



SPRING 2023

CLINIC NEWS

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

CLINICAL PROGRAMS HONOR STUDENTS DURING RECOGNITION EVENT

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The annual *Student Recognition Event* was back to an in-person event and held on April 26th in the Lanier Auditorium. Although not all were present, a total of 60 students were recognized with a *purple/silver cords* 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.*

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PROFESSOR WENDY ROSS, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY LAW AND HOUSING CLINIC

Tech Law hosted a farewell celebration honoring for Professor Wendy Ross on April 25th for her 18 years of service to the TTU School of Law and Clinical Programs.

Professor Ross joined Tech Law the summer of 2005 to teach a section of the Civil Practice Clinic and negotiations. Her section of the Civil Practice Clinic was renamed the Family Law and Housing Clinic in the Fall 2011 and focused on family law and housing related cases. Prior to joining Tech Law, she was a Clinical Instructor at St. Mary's

University School of Law in addition to acting Associate Director for the Office of Academic Excellence.



Professor Ross will be joining the faculty at University of Missouri Law School in Kansas City during the Fall 2023 semester.

On behalf of the Clinical Programs faculty and staff, we wish her success! Congratulations Professor Ross!!

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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: **Brannen Caraway, Jaycie Cruz, Tabitha Dwyer, Rachel Givens, Jacey Harmon Mizer, Polette Ortega, Payton Saunders, and Lily Talamantes**. 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 12 new client cases were undertaken, 14 cases were completed and closed, and 14 cases remain open and will be carried over to the next academic year. This academic year, students were able to participate in the resumption of evening in-person Pro Bono Clinics sponsored by Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, which had been cancelled and replaced by virtual intakes during COVID. This allowed the students to be exposed to the substantial need for free legal services to individuals in the community with a variety of legal problems through interviewing prospective clients in addition to assuming responsibility for their individual casework.

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 documents, 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. It was a pleasure witnessing the confidence they gained in representing clients over the course of the past year and I enjoyed working with each of them and expect great accomplishments from them in the future.

Jacey Harmon Mizer was recognized during the Law School Honors and Awards program with the Civil Practice Clinic Award given to the top student in the Civil Practice Clinic for her exceptional service to clients and demonstrated 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.



"My participation in the Civil Practice Clinic has been the best decision I've made in law school and nothing short of amazing! I will treasure the time I spent in the clinic for years to come! Thank you, Professor Spain and Terri, for helping me grow as an advocate!"

Jacey Harmon Mizer
Civil Practice Clinic

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.



Pictured
Top to Bottom:

Professor Larry Spain, Brannen Caraway, Payton Saunders, Jacey Mizer, Jaycie Cruz, Rachel Givens, Polette Ortega, Lily Talamantes, and Tabitha Dwyer



Student Recognition Event

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Civil Practice Clinic** for the 2023-2024 academic year:
Benjamin Adeeso, James Ashmore, Mallory DeGroat, Wyatt Macfarlane, Danielle Mundstedt, Tyler Roberts, Khusbu Shah, and Malik White-Williams



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

This is my last semester of teaching the Family Law and Housing Clinic. It is a bittersweet time as I finish out my semester and say good-bye to Texas Tech Law School and the Family Law and Housing Clinic. I would like to thank my students for all their hard work. The students worked really hard on completing their cases and providing their clients with excellent representation. The following students were enrolled in the Family Law and Housing Clinic: **Braden Anderson, Emilie Huber, Curtis Phelps, Princess Rodarte, Emily Spjut, and Hailey Schmitt.**

This semester we had five new divorces. Two of these divorces were very contested and had an opposing attorney on the other side. One of these cases went to a final contested hearing where the students were able to successfully get

their client a modification of the Possession Order due to special circumstances. In another divorce case, a student was able to get a Protective Order to protect her client. The student was also able to get her client a disproportionate share in the final divorce because of the abuse.

We also had a stepparent adoption and completed a modification of custody order. The stepfather was seeking to adopt his wife's daughter to help solidify the family. We helped a grandmother modify the parents' previous custody order so that the grandmother could take care of her granddaughter.

Finally, we had 2 landlord-tenant cases. One of these cases involved an eviction suit and the other one was a case where we were trying to help the client to get the landlord to pay for excessive water fees. There was a leak on the property caused by faulty plumbing. The client was asking that the landlord pay the water bill.

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

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.



Student Recognition Event



Farewell Celebration



Pictured L to R:

Professor Wendy Ross, Curtis Phelps, Emily Spjut, Hailey Schmitt, Emilie Huber, Princess Rodarte, Braden Anderson



End of Semester luncheon at Tech Club

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Family Law Clinic** for the 2023-2024 academic year:

Shelby Cason, Mary Franklin, Kristi Berrier, Alexis Hill, Ruby Lira, Kathryn Nail, Lauryn Vigil, and Samantha Ward



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

The ending of an era. The Spring 2022-2023 Semester was my last semester as Director of the low income tax clinic. My students were **Leena Al-Souki, Conner Beique, Mariah Paulger, Judy Tejada-Gonzales, Karina Neira, Klaryx Martinez, Amanda Smith and Morgan Walton**. I could not have chosen a better selection of students. This semester we continued our work with VITA logging over 367.5 hours. I could not have handled VITA this year without the help of Leena and Conner. The cases we handled this semester were primarily getting final resolution from the IRS on cases which have been pending since COVID. Our clients were happy that we were



Student Recognition Event

able to finally close some older files.

One student was able to assist a business who had been a victim of a fraudulent tax preparer. The tax preparer talked the client into taking numerous fraudulent business deductions. The student spent hours going over receipts and teaching the business owner how to keep his receipts and other documents for his taxes. Lastly, Amanda Smith was able to detangle a retirement and disability knot all while handling a client a difficult client.

A special thanks to Morgan for teaching me how to be organized; for Mariah being the silent tax assassin, to Karina for getting this poor taxpayer her SSN/ITIN issue resolved and find a Taxpayers fraud and lastly to Klaryx for handling an identity theft nightmare.

All of you did amazing work and I am proud to have taught you.

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 23rd year of operation in 2023 with a \$100,000.00 tax grant award for grant cycle beginning January 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2023. In grant year 2022, the LITC Program awarded over \$12 million in grants to 130 organizations in 46 states and the District of Columbia.

The 2022 Program Report can be viewed at
<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5066a.pdf>



Pictured L to R:

Standing: Judy Tejada-Gonzales, Klaryx Martinez, Karina Niera, Connor Beique, Mariah Paulger, and Morgan Walton

Sitting: Amanda Smith, Professor Terri Morgeson, and Leena Al-Souki



"Participating in the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic was a fantastic opportunity to gain practical experience in tax law and client representation. I appreciated the trust and support of the clinic advisors, who allowed us to take ownership of our cases and provided guidance as needed. This experience has equipped me with valuable skills and knowledge that will serve me well as a future attorney."

Klaryx Y. Martinez
Tax Clinic

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic** for the 2023-2024 academic year:

Connor Drysdale, Jose Guillot, Diana Hernandez, Anna Long, Christopher Najera, Adam Overstreet, Oleg Perry, and Renee Rodriguez



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

As is our custom, the students in the 2022-2023 Criminal Defense Clinic (CDC) were busy all year representing real people in real cases in real time. This year, the students handled 168 cases for 99 clients. Of these cases, 74 are still pending, 40 were disposed of through some type of negotiated plea, and 54 cases were dismissed. Cases consisted of 116 misdemeanors and 52 felonies. This is an average student case load of 21 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 32 cases for 12 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.

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: **Justice Barkman, Riley Carter, Cat Clopton, Pamela Gandy, Kevin Garcia, Jessica Lieck, Kayla McCaffity, and Taha Taha.** 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.

Collaborative class discussions were often very spirited and were always an enjoyable exchange of ideas. We are there to learn and enjoy our
(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:

Professor Dwight McDonald, Justice Barkman, Catherine Clopton, Kayla McCaffity, Jessica Lieck, Riley Carter, Kevin Garcia, Taha Taha, Pamela Gandy, and Professor Patrick Metze

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Criminal Defense Clinic** for the 2023-2024 academic year:

Nataliya Dudar, Samantha Escalon, Victoria Gallegos, Megan Gower, Maralicia Martinez, Joshua Owens, Olivia Ramirez, and Victoria Ukoh



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

The 2022-2023 Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic has finished the year and the students are now studying for finals. This year's student attorneys were **Claire Andrews, Beth Cavanaugh, Laycie Duncan, Darren Garcia, Lawson Hamilton, James Hand, Morgan Nelson and Maggie Pipkin**. This year, the student attorneys handled 178 cases and closed 67. 30 of those cases were felonies, 133 were misdemeanors and 15 were juveniles. Here are some of the offenses the student attorneys are handling: Assault, Theft, Possession of Marijuana, Driving While Intoxicated, Injury to the Elderly, Interference with Public Duty, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Resisting Arrest, Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon, Terroristic Threat and Retaliation to name a few.

We still have four clients' cases set for trial. We were set for trial on two of those cases in April but due to problems with discovery on one case and a court reporter on the other, we have moved the trials to September or October, which means next year's students have trials to get ready for before they even start clinic. The students have been working very hard on this case doing legal research, crime scene investigation and attempting to track down witnesses. Morgan Nelson and Claire Andrews worked hard on these two cases, and I am sure they are disappointed not to get to see their hard work in action.

Since the beginning of the school year, the students have traveled over 8500 miles to court and crime scene investigations. That is approximately 142 hours of travel. They have all shown a willingness to put forth the effort to zealously represent their clients. They are all working well over the required hours for the clinic to ensure they do the best they can for the indigent defendants in our area of responsibility.

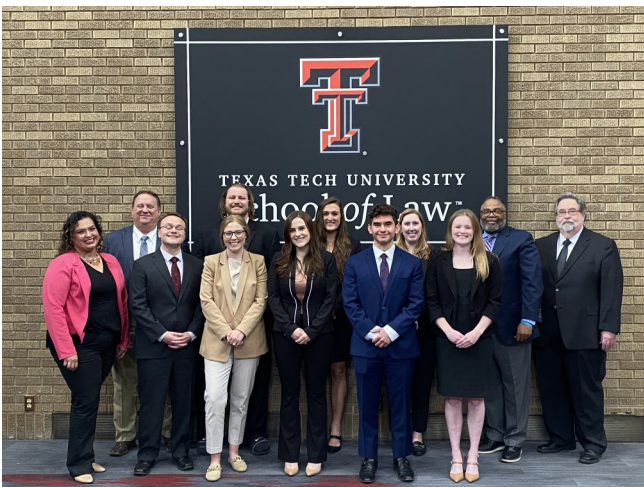
To Caprock 2022-2023, good luck on finals and the bar exam!

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 back row (L to R): Professor Donnie Yandell, James Hand, Morgan Nelson, Beth Cavanaugh, Professor Dwight McDonald, and Professor Patrick Metzger

Pictured front row (L to R): Lori Obando, Lawson Hamilton, Maggie Pipkin, Laycie Duncan, Darren Garcia, and Claire Andrews



"Being a member of the Criminal Law Clinics has allowed me to build relationships with passionate and intelligent students who I know will become top of the line attorneys after graduation. The guidance I have received from both the professors and staff have helped me feel comfortable and confident in the courtroom, and I will carry that guidance with me for the rest of my professional career. Thank you, Texas Tech Criminal Clinics, for all that you do!"

Darren Garcia
CRPDO

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic** for the 2023-2024 academic year:

Alek Benavides, Madalyn Cox, Kaylyn Foreman, Anne Greenberg, Sarah Kannel, Bryssa Muro, Hunter Nasato, and Kate Pennington

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

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 third in chili at the Law School's annual chili cookoff—a departmental tradition, bowing only to their colleagues the Caprock Public Defender Clinic who won first place. The CDC continues however with bragging rights that it produces the “best real chili” at the cookoff—even though the judges are often wrong. The Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Clifford Brown Award for 2023

was awarded to Pamela Gandy for her “excellence in the art and science of criminal defense advocacy.” I only wish I had awards for all the students—they all deserve one. There was significant effort and professionalism shown this year by all members of the Clinic. I hope the experience was meaningful and a jumpstart to a successful practice in criminal law. Additionally, 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.

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Marya Lujan
LITC Community Outreach
Coordinator

Spring 2023 was one for the books! This semester LITC was able to participate in a Televised easter event in El Paso, Texas called “Eggstravaganza”. This was the first time I was able to go on behalf of LITC and had a great turnout! We had over 600 children participate in an easter hunt and over 45 resource organizations including LITC participated.

On March 4, 2023, LITC participated in the “Walk to end racism” event sponsored by East Lubbock Art House. There were major organizations such as a Walmart and H-E-B giving back to the community and offering their low-income resource available. This event was a fun

one because there were multiple people participating in the walk and in the clean-up activity to keep Lubbock beautiful.

February 11, 2023, LITC's very own Terri Morgeson and Wendy Ross hosted the Spring 2023 LITC taxpayer workshop that was free to the public at TJ Patterson Library.

With the tax season this semester, our Instagram page and Facebook page shared valuable information regarding ghost preparers, educational videos, VITA, and deadlines. This semester LITC was shared among graduate students and undergraduate students in the Media and Communication College at Texas Tech for a resource fair.

Upcoming events for the summer are April 29 for a YMCA “family and friends in the community” event.

ADVANCED ADR CLINIC

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

Congratulations to the following students selected for the *Advanced ADR Clinic* for the 2023 Fall semester:

Priscilla Garcia, Noah Andel, Shalom Brown, Riley Caraway, Sarah Courtney, Owen Hill, Emily Jacobs, Brettney Jones, Abby Keese, Julia Koert, Joe Lizcano, Ericka Lopez, Orlando Oropez, Trevor Shelton, Cassidy Terrazas, Khan Tran, Morgan Webb, and Ashley Williams



**From the Desk of
Allison Clayton -
Director, Innocence
Clinic**

coming soon...



"Working in the Innocence Clinic with Professor Clayton has been the highlight of my law school career. Fighting for our innocent clients has been the honor of my life and I could not be more grateful to Professor Clayton and the Texas Tech clinics for giving me the opportunity to grow not only as an attorney but also as a person. I will cherish this year forever."

Sarah Dickie
Innocence Clinic

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.

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:

Linzy Hill, Addy May, Professor Patrick Metzger, Professor Allison Clayton, Katy Turner, and Sarah Dickie



Student Recognition Event

Congratulations to the following students selected for the *Innocence Clinic* for the 2023-2024 academic year:

Madyson Edwards, Joseph Gonzales, Pryce Stewart, and Shelbi Stogdill

CLINIC STUDENTS RECOGNIZED DURING SPRING HONORS AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

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

Judy Tejada-Gonzales (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). She 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.

Catherine Clopton (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. Cat was also recognized with the *State Bar LGBT Law Section Leadership Endowed Scholarship* which recognizes a student committed to fostering a positive environment for the LGBTQIA+ community through leadership, service, and education at Tech Law and beyond.

Laycie Duncan is the recipient of the *Robert J. and Ann Burbridge Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic Award*. This award is given to a student of the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic who has provided zealous advocacy for those accused of committing crimes in rural or underserved communities of Texas, diligently promoted the causes of justice and equality, and fought to protect the Constitutional obligation to provide legal assistance to the poor.

Pamela Gandy (Criminal Defense Clinic) is the recipient of the *Clifford W. Brown 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.

Karina Neira (Tax Clinic) 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.

Princess Rodarte is the recipient of the *Ann and Robert J. Burbridge Family Law Clinic Award* which recognizes the top student in the Family Law Clinic who exemplifies professionalism and goes above and beyond to represent their client.

Jacey Harmon Mizer is the recipient of the *Ann and Robert J. Burbridge Civil Practice Clinic Award* which recognizes the top student in the Civil Practice Clinic who exemplifies professionalism and goes above and beyond to represent their client.

Braden Anderson (Family Law/Housing 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. Braden is also the recipient of the *Linda J. Kamp Service Award* which is awarded to graduating student whose service to the law school best represents the dedication, service, and spirit of Linda Kamp, who served as the law school registrar from 1991 through her death in 2002.



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

Melissa Hightower (ADR Clinic—Fall '22) is the recipient of the *Judge Ken G. Spencer Award* which is given to a student whose propensity to survive in law school by dogged persistence, or ability to adapt to adversity, or sheer force of personality or charisma, appeals to the admiration of the faculty.

Addison May (Innocence Clinic) was the recipient of the *State Bar Appellate Section Award for Excellence in Advocacy*. This award is given to a student who has demonstrated the most potential to excel in appellate advocacy upon graduation, as reflected by the student's academic performance; research, writing, and oral advocacy skills; work ethic, understanding of legal strategy and tactics; professionalism; and good judgment.

CLINIC STUDENTS RECOGNIZED DURING PRO BONO AWARDS LUNCHEON

Congratulations to the following clinic students who were 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: Leena Al-Souki, Riley Carter, Benjamin Casey (Fall ADR), Darren Garcia, Emilie Huber, Klaryx Martinez, Karina Neira, Love Osemwegie (Fall ADR), Maggie Pipkin, Hailey Schmitt, Amanda Smith, Lily Talamantes, Judy Tejada-Gonzales,, Katy Turner, and Morgan Walton

Congratulations to the following clinic students who were also recognized with the *Pro Bono Achievement Award* for completing 150 plus hours of legal-related pro bono work over three years: Catherine Clopton, Laycie Duncan, Pamela Gandy, Kevin Garcia, Jessica Lieck, Kayla McCaffity, Curtis Phelps, and Princess Rodarte

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 Princess Rodarte 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, Charlsie Moore, to recognize the top student in the Advanced ADR Clinic for their demonstrated mediation skills. The recipient of this award, selected by the faculty teaching the Advanced ADR Clinic, and recognized during the Honors and Awards Ceremony, was Ben Casey. He received a scholarship award and will have his name inscribed on a permanent plaque displayed in the law school.



Student Recognition Event - ADR Clinic

CLINICAL PROGRAMS HOST INFORMATION SESSION FOR 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR



The Clinical Programs hosted an information session and completed their selection process for 2023-2024 academic year. The session was well attended by 99 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 2023-2024 academic year.

Clinic directors provided information on the following clinics:

- Advanced ADR Clinic (Fall 2023 semester)
- Civil Practice Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic

- Family Law Clinic
- Innocence Clinic
- Tax Clinic

Current clinic students were available to answer questions after the session.



Although a great number of students attended the session, 77 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 2023-2024 academic year!

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2023-2024 clinical program students! We are looking forward to having you in the clinics. See you during Clinical Programs orientation!

RECENT CASES OF INTEREST

Lily Talamantes represented a 70 year old nun before an administrative law judge and obtained a fully favorable decision waiving the repayment of overpayment of \$7,670 in Supplemental Security Income benefits that she was not entitled to when she was temporarily out of the country on a mission trip. She was found to be without fault in causing the overpayment as she had promptly reported her change in residence to the Social Security Administration who neglected to process a suspension of her benefits and upon a finding that it would represent an economic hardship were she required to repay those overpaid benefits. This case had been pending

before an administrative law judge since January, 2019 because of COVID and a total of 7 students had worked on the case over that time on preparing the case for hearing.

Jacey Harmon Mizer represented a 73 year old woman separated from her spouse for the past 3 ½ years after a 43 year marriage and facing economic hardship due to her limited income from social security benefits. After a contested hearing on temporary orders, she was awarded \$700 in temporary spousal support during the pendency of her divorce from her spouse's Workers Compensation benefits.

THANKS TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS SUPPORTING PRO BONO

The Law School faculty traditionally co-sponsors Pro Bono Clinics held during the months of September and February in association with Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas. Thanks to the following faculty who participated in these clinics during the month of February along with our clinic students: **Gerry Beyer** (1 clinic); **Cassie Christopher** (1 clinic); **Rob Sherwin** (1 clinic) and **Larry Spain** (3 clinics).

Thank you to students who volunteered their time at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site during tax filing season!



WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

I have really enjoyed my time in the Criminal Defense Clinic. I have made lifelong friends and developed lifelong skills alongside them. We have overcome massive struggles for our clients and helped many of them resume their lives outside of the carceral system. I am looking forward to taking everything I've learned from the clinic program into my career and beyond. I have fundamentally changed as a person, becoming smarter, stronger, more empathetic, more empowered, more enthusiastic, more meticulous, and so many other things because of the people around me in the clinic supporting and encouraging me. I am eternally grateful for this opportunity.

Cat Clopton
Criminal Defense Clinic

Being a member of the Criminal Defense Clinic has been a tremendous experience and made my 3L year the best. From the friends I made to the clients I served; I wouldn't have wanted it any other way!

Taha Taha
Criminal Defense Clinic

I have greatly enjoyed working on a number of different cases this year. I have learned how to be a professional in the legal world and I am excited to take that with me after graduation.

Riley Carter
Criminal Defense Clinic

I have been very fortunate to spend my 3L year as part of the Criminal Defense Clinic. With the guidance of Professors Metzger and McDonald, I have grown as an advocate and become more comfortable advising clients, negotiating with prosecutors, and speaking to judges. My experience in CDC has provided an incredible head start to my legal career.

Pamela M. Gandy
Criminal Defense Clinic

The Criminal Defense Clinic has been one of my favorite things about law school. Not only will the skills I have learned be invaluable in my future career but getting to interact with and help clients was very rewarding. I am so very grateful to Pat, Dwight and Donnie for their mentorship this past year!

Kayla McCafferty
Criminal Defense Clinic

Clinic has continued to be my favorite and most valuable experience in law school. I can't believe the difference a year in CRPDO Clinic has made! I feel ready and confident to hit the ground running after the bar exam. Thank you to Donnie for all the guidance and answers to my many questions.

Beth Cavanaugh
CRPDO Clinic

I cannot put into words my gratitude for being chosen to participate in the Caprock Clinic this year. The practical knowledge, experience, and confidence I have gained from this experience is beyond what I ever expected. I now feel prepared to enter the realm of criminal defense and gained some amazing friends and colleagues, as well as a fantastic mentor along the way.

Laycie C. Duncan
CRPDO Clinic

I can't imagine a better way to prepare law students to become practicing criminal attorneys than our clinical programs. In the Caprock Clinic, there's always advice and help around the corner in Donnie's office, but you work your cases and all that entails—from developing a strategy, to negotiating with prosecutors, to representing clients in court. It has been a defining experience and I can't thank our professors enough for the opportunity.

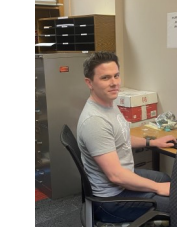
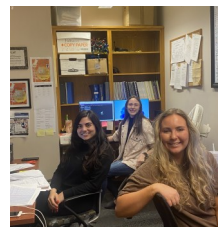
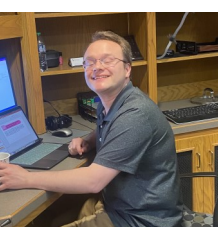
Lawson Hamilton
CRPDO Clinic

My time in the Tax Clinic has been a great one and I could not ask for better. I have learned a lot of professional development, life, and educational lessons from Ms. Terri, Professor McDonald, and the tax clinic gurlies. I am also thankful for Ms. Elma Moreno and Ms. Nancy Mojica for always helping me with anything I needed for my clients. My goal was to help Spanish speaking only clients, and I was able to guide them navigate through their complex cases before the IRS. This experience has helped me improve my client interview, research, and writing skills. I had fun volunteering for VITA with the tax clinic gurlies and have met amazing people while doing their tax returns. Overall, I am forever grateful for all the memories I have made with everyone, and opportunities Texas Tech Law has provided me.

Karina Neira
Tax 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. Metz
 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!*

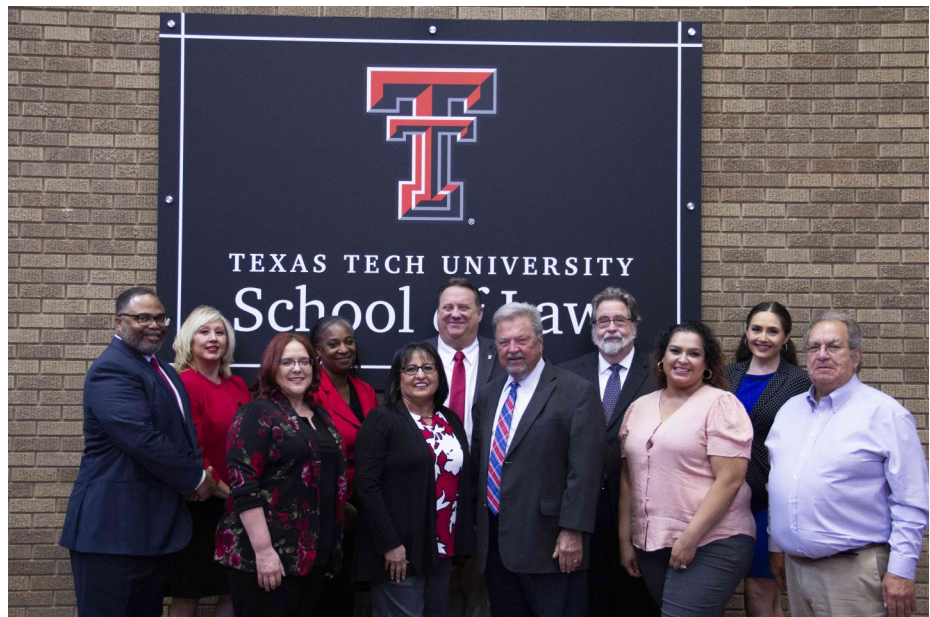
Job well done!!!

On Behalf of the
CLINICAL PROGRAMS
 FACULTY AND STAFF



You did it!
Congratulations

Good Luck with the Bar Exam!



CLINIC NEWS

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