



FALL 2022

CLINIC NEWS

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

STUDENTS BEGIN FALL SEMESTER WITH CLINICAL PROGRAMS ORIENTATION

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The Clinical Programs welcomed all students during orientation week! Clinic students were required to attend orientation during the week prior to the first day of Fall classes. The Advanced ADR (Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution) Clinic began their orientation on Tuesday, August 9th for a full four days with Professor Larry Spain and adjunct and Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution of Lubbock County Gene Valentini providing valuable instruction to fourteen students.

The Criminal Clinics consisting of the Criminal Defense Clinic, the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic, and the Innocence Clinic held their orientation on August 11th and 12th. Students were treated to lunch at Cancun's Restaurant on the 11th. During orientation, the Criminal Defense Clinic students were also able to visit some of their clients in jail thus beginning their representation.

The Tax Clinic orientation led by Professor Terri Morgeson was also held on August 11th and 12th at which time students were able to also submit their first Power of Attorney forms to the Internal Revenue Service in order to obtain their CAF numbers and be ready to begin representation of clients during their first week of classes.

Finally, Family Law/Housing Director, Professor Wendy Ross, began her orientation with a tour of the courthouse with her students and was followed by joining the Civil Practice Clinic students with orientation provided by Legal Assistant/Office



Manager, Elma Moreno, during which she provided students with information on Clinical Programs Policies and Procedures, as well as software programs to be used during the academic year. Tamara Duncan, Managing Attorney for Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, and Celina Franco, Equal Justice Volunteer Program Coordinator, assisted with orientation by providing an overview of LANWT and the intake interview application process.



The information provided to all clinic students gives them a jump start with providing representation to their clients beginning with the first day of classes. All students (with the exception of the Tax Clinic and the Advanced ADR Clinic students) are provided their third year trial card by the State Bar of Texas and makes it official for them to represent their clients under the supervision of their professors and instructors. On the other hand, a Special Appearance Authorization letter from the Internal Revenue Service authorizes Tax Clinic students to practice before the IRS during the semester.



As reported in articles provided in this edition of *Clinic News* by each clinic director, students have done an outstanding job during the Fall semester and we look forward to another successful Spring Semester!

We also look forward to seeing many students at the Clinical Programs Mandatory Information Session scheduled in January. See page 13 for more information!

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

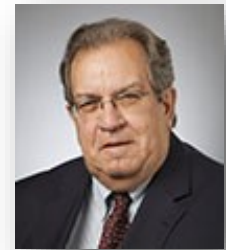
During the fall semester, eight students were enrolled in the Civil Practice Clinic: **Brannen Caraway, Jaycie Cruz, Tabitha Dwyer, Rachel Givens, Jacey Harmon Mizer, Polette Ortega, Payton Saunders, and Lily Talamantes**. This semester was a return to a more normal practice setting with in-person client meetings and court appearances although some hearings were still conducted by Zoom.

Over the course of the semester, a total of 30 new client cases were undertaken, 24 cases were completed and closed, and 16 cases remain open and will be carried over to the spring semester along with additional cases to be taken over the break. Students resumed participation in evening in-person Pro Bono Clinics sponsored by Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, which had been cancelled during COVID and replaced by virtual intakes. This allowed students to experience a wider variety of legal matters experienced by individuals who cannot afford access to legal counsel.



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. Several of the students were able to complete divorces for clients from beginning to end over the course of the semester.

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 cases and is available to answer questions from students, and **Elma Moreno and Nancy Mojica**, who provide valuable administrative support to all the Clinics. I look forward to continue working with these students over the course of the Spring semester as they continue to develop their lawyering skills and confidence in representing clients.



Professor Larry Spain teaches Civil Practice Clinic, Family Law, Professional Responsibility, and Advanced ADR Clinic.

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

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



Pictured L to R:

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

FROM THE DESK OF LARRY SPAIN AND GENE VALENTINI - ADVANCED ADR CLINIC

Eighteen students were enrolled in the Advanced ADR Clinic during the 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, Will Raftis, Jacob Rey, Tyler Roberts, Parker Stallings, and Jaret Thurston.**

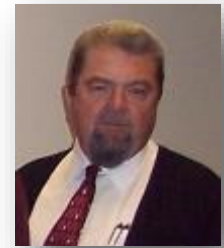
The semester began with four full days of mediation training during the week before classes began for the fall semester. Successful completion of this course qualifies as 40 hours of classroom instruction in dispute resolution training for court appointment as an impartial third party under Chapter 154 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. During the semester, students had the opportunity to initially observe experienced mediators conducting mediations before serving as either a co-mediator or solo mediator in a variety of disputes through the Office of Dispute Resolution for Lubbock County. Over 275 hours of mediation were provided by the students over the course of the semester. The following is a breakdown of the types of cases mediated by students during the semester:

Debt Cases	62
Family	32
Juvenile Diversion	2
District Attorney Referrals	1

Civil Suits	2
Criminal	3
Landlord/Tenant	6
Visitation	1
Small Claims	37
Commercial	1
Insurance	2
USDA	1
Code Enforcement	1
ADA	2
Arbitration	2

45% of the disputes resulted in an agreement, 40% resulted in an impasse, and 15% were continued for an additional mediation session. Mediations were conducted with parties participating either in-person, by telephone, or via Zoom. Despite the challenges, students were able to conduct mediations through varying formats which likely will be the new normal moving forward.

In addition to the mediation of actual disputes, every student videotaped an introductory statement for a simulated mediation for individual critique and prepared reflection papers on mediations that they participated in. We enjoyed working with this group of enthusiastic students in developing their mediation skills which will prepare them well for their future professional role either serving as mediator or as an attorney representing clients in mediation.



D. Gene Valentini is the Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution of Lubbock County, an administrative entity that manages an innovative ADR System, which began in 1985. He is also responsible for the statewide USDA mediation program. A mediator since 1981 and an active trainer for the past twenty plus years, Gene is the Master of Dispute Resolution for the courts of Lubbock County, Dean of Texas' ADR System directors and also co-teaches the Fall ADR course.

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS:

"The Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Clinic has not only allowed me to become a trained mediator, but it has also allowed me to gain practical hands-on experience while resolving real-life legal disputes. I have seen first-hand the many benefits of mediation, and I intend to continue serving as a mediator throughout my legal career."

Amy M. Blake
ADR Clinic



Pictured L to R:

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

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

This semester the family Law and Housing Clinic selected six (6) students: **Braden Anderson, Emilie Huber, Curtis Phelps, Princess Rodarte, Emily Spjut, and Hailey Schmitt.**

This year this Clinic started a new partnership with the 99th District Court to help with Pro Se Divorce Cases. The students were responsible for review the court file to make sure that the divorce cases were ready for a final prove up, review the Final Decree, and represent the Pro Se Divorce Petitioners in court to help them finish their divorce. This semester we were able to finalize 8 Pro Se Divorces.

We also had our normal share of Divorces: we had 10 divorces: 8 of these were involving children and 2 divorces without children.

We had a couple of grandma custody cases. One involved an infant. The other case involved a child where the father of the child had recently died. Both grandmas were able to get primary custody of the children.

We had 2 Stepparent Adoption cases this semester. One of these was from the Spring Semester. Both the parents and the child were very excited to finalize the adoption and solidify the family.



We also were able to help a lady get awarded a house that was left out of the divorce. The divorce decree failed to provide for the award of the parties' home. The lady was

trying to sell the house several years after the divorce. However, the house could not be sold until there was a Post-division of Property Order. We were able to get the house awarded to the lady so she could sell it.

Finally, we had one landlord-tenant case. The tenant received notice that she was charged for a full paint job of the whole house and other make-ready charges that exceed the security deposit. We were able to negotiate a settlement with about half the charges being reduced.



Professor Wendy Tolson Ross is currently teaching Family Law and Housing Clinic.

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

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

"As someone with no legal background prior to law school, I am immensely grateful for the Family Law and Housing Clinic for giving me the practical experience necessary to succeed as a family law attorney in the future."

Curtis Phelps
Family Law and Housing Clinic



Pictured L to R:

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

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

Just a short note to let everyone know the students in the Criminal Defense Clinic are, as always, busy representing real people in real cases in real time. This semester the students have handled or are handling 135 cases for 82 different clients.

Students handle all phases of representation from initial interview through appearance in Court. The responsibility of representation falls entirely on the clinic students' shoulders

under the ever-watchful eyes of the Clinic Director and Clinic Fellow, **Dwight McDonald**.

This semester, of those 135 cases, 29 have been completed with 12 pleas of guilty and 17 dismissals for a 59% dismissal rate. These 135 cases represent 89 misdemeanors and 46 felony charges – a very ambitious docket. Representing

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

Riley Carter, Cat Clopton, Pam Gandy, Kevin Garcia, Jessica Lieck, Kayla McCaffity, and **Taha Taha**. Please

congratulate them all for their hard work. Space does not allow an individual account of all they have accomplished in 4 months. Suffice it to say, these students are practicing law at the highest level for the benefit of their clients every day. They are learning the real-life lessons of the practice of law and putting their

education to great use. All students are members of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) and the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Networking with criminal defense lawyers is just one advantage of membership in these organizations. In October, all criminal clinic

students attended a two-day seminar in Ft. Worth on forensic science at the invitation of TCDLA and a grant provided by the Court of Criminal Appeals. The students are also set to attend the 42nd Annual Prairie Dog Lawyer Advanced

Criminal Law Seminar next semester at the Law School, all free of charge. During the course of each semester, each student will spend a minimum of 200 hours representing their clients in addition to a two-hour seminar support course held once a week. This equates to a total time investment during each semester of a minimum of 1600 hours of pro bono representation for the clinic clients. The Criminal Defense Clinic is proud to represent the

indigent citizens of the South Plains by court appointment only and plays its part in the Law School's commitment to providing quality, ethical representation for the poor while educating each student of the importance of such work.



Patrick Metzger became a full-time faculty member teaching and directing the Criminal Defense Clinic in 2008. Pat is an experienced criminal defense practitioner in Lubbock who is a Past President and Director of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and former Board member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. He is enthusiastic about continuing the development of our Criminal Defense Clinic and providing a quality experiential program for our students. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Texas Tech University and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from The University of Houston. He was admitted to practice in the State of Texas on April 29, 1974, celebrating this year 48 years in the practice of law. Prior to joining the faculty, he was one of only 14 attorneys qualified for appointment as first chair in Capital Murder cases in the 45 counties of the 9th Administrative Judicial Region and the only attorney in Lubbock who was qualified and solicited appointments to indigent clients for misdemeanors, juveniles, felonies, death penalty cases, and appeals in all courts.



Pictured top to bottom: (left side):

Professor Patrick Metzger, Justice Barkman, Pamela Gandy, Taha Taha, and Professor Dwight McDonald

Pictured (right side):

Kevin Garcia, Cat Clopton, Kayla McCaffity, Jessica Lieck, and Riley Carter

FROM THE DESK OF DONNIE YANDELL

CAPROCK REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

The 2022-2023 Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic has finished the first semester 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**. The student attorneys handled 37 cases and closed 10. 13 of those cases were felonies, 16 were misdemeanors and 8 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 currently have four clients' cases set for trial. Unless something changes, we will be going to trial on one of those cases in the Fall. The students have been working very hard on this case doing legal research, crime scene investigation and attempting to track down witnesses.

Laycie Duncan had a contested detention hearing the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. These are not normally very long hearings, usually about 30 minutes, however this one was very heavily contested and lasted almost two hours. Ms. Duncan successfully crossed the juvenile probation officer and then successfully directed the mother of the child. She was able to get pertinent information from both in our attempt to prove

our juvenile client should be released to his mother.

Unfortunately, the child's mother was hammered on cross examination and the State was able to prove an essential element of their case from her testimony. Although our juvenile was detained, we were able to get information in front of the State and the judge that should improve our juvenile's long-term results.

Finally, Ms. Duncan spent hours preparing for this hearing, getting witnesses subpoenaed and interviewing witnesses. Not only did she work weekends preparing, she tried the case when most of us were at home getting ready for Thanksgiving or on the road to see family. I think this shows her willingness to go above and beyond as a trial attorney and she should be commended for her effort.

This year's students are the first to get back close to the pre-COVID era travel. Since the beginning of the school year, the students as a whole have traveled almost 4500 miles to court and crime scene investigations. 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 clinic to ensure they do the best they can for the indigent defendants in our area of responsibility.

To Caprock 2022-2023, now that finals are done, have a great Winter Break and look forward to hitting the ground running when you return.



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

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

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



**Pictured top to bottom:
(left side):
Mark Hand, Professor
Metze, Professor
McDonald, and
Professor Yandell**

**Pictured (right side):
Morgan Nelson, Maggie
Pipkin, Beth
Cavanaugh, Laycie
Duncan, Claire
Andrews, Darren Garcia,
and Lawson Hamilton**

Being able to participate in the Caprock Clinic has been an invaluable experience. This experience has equipped me with skills and abilities that will help me throughout my entire career. I would highly recommend this opportunity to anyone who is interested in gaining a hands-on experience while in law school.

Maggie Pipkin
CRPDO Clinic

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

Fall 2022 has been a wonderful year for the LITC Tax Clinic. The clinic consists of **Leena Al-Souki, Connor Beique, Klaryx Martinez, Karina Neira, Mariah Paulger, Amanda Smith, Judy Tejeda-Gonzales, and Morgan Walton.**

We continue to struggle to find cases because the IRS is not currently sending out collection notices. Our cases, which have been delayed in processing by the IRS are slowing coming to a conclusion resolved.

One of our longest open cases was approved for identity theft. A single mom, with an 8 grade education, had her identity used repeatedly by the same person in another state.

We filed police reports, we reported the case to the federal trade commission but we would start dealing with one tax year when a new tax year would popup. Her identity was stolen for 5 straight years. Finally, I drafted a strongly worded letter to offending company's human resources officer. Miraculously, once the letter was sent, the identity theft stopped.



I anticipate the upcoming filing season will be difficult with earned income credit and the child tax credit being reduced. Next semester, our students will begin an education series with VITA and hopefully find more taxpayers to help.



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

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

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

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



"While my first semester in the Civil Practice Clinic proved to be challenging, it has also been the most rewarding experience during my time in law school. The Civil Practice Clinic has afforded me unique and valuable opportunities, such as participating in a hearing before a District Court Judge, that I wouldn't otherwise receive as a law student. The Civil Practice Clinic has encouraged me to grow as an advocate and become more confident in addressing difficult legal issues, and I am thankful for all that I have learned under the supervision of Professor Spain and Professor Morgeson."

Jacey Harmon Mizer
Tax Clinic



Pictured L to R:

Leena Al-Souki, Professor Terri Morgeson, Karina Neira, Amy Smith, Connor Beique, Mariah Paulger, Morgan Walton, Klaryx Martinez, and Judy Tejeda-Gonzales

FROM THE DESK OF ALLISON CLAYTON — DIRECTOR, INNOCENCE CLINIC

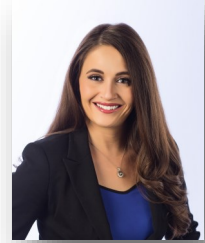
The Innocence Clinic has already put in over 800 hours of work on its cases, and we are just halfway through. As usual, this year's students have been doggedly investigating a slew of cases, almost all of which are homicides. They have explored the world of forensic sciences implicated by our cases, including fingerprints, arson, cell phone tracking, blood spatter, and abusive head trauma, just to name a few. In the course of our work, this semester we filed hundreds of pages of litigation in a state writ out of Midland County (more about that in a moment) and extensive litigation in a federal writ in the Northern District of Texas. We have motions for post-conviction DNA testing pending in two cases and another battle in federal court to unseal records that we are pretty sure establish a jailhouse informant lied about her motivations in testifying against our client. It has been a litigious semester to say the least.

In other news, after a two-year COVID hiatus, we were finally able to visit our clients in prison again – road trip! On this semester's big clinic trip, we visited clients in two prisons and met with two different district attorneys to discuss our cases. But that wasn't the only traveling we did. We also had several day trips in one of our other big cases to meet with law enforcement, prosecutors, and defense attorneys.

On the PR front, we have had one documentary and two podcasts covering our work on clients' cases this semester, with three other full-blown documentaries at various stages of production. Stay tuned when one of them (the story of Ed Ates) comes out on Hulu in January!

But the most exciting news of the semester came when we found out that the trial court in Midland County is recommending one of our clients be released after twenty-four years of wrongful imprisonment. The Court of Criminal Appeals has to make the final ruling, but we are very hopeful that we will be walking our client out of prison soon.

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, 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. Clinic student clients adore the students as each one learns more and more what it is to be a true advocate and counselor.



Allison Clayton is the adjunct professor of the Innocence Clinic and also runs a local law practice. She is Deputy Director of the Innocence Project of Texas, Director of the Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and an active member of the Amicus Committee of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. Allison graduated from TTU magna cum laude with honors in 2004 and TTU School of Law summa cum laude in 2007. Upon graduation from law school, she served as a clerk on the Second Court of Appeals for one year before becoming a staff attorney for the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Allison left the federal court in 2013 and started her own law practice focusing on appellate and post-conviction criminal defense litigation, which is ironic considering the fact she started law school fully intending to never practice a day of criminal defense in her life.

Dealing primarily with felony convictions, Allison has represented clients in appellate and post-conviction matters around the state and nation. She currently has cases pending in the United States Supreme Court, Fifth Circuit, Federal District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, and multiple Texas courts of appeals.



Pictured L to R:

Standing: Professor Patrick Metze, Addy May, Linzy Hill, and Katy Turner

Sitting: Professor Allison Clayton and Sarah Dickie

"My time in the Innocence Clinic has been the most humbling, rewarding, and admittedly, the most frustrating experience of my life. Witnessing the brokenness of our criminal justice system from a first-hand perspective has been sobering, to say the very least. However, learning how to right these wrongs under the direction of Professor Clayton has proven invaluable and has changed my personal and professional life forever. I love our clients, I love this work, and I love this clinic."

Addy May
Innocence Clinic

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. This fall, in-person clinics resumed after being converted to virtual clinics during COVID. Thanks to the following faculty who participated in these clinics during the month of September: **Dustin Benham** (1 clinic);

Dwight McDonald (2 clinic); and **Larry Spain** (3 clinics).

Thank you to the following students who also volunteered during the semester: **Alexis Hill** and **Paloma Flores**

For any additional volunteer opportunities, please contact elma.moreno@ttu.edu

LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC COMMUNITY OUTREACH by Marya Lujan, Community Outreach Coordinator

Fall semester of 2022 was very productive. This year I traveled to multiple resource fairs in cities I have not been to such as O'Donnell, Lamesa, Tahoka, and other small surrounding towns. It was a blast in getting to know the different communities and educating in the services LITC provides.



This semester I was involved in more low-income family resource fairs within the Lubbock Community. The *Back to School Bash* sponsored by Catholic Charities, *3rd Annual Back to School* sponsored by Hub City, and *The Maggie Trejo*

Halloween sponsored by the City of Lubbock were some of my favorite community events this semester.

This semester was also the second time the LITC was present at the *Techspo* event on September. This year there was more than 500 students were present including Raider Red.

Starting with August, the LITC participated in a health resource fair at the National Ranching

Heritage Center were more than 300 individuals stopped by to learn about the services the LITC has to offer.

October was filled with many fall and Halloween resource fairs and, social media content. This semester was the first time Terri Morgeson went live on Facebook and Instagram to talk about deadlines, identity theft, and IRS updates.

In November I traveled to Post Elementary School for a health resource fair sponsored by Lynn County Fairs. It was my first time being there. It was a blast getting to know the different communities and being able to reach out to possibly help with any tax issues the LITC clinic may help with.

This semester was one for the books.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

J. Ethan Colley (CRPDO '22) is a Managed Assigned Counsel Fellowship Attorney with Potter Armstrong Public Defenders Office in Amarillo, Texas.

Emily Lawrence (CRPDO '22) is working at the Ricker Law Firm who has offices in Levelland, Brownfield, and Littlefield. She handles mainly criminal cases but has been working on family law and probate cases as well.

Thomas Beach (CDC '22) is an attorney with Westfall Sellers Law Firm in Fort Worth, Texas, and is doing mostly criminal/federal defense.

Xenna Davis (Civil Practice '22) is an associate in the commercial complex litigation department at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in Dallas, Texas.

Chad Culpepper (Tax Clinic '22) is currently at the University of Florida finishing his LLM. He has accepted a job with the IRS Chief Counsel Honors Program.

Megan Parry (Family Law/Housing Clinic '22) Is currently working as a Staff Attorney for Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, specifically the Home Preservation Project out of Farmers Branch. Megan states "There is no question that my experience with the Family & Housing Clinic has made the transition from law student to lawyer a whole lot easier. Incredibly grateful for you, Ms. Nancy, Professor Ross, and all the amazing clinic faculty and staff for helping me get to this point!"



WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

Participating in this clinic was a goal of mine since last year. Mediation teaches communication skills that are applicable to every kind of relationship, whether professional or personal. Having the opportunity to serve my community by de-escalating tense situations, guiding disputants toward finding agreeable solutions, and learning how to remain an empathetic yet impartial voice will certainly make me a better lawyer in the future.

Ben Casey
Advanced ADR Clinic

I'm very lucky to have been provided the opportunity to be a state bar qualified law student in the Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic. I've had the pleasure of working with and befriending intelligent and hardworking people who care about the criminal justice system as much as I do. I couldn't have wished for a better 3L experience!

Darren Garcia
CRPDO Clinic

The Caprock Clinic has, by a landslide, been the most exciting part of my law school experience. I have learned more in the past few months about practicing law than I did in total from the two years prior. Having Donnie as a mentor and the other Caprock students to work beside has been invaluable.

Laycie C. Duncan
CRPDO Clinic

Being a part of the Criminal Defense Clinic has been extremely rewarding. I am so grateful to be able to fight for those who might not have anyone in their corner if not for our clinic and the Lubbock Private Defenders Office. The practical experience I have gained has given me the confidence and skills necessary to succeed as a criminal defense attorney after graduation. I cannot fully express the gratitude I have for Professor Metzger and Professor McDonald's guidance.

Jessica Lieck
Criminal Defense Clinic

The Caprock Clinic has given me invaluable experiences and confidence going into my first job after law school. It's one thing to learn the law out of a textbook and another to actually put it into practice. I would recommend anyone who is even remotely interested in criminal law to participate in the clinic. It is a great way to gain real world experience and guidance from professors who have decades of experience practicing criminal defense.

Claire Andrews
CRPDO Clinic

Working in the low income tax clinic has been such a great experience for me. I am helping real life clients with their IRS troubles, and it is very rewarding to hear them say that they no longer feel hopeless now that they have me to represent them. Working in the clinic has also given me invaluable experience that will help me in my career after graduation.

Judy M. Tejada-Gonzales
Tax Clinic

I feel incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to help indigent clients in the Lubbock community under the direction of Professor Spain.

Lily J. Talamantes
Civil Practice Clinic

Being a part of the Innocence Clinic has been the best part of law school for me. To be able to combine my passion and my natural strengths to help those wrongfully convicted is a dream come true! Not to mention, I get to do work that I will actually do as an attorney, which is helpful for my future career. I am so thankful for the opportunity to participate in a clinical program at Tech Law, and specifically the Innocence Clinic!

Katherine S. Turner
Innocence Clinic

The Advanced Alternative Dispute Clinic provided an opportunity to use problem solving skills and solution driven communications to meet the needs of real-life clients through the mediation process. The professors provided support, guidance, and knowledge to ensure students were prepared to handle interactions with clients. I believe this Clinic provided experiences that will directly benefit my legal career. I can't recommend this clinic enough!

Melissa Hightower
Advanced ADR Clinic

There is still so much for us to learn, of course, but being in clinic has given me the confidence that I can go out and practice criminal law. Maybe the greatest advantage is that it has demystified the process of working a criminal case. I am especially grateful for the mentorship of our professors and the opportunity to learn with and from the other students in the clinics.

Lawson Hamilton
CRPDO Clinic

Being a part of the Caprock Regional Public Defender Office this year has been the most rewarding and practical aspects of law school. I have learned so much of how criminal procedure and evidence plays out in real life. It has been an enjoyable challenge representing each of my clients, and often very humbling. All my cases are complex in their own ways, and I have found no two cases are the same, even if they are the same charge. I am looking forward to taking on more work and clients, and I am very grateful to Donnie, Metzger, and Dwight for their guidance.

Beth Cavanaugh
CRPDO Clinic

Getting into the Criminal Defense Clinic has been a blessing and privilege. I didn't know what to truly expect when I found out I was selected but little did I know what it would mean to me. It was clear from the beginning that this first-hand experience was what I was missing from my law school career. The classes I had taken prior to the clinic may have taught me the law; but the clinic has taught me how to utilize this knowledge in the real-world setting.

Taha Taha
Criminal Defense Clinic

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

The experience I have gained from working with clients and the tax code has been invaluable in preparing for my future. However, being a member of the tax clinic has given me more than just experience, it has given me some of my best friends. Even when the work is hard, which it often is, they keep things fun!

Morgan Walton
Tax Clinic

Being a part of the Tax Clinic was a dream come true! When I began my law school career, I wanted to cater my education and experience to prepare me for a career in tax, so joining the tax clinic was always on my to-do list. However, Tax Clinic showed me that the practice of tax law was far more impressive than I imagined. Being able to navigate the complexity of tax administration and advise taxpayers demonstrated how exciting tax law really is.

Connor Beique
Tax Clinic

Being able to connect with clients and assist in their cases has been rewarding, which is invaluable to our law school experience. During our time in the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, we have been exposed to many cases which will make us better prepared for the real world. I am excited to be an advocate for those who do not have a voice.

Karina Neira
Tax Clinic

I came into the criminal defense clinic thinking it might not have been the right fit for me. A semester later, I realize this was completely untrue. I love my work here. I love putting arguments together and bouncing ideas off of my clinic colleagues. I have always been shy and find it hard to talk to people I don't know but I find myself looking forward to talking with my clients and getting to know them more and more. Clinic has really gotten me out of my shell and has shown me what I am capable of and where I want to be after I graduate.

Cat Clopton
Criminal Defense Clinic

The tax clinic has been one of my hardest but most rewarding law school experiences. Even though it has only been a few short months, the experience I have gained is invaluable and strengthens my desire to practice law. I am so grateful for the tax clinic and can't wait for the work ahead.

Amanda Smith
Tax Clinic

Working in the Tax Clinic this semester, I have gained invaluable experience and made lifelong friendships. Terri is a phenomenal director and mentor who constantly goes out of her way to teach us the best ways to take care of our clients and ourselves. I am excited to continue next semester!

Leena Al-Souki
Tax Clinic

The ADR Clinic provided me with a plethora of learning opportunities to gain new skills and advance my legal skills. Working in this clinic gave me the opportunity to mediate different disputes in various areas of law. I enjoyed having a first-hand experience of mediation and learning skills that are effective for mediation and problem-solving. I also enjoyed working with both seasoned professionals and practicing attorneys as co-mediators.

Love Osemwegie
Advanced ADR Clinic

Mediating for the Advanced ADR Clinic has taught me crucial lawyering skills, like negotiating tactfully, reading and managing emotions, and communicating effectively. I'm grateful for the diverse experience I gained, as well as getting the chance to help people of the community resolve their issues in a simple and accessible way.

Sruti Gopalakrishnan
Advanced ADR Clinic

The Tax Clinic has been real hands on experience with day to day legal work. Living paycheck to paycheck and receiving notices from the IRS that their refund was taken and applied to another Tax Year because they "underreported" without knowing their identity was actually stolen—is just a glimpse of some of the issues my clients face. The satisfaction of helping my clients and interacting directly with the IRS provided me with confidence as a future lawyer. I am forever grateful to Terri, Elma, Nancy, Professor Metze, Professor McDonald, Professor Yandell, and my colleagues in clinic that made this an unforgettable experience. Thank you!

Klaryx Y. Martinez
Tax Clinic

From being terrified to laughing and learning more than I have in my law school career, the clinic experience has been one of a kind. I appreciate each of the professors and each of my fellow student attorneys more than words can express. The teamwork built into this program has been my favorite part of law school, and I would encourage anyone interested to apply and be a part of this special experience!

Morgan Nelson
CRPDO Clinic

My law school clinical experience has been absolutely incredible! There is a big difference between learning about the law in the classroom and having the opportunity to apply the law for a real case in the courtroom. I'm grateful for everything I have learned in the Criminal Defense Clinic, the practical experience it provided will have a major impact on my legal career and my ability to zealously advocate for my clients. I also want to give a great big thanks to Metze, Dwight, Donnie, Elma, and Nancy for all the wisdom and help they gave me, this program would not be the same without y'all! Thank you!

Kevin J. Garcia
CRPDO Clinic

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Criminal Defense Clinic this semester. One of my favorite parts was making friends and being in an environment where we can all learn from each other. I have learned so much and cannot wait to continue my experience next semester!

Riley Carter
Criminal Defense Clinic

The Criminal Defense Clinic has been my favorite part about law school. The most rewarding part about being in the clinic is getting to interact with the clients and help them navigate difficult times in their life. The clinic has taught me so much about being a lawyer and has given me the tools needed to be successful in my future career. If you want practical and hands on experience, then you should participate in a clinic.

Kayla McCaffity
Criminal Defense Clinic

"My first semester in the Criminal Defense Clinic has been an outstanding opportunity to grow as an advocate. I have been fortunate enough to represent members of the Lubbock community charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses. As a member of the clinic, I have sharpened my legal research skills and become better at communicating with clients to understand their needs."

Pamela M. Gandy
Criminal Defense Clinic

The Civil Practice Clinic has provided me hands-on experience and exposure on various legal matters I had never encountered. Additionally, it has given me the opportunity to create and expand my professional network with my colleagues and other clinic directors. Lastly, the clinic has built my confidence by allowing me to provide legal services to real clients.

Polette Ortega
Civil Practice Clinic

I am grateful for the opportunity to help individuals with their tax controversies, as dealing with the IRS can be very scary for most people. This has also been an amazing learning experience in handling clients and corresponding with IRS.

Mariah Paulger
Tax Clinic

All clinic students are so incredibly grateful, not only for the opportunity to learn the law hands-on, but also to work with and for some of the greatest people ever. Our clinic professors and staff are absolutely incredible and make the clinic experience wonderful. THANK YALL FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!!!

J. Mark Hand
CRPDO Clinic

Selection process for Students Interested in Participating in the Clinical Programs during the 2023-2024 academic year will begin in late January! Mandatory Information Session is scheduled for January 24, 2023 in Lanier Auditorium. Watch for announcements coming in January and visit the clinic website at <http://www.law.ttu.edu/acp/programs/clinical/> for more information!

WORDS FROM OUR CLIENTS

Thank you so much (Madison Pyle '22) for helping me find a resolution in this case and just for handling it for me and reducing stress.

Tax Clinic Client

I would have given Chris, Logan, and David 10's if it was available. Thank you guys for all of your work!

Tax Clinic Client

Braden did a great job and I don't know that I would have changed anything. He was very patient and explained things to me in a way I understood.

Family Law/Housing Clinic Client

Emily Spjut was amazing! Wendy too! You guys are highly recommended!

Family Law/Housing Clinic Client

WHERE ARE THEY NOW!

Kayla Ryan (Innocence Clinic '22) – practicing at a civil litigation firm in Pensacola, Florida focusing on employment law. She passed the Maryland bar exam (UBE) and is in the process of waiving into the Florida bar via the military spouse rule.

Morgan Vega (Civil Practice '22) is living and working in downtown Fort Worth at Brown, Proctor, and Howell, LLP. She is practicing railroad and aviation law - and loving it.

Abigail Ebrom (Tax Clinic '22) is working in Midland at Cotton, Bledsoe, Tighe & Dawson in the Estate Planning section of the firm.

CLINICAL PROGRAMS MANDATORY INFORMATION SESSION
FOR 2023-2024 STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS SCHEDULED

Clinical Programs Mandatory Information Session

**Tuesday, January 24th
Noon – 12:50 p.m.
Lanier Auditorium**

If you are interested in applying to participate in a clinic during the 2023--2024 academic year, **DON'T MISS OUT!** Make plans to attend this session!

For More Information on clinic opportunities, selection policies, application form, and to watch the clinic video, please visit:

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics/index.php>

Lunch Provided!

Current students will be available to answer questions as well!

Come listen to Clinic Directors discuss the clinical course offerings and how the students spent the Fall Semester working with live clients and actual legal cases!



More information will be provided during the information session by all clinic directors. If you are currently a 2L student you will be able to apply to participate to any of the clinics. If you are currently a 1L student, you will be able to apply to the Advanced ADR Clinic.

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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. MetzeCriminal 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 ValentiniAdjunct Professor
Advanced ADR Clinic**Donnie Yandell**Chief Public Defender
Caprock Regional Public
Defender Office**ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF:****Elma Moreno**

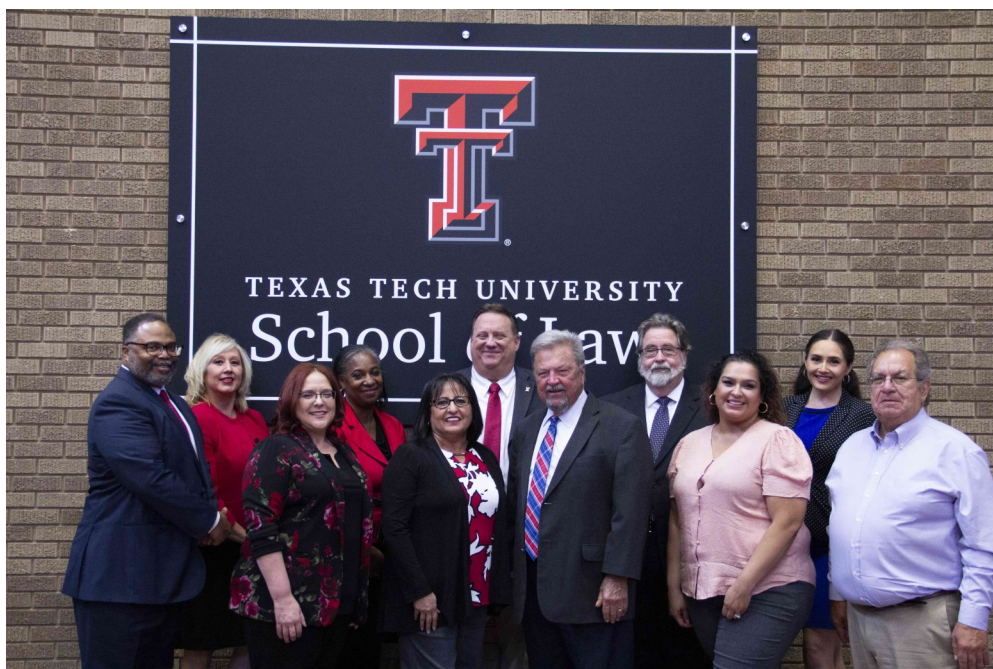
Office Manager/Legal Assistant

Nancy Mojica

Senior Business Assistant

Lori ObandoSenior Business Assistant for
CRPDO**Marya Lujan**LITC Community Outreach
Coordinator

FROM THE
CLINICAL PROGRAMS
FACULTY AND STAFF



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO PASSED THE TEXAS AND
NEW MEXICO BAR EXAMS
AND CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER GRADUATES!!**



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CLINIC NEWS

Fall 2022 Edition

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