense Clinic

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

"My clinical experience has been nothing short of incredible. I have met some of my best friends in law school and I have learned so much about defending marginalized people against a criminal justice system that is targeting them. I was able to work with two of my most influential mentors, Professor Metzger and Professor McDonald, who have given me the tools that I need to succeed in my career. I came to Texas Tech because of this clinical program and I am so glad that I did. As I prepare to start my career as a public defender after law school, I am incredibly grateful for everything that I have learned in this program."

Alicia Mpande
Criminal Defense Clinic

"My experience in the Criminal Defense Clinic has been incredibly rewarding. The practical experience has been invaluable. The Clinic has given me the opportunity to practice Criminal Defense through all stages of the case under the supervision of Professor Metzger and Professor McDonald. Both professors have been incredible mentors and a tremendous resource."

Alyssa Douglas
Criminal Defense Clinic

"My clinic experience has been the highlight of my time here at Texas Tech Law, while also providing me with the practical tools to hit the ground running after school. Metzger, Dwight, and Donnie have taught me everything I need to know. Best decision I made in law school!"

Anthony Salinas
Criminal Defense Clinic

"I am grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in the Capital Punishment Clinic. Working at RPDO has been an incredible learning experience and has provided me a better understanding of why individuals do the things they do and why others react to those individuals in certain ways. It has been a good exercise in thinking through why-within a context that a lot of people don't want to think about-this state (and country) criminalizes people in particularly systematic ways and how the value judgments people make of others have an impact that goes beyond one singular person."

Ana Mitchell-Cordova
Capital Punishment Clinic

"Caprock Clinic has allowed me to gain a full years worth of practical experience in criminal defense. I have stood in front of judges, negotiated with District Attorneys, and got a few dismissals along the way. Donnie's not that bad either!"

Peter T. McLeod
CRPDO Clinic

"Being a part of the Criminal Defense Clinic has taught me invaluable life skills, introduced me to some of my best friends, and provided me practical guidance for after law school!"

Symphony Munoz
Criminal Defense Clinic

"I have really enjoyed my time with the criminal defense clinic. Throughout this year I have gotten to work on a variety of different cases and learn a lot about the justice system."

Jacob Gamble
Criminal Defense Clinic

"The Clinical program is why I came to Texas Tech. After having gone through the program this year I can confidently say to others considering attending Tech

Law that the clinical program is worth it alone. Tech prides itself in producing practice ready lawyers. I have immensely enjoyed and valued the opportunity to help my client's lives this year. I am confident wherever I end up, I have the tools to help anyone and everyone as a zealous advocate. I also gained a network of amazing friends and mentors I know I can continue to rely on in the future."

Ally Aguillon
Criminal Defense Clinic

"My time in the Criminal Defense Clinic has been the most rewarding thing I have done in law school. Not only have I learned valuable experience that I will take with me into my legal career, I gained lifelong friendships that I would not otherwise have. I am so grateful to everyone in the clinic office."

Lauren Beard
Criminal Defense Clinic

"It has been such a joy to be a part of the Tax Clinic. This semester, I had the opportunity to work on various tax-related issues for my clients, pushing me to continue improving my research, writing, and communication skills. We also worked at the local VITA office and helped people within our community file their taxes, which allowed me to connect with others here and gain a better understanding of and appreciation for people from different walks of life. However, I think the biggest lesson that Terri has taught us-one that will stay with me throughout the rest of my career-is that we have the power to do more. We can help our clients feel heard and understood, provide them support and comfort while going through difficult and scary situations, and go above and beyond finding just a legal solution. I'm so thankful for the memories that we all made together. I could not have asked for a better conclusion to my time here at Texas Tech School of Law."

Yesenia Soria
Tax Clinic

"To our clients, the IRS represents an unstoppable behemoth. The threat of getting crushed under the bureaucratic meat grinder feels imminent. We get the privilege of telling them, "It's not the end, we'll get through this together." After a long battle with the IRS, there's nothing like hearing the utter relief in your client's voice when you tell them, "we won." Making a concrete impact on lives of my clients gave me the most fulfillment out of all my law school experiences. I'm thankful for the opportunity to make a positive impact on their lives."

Jimmy Vaughn
Tax Clinic

"The Tax Clinic has been a valuable experience for my future endeavors. I've learned so much from my clients as well as Terri. Without this experience, I feel like I would be a step behind in the real world, so Thank you for everything."

Matthew E. Walker II
Tax Clinic

"My experience working in the Capital Punishment Clinic has been invaluable to me. Getting to work at RPDO with Dennis, Jeff, Kim, Rachael, and everyone else taught me so much about what it is like working as an attorney, and especially as an attorney working on some of the most difficult cases you can handle. I know I will always remember some of the experience I gained this semester."

Cait Meriwether (she/her)
Capital Punishment Clinic

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

“My experience in the Criminal Defense Clinic has proven to be some of the most meaningful in law school. We came in with skulls full of mush—as the saying goes—and are leaving thinking like lawyers. Things that seemed impossible just 8 months ago have now become as second nature as breathing, whether it's appearing in open court or haggling with a seasoned prosecutor on behalf of an accused person who's future very well may depend on you. For a law student, I truly believe that this quality of experience is irreplicable outside of a clinic, and would highly encourage 1L & 2L students to seriously consider joining a clinical program.”

Thomas Beach
Criminal Defense Clinic

“Being at the end of my law school experience, I can confidently say that being in clinic was by far the best choice I have made. I feel indescribably lucky to have learned what I did this year. Further, to have connected with my professors and fellow clinic-mates, and I feel confident these are relationships I will be able to turn to as long as I practice.”

Lindsey Adams
CRPDO Clinic

“My time in clinic has been the most rewarding and most educational period of my law school experience. Getting to fight the injustices so commonplace in the rural counties with Donnie and my Caprock colleagues has well prepared me for the fight awaiting me in practice. I am a better person and a much better advocate for my time here.”

Joshua L. Tennison
CRPDO Clinic

“There are so many things I have learned from Terri during my time in the Tax Clinic. Big things and small things, like learning how to conduct client interviews and to center-justify letters! I'm so grateful to have been granted the opportunity to have helped real world clients while still in school. The wonderful smiling faces around the clinical programs office will be missed, especially Nancy, Elma, and Professor McDonald. Thanks for everything, Terri! The lessons learned and happy memories with our Tax Clinic class are priceless. I will always remember to RGDS!”

Abigail Ebrom
Tax Clinic

“I have grown both professionally and personally during my year in the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office and Clinic. I am so thankful for all the wisdom and practical knowledge Donnie Yandell has instilled in us and I am now confident when I walk in any courtroom. I came into this year hoping to be a strong voice for individuals who needed representation in my rural community; now I feel I have reached my goal. I learned each day how to better represent and serve my community and I am incredibly appreciative for the

patient mentorship of Donnie, Professor Dwight McDonald and Professor Patrick Metz. From my first court appearance in my hometown of Floydada, Texas, to closing felony cases, I have developed my own style and I am excited to continue practicing criminal defense in West Texas after graduation.”

Evan A. Johnson
CRPDO Clinic

“After an entire year in Caprock, I have seen how important the clinics (especially the criminal defense clinics) are to the clients. I have heard many stories throughout the year, from entertaining to disheartening. Many of these clients don't expect us to fight for them which was very surprising. They are discouraged or been burned by the criminal justice system. It has truly been both a fantastic and eye-opening experience to help these discouraged clients. It has also been amazing to see my fellow clinic students "fight the good fight." Every one of us has fought for the client, those are exactly the kind of people I want to work with. No prosecutor stood a chance against this group! Of course, my experience would not have been the same nor as entertaining without Donnie Yandell! Thanks for putting up with this group.”

Emily Lawrence
CRPDO Clinic

“Clinic has been the most interesting and challenging experience in law school. Having my clinic experience in the actual RPDO office, where I'd participate in group meetings and see how their day-to-day operation worked, gave me a much more accurate understanding of what it means to be an attorney and how crucial teamwork is to get the job done. Serving as a student attorney in the Capital Punishment Clinic was simply put, amazing.”

Mario Carranza-Flores
Capital Punishment Clinic

“Being in the clinic is the best learning experience I have had in law school. The autonomy that Donnie provides us as students allows us to grow in areas far beyond legal theory. Most of my growth from last semester through these final two weeks has been based in case strategies and negotiating, things you don't learn in a law school classroom. I feel confident that I will graduate and immediately be able to start working, because of the experience I had in clinic.”

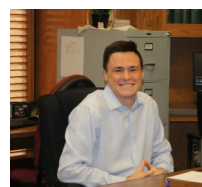
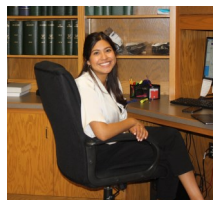
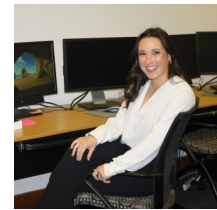
Haley Hickey
CRPDO Clinic

“Being a part of the Family Law & Housing Clinic taught me valuable, practical lessons on being a lawyer. I think that being able to question my clients or opposing parties in front of a judge before having my license was probably the most important lesson. Overall, this experience helped me become a confident advocate.”

Jorge Dominguez
Family Law & Housing Clinic



Snapshot Corner



CLINIC DIRECTORS:

Larry R. Spain
 Director of Clinical Programs
 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
 Innocence Clinic

INSTRUCTORS:

Allison Clayton
 Innocence Clinic

Dwight McDonald
 Criminal Defense Clinics

Terri Morgeson
 Civil Practice Clinic

Gene Valentini
 Adjunct Professor
 Advanced ADR Clinic

Donnie Yandell
 Chief Public Defender
 Caprock Regional Public
 Defender Office

STAFF:

Elma Moreno
 Office Manager/Legal
 Assistant

Nancy Mojica
 Senior Business Assistant

Lori Obando
 Senior Business Assistant for
 CRPDO

Marya Lujan
 LITC Community Outreach
 Coordinator

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

**On Behalf of the
 CLINICAL PROGRAMS
 FACULTY AND STAFF**



Good Luck with the Bar Exam!



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