



FALL 2023

CLINIC NEWS

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Desk of Larry Spain	2
From the Desk of Larry Spain and Gene Valentini	3
From the Desk of Terri Morgeson	4
From the Desk of Patrick Metzke	5
From the Desk of Donnie Yandell	6,9
From the Desk of Allison Clayton	7
From the Desk of Miranda Rhyne	8,9
Where are They Now?	9
CCAV Seeks Volunteers for Upcoming Tax Season	9
Words from Our Students	10-11
Thanks to Clinical Program Faculty and Students Supporting Pro Bono	11
Clinical Programs Mandatory Information	12
Snapshot Corner	13
Faculty and Staff	14

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 15th for a full four days with Professor Larry Spain and Adjunct Professor and Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution of Lubbock County Gene Valentini providing valuable instruction to seventeen 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 17th and 18th. Students were treated to lunch at Cancun's Restaurant on the 17th. During orientation, the Criminal Defense Clinic students were also able to visit some of their clients in jail thus beginning their representation.



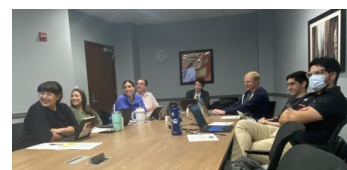
Finally, Family Law Clinic Director, Terri Morgeson, began her orientation with a tour of the courthouse with her students. Terri Morgeson, Pat Metzke, and Nancy Mojica conducted the afternoon orientation with both Family Law and Civil Practice Clinic students in Elma Moreno's absence. Students were provided with information on Clinical Programs Policies

and Procedures, as well as software programs to be used during the academic year for document assembly, data base entries, and timekeeping.

The Clinical Programs also welcomes new LITC Director, Miranda Rhyne, who held her orientation for Tax Clinic the first day of classes. More information on Director Miranda Rhyne on page 8.



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 look forward to seeing many students at the Clinical Programs Mandatory Information Session scheduled in January as we begin our selection process for 2024-2025 academic year. 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: **Benjamin Adeeso, James Ashmore, Mallory DeGroat, Wyatt McFarlane, Danielle Munstedt, Tyler Roberts, Khusbu Shah, and Malik Williams.**

Over the course of the semester, a total of 30 new client cases were undertaken, 19 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. In addition to assuming responsibility for assigned cases, each of the students participated in evening Pro Bono Clinics sponsored by Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas where they conducted intake for individuals seeking legal representation.

This allowed the students to be exposed to 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, social security 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 look forward to 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.

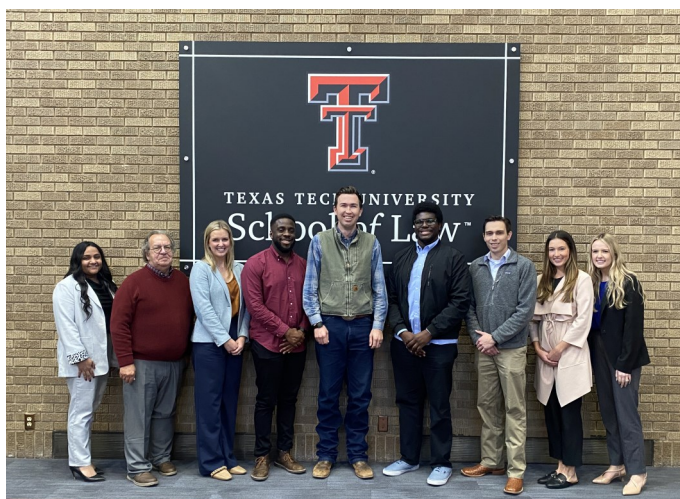
In addition to law teaching and legal practice, he has also been active in the field of alternative dispute resolution, serving as Chair of the Governing Board of a university-affiliated community dispute resolution center as well as being a frequent trainer and practitioner in mediation skills. He currently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

"I have really enjoyed working at the clinic. I like getting to work on real cases, which is much more enjoyable and meaningful than just talking classes. In addition, I like getting to work with my other classmates in the clinic and learning from them."

*Wyatt Macfarlane
Civil Practice Clinic*

Pictured L to R:

Khusbu Shah, Professor Larry Spain, Tyler Roberts, Been Adeeso, Wyatt MacFarlane, Malik White-Williams, James Ashmore, Mallory DeGroat, and Danielle Munstedt



FROM THE DESK OF LARRY SPAIN AND GENE VALENTINI

ADVANCED ADR CLINIC

Seventeen students were enrolled in the Advanced ADR Clinic during the Fall Semester:

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

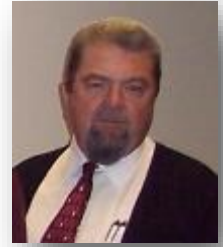
Each of the students completed 40 hours of basic mediation training prior to the start of fall classes qualifying them for appointment as an impartial third party under Chapter 154 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code. As a result, when classes began, students were initially able to observe 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 364 hours of mediation services 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	136
Family	16
Divorce	5
Juvenile Diversion	19
Breach of Contract	2
Civil Suits	5

Criminal	8
Landlord/Tenant	1
Negligence	2
Small Claims	43
Code Enforcement	1
Veteran Diversion	4

56% of the disputes resulted in an agreement, 29% 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:

"I enjoyed being part of the Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution (AADR) clinic this semester and I'm proud to say I am now a trained mediator. I believe a huge part of being an attorney, no matter what area of law you practice, you will be mediating in some capacity, whether that's between individuals, businesses, or other attorneys. The skills I have learned during this clinic will help me not only in the practice of law, but in my everyday life."

Brettney R. Jones
ADR Clinic



Pictured L to R:

Standing: Priscilla Mora Garcia, Joe Lizcano, Cassidy Terrazas, Abby Keese, Brettney Jones, Noah Andel, Julia Koert, Owen Hill, Morgan Webb, Khanh Tran, Trevor Shelton, and Orlando Oropez

Sitting: Adjunct Professor Gene Valentini, Emily Jacobs, Ericka Lopez, Riley Caraway, Ashley Williams, and Professor Larry Spain

FROM THE DESK OF TERRI MORGESON

DIRECTOR, FAMILY LAW CLINIC

My first semester as Director of the Family Law Clinic was a success. My clinic class was composed entirely of women: **Kristie Berrier, Shelby Cason, Mary Franklin, Alexis Hill, Ruby Lira, Kathryn Naill, Lauryn Vigil** and **Samantha Ward**. We handled 30 cases over the semester consisting of divorces, name changes and custody matters. We successfully closed 13 cases. The cases closed were primarily status divorces, but we did have two students with temporary orders hearings. In family law learning how to manage clients and their expectation is central to effective representation. This semester two of our most continuous cases ended with the clients reconciling with their spouses. This was a unique



learning experience for the students and an option none of us saw coming. The other big lesson was learning how to tell your client no. We had several instances of client wanting options which were not legally possible.

I could not ask for a better group of students. They all come to the clinic with their own experiences and life skills. We have been able to learn from each other resulting in a meaningful clinical experience.

Next semester we will branch out into different types of family law cases and I look forward to the new challenges those cases may bring.

"The Family Law clinic as overseen by Professor Morgeson has dispelled my fears of graduating as an attorney with no idea how to practically be an attorney. The experience in the clinic is invaluable and I would not have wanted to spend my 3L year in any other way!"

Ruby Lira-Musgrove
Family Law Clinic



Pictured L to R:

Kristi Berrier, Director Terri Morgeson, Ruby Lira-Musgrove, Lauryn Vigil, Shelby Casey, Mary Franklin, Kathryn Nail, Sam Ward, and Alexis Hill



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.

Terri Morgeson served as Director of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic in addition to continuing as Clinical Fellow for the Civil Practice Clinic from May 2014 until July 2023. Although the learning curve had been steep, she enjoyed the challenge and continued the tireless work of her predecessors. However, when Professor Wendy Ross departed TTU School of Law, Terri Morgeson assumed the role of Director of Family Law Clinic. Family law has always been her passion!

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 112 cases for 81 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, Professor Metze, and the Clinic Fellow, Dwight McDonald. This semester, of those 112 cases, 38 have been completed with 8 pleas of guilty and 30 dismissals for a 79% dismissal rate. These 112 cases represent 63 misdemeanors and 49 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: **Nat Dudar, Samantha Escalon, Victoria Gallegos, Megan Gower, Maralicia Martinez, Josh Owens, Olivia Ramirez** and **Victoria Ukoh**. 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 Austin 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 43rd 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 Metze 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 50 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 L to R:

Standing: Professor Patrick Metze, Maralicia Martinez, Megan Gower, Victoria Ukoh, Josh Owens, and Instructor Dwight McDonald

Sitting: Nat Dudar, Victoria Gallegos, Samantha Escalon, and Olivia Ramirez

FROM THE DESK OF DONNIE YANDELL

CAPROCK REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

The 2023-2024 Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic has finished the semester and the students are now studying for finals. This year's student attorneys were **Alek Benavides, Maddy Cox, Kaylyn Foreman, Anne Greenberg, Hunter Nasato, Kate Pennington, Sarah Kannel** and **Bryssa Rodriguez**. This semester, the student attorneys handled 92 cases and closed 32. 12 of those cases were felonies, 60 were misdemeanors and 20 were juveniles. Here are some of the offenses the student attorneys are handling: Assault, Theft, Possession of Marijuana and Driving While Intoxicated to only name a few.

We currently have one client's case set for trial and plan to have another one set at the beginning of the Spring Semester. We hope to have a trial on both of those cases in the Spring. The students have been working very hard on these cases doing legal research, crime scene investigation and attempting to track down witnesses.

Probably one of the biggest events to happen this Fall was an issue involving parental visitation with a juvenile client. The juvenile justice center where our client was held was not allowing parents to visit their child in the center, in person. The parents were only allowed to speak with their child by telephone. This means that children between the ages of 10 and 16 were removed from their homes on charges of criminal conduct and were only allowed to speak to their parents via telephone. With the help of Professor Metze,

Sarah Kannel and Hunter Nasato were able to locate the Family Code statute that requires a child be able to visit their parents in person and in private. After consultation with the judge that heads up the oversight committee for the justice center and making their case to the judge, they were able to get the center's policy changed, now allowing not only the child they represent but all children in the center, to have in person visitation with their parents.

Additionally, Hunter had a contested detention hearing on this child in which she was able to effectively cross two witnesses. She was not able to convince the judge to release the child, but she was able to make what is normally a perfunctory ruling extremely difficult for the judge to make. She was passionate and on point with her questioning and exposed several weaknesses in the State's case for detention to the judge. The child was charged with two felonies. Hunter was able to show the State that one of the felonies should have been a misdemeanor and we think the State is going to lower the second felony to a misdemeanor due to the effectiveness of her legal research, factual investigation and negotiation strategy.

The students were able to log over 4500 miles driving to and from court during this semester. That totals approximately 78 hours driving down the road with your's truly. I am sure they find that a treat!

(continued on page 9)



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 L to R:
Professor Patrick Metze,
Instructor Dwight McDonald,
Lori Obando, Sarah Kannel,
Hunter Nasato, Bryssa
Rodriguez Muro, Alek
Benavides, Kaylyn Foreman,
Anne Greenberg, Maddy Cox,
and Instructor Donnie
Yandell (not pictured is Kate
Pennington)

FROM THE DESK OF ALLISON CLAYTON

DIRECTOR, INNOCENCE CLINIC

The Innocence Clinic set a new record in Fall 2023, seeing not one but two exonerations! The first was the case of James Reyes, which has made international news. James



was wrongly convicted of a 1981 murder and has been suffering either in prison or on parole ever since. New evidence proved who the real killers likely were, although those people have all since passed away. The conviction was reversed in October, just 18 months after we started working on the case. Stay tuned for the documentary currently in production.

The next was the case of Greg Williams. About five years ago, an officer with the local police department went rogue and started testifying that DPS had told her the defendant (in whatever case) had to register as a sex offender. (And if that sounds like blatant hearsay, you're right! It is. Welcome to state court, where the rules are more like loose suggestions. Every one of the local criminal district courts permitted the officer's hearsay testimony, resulting in the officer committing perjury in all of those courts. Last we checked, the cop still had her job, though she doesn't testify anymore. And those courts still do not bat an eye at backdoor hearsay.). Anyway, Mr. Williams was one of the officer's victims. In November, we got his failure to register conviction reversed.

In both of these cases, the local District Attorney's Office agreed that the conviction was wrongfully obtained, which is truly key to getting these exonerations.

Apart from these exonerations, this year's students have been doggedly working on their respective 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. They have established relationships with their clients, tracked down witnesses, and obtained experts to help in their cases. Additionally, in collaboration with a documentarian podcaster, the students have been working on a major investigation. That podcast is set to start halfway through Spring 2024.

The student attorneys have done all of this—reviewing transcripts, working with clients, and tracking down witnesses, evidence, and documents in their cases, and working with the press—for those deemed to be 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:

Left side:
Shelbi Stogdill, Pryce Stewart,
and Patrick Gonzales

Right side:
Madyson Edwards, Instructor
Allison Clayton, and
Professor Patrick Metzke

FROM THE DESK OF MIRANDA M. RHYNE

DIRECTOR, LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

"Firsts" are memorable. This was my first semester as the Director of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. This was my first semester teaching. I haven't had enough time to properly reflect on my first semester, but I feel confident it was an overall success. A challenge, yes. A whirlwind, yes. A challenging tornado, absolutely. But it's been fun, and I'll never forget the past few months. I couldn't have asked for better students in my first year teaching. This semester, the Tax Clinic had eight Qualified Student Representatives: **Adam Overstreet, Anna Long, Christopher Nájera, Connor Drysdale, Diana Hernandez, Jose Guillot, Oleg Perry, and Renee Rodriguez**. Renee graduates in December. We wish her success on the Bar exam and in her future professional endeavors!

Each student has been responsible for carrying a caseload of 6-8 clients, each at various stages of representation, and often with more than one legal issue. They have come to understand the unique life circumstances of their clients and how, sometimes, the solution isn't always a legal one. They have had to think beyond the realm of tax and the scope of law to effectively represent their clients. The students have experienced, firsthand, the duality of practicing law: i.e., navigating a world of chaos while also maintaining patience. On the one hand, it may take months to get information needed for client representation or to hear from the opposing party. On the other hand, there may be limited time to find case law to support settlement negotiations with opposing

counsel, avoid trial, and obtain a favorable result for a client. Or they may have been on hold with the IRS for over two hours just to obtain a few facts or even worse, experience the dreaded "courtesy disconnect," which is a nice way of saying the IRS hung up on you.

Tax representation rarely receives the recognition it deserves. Primarily because it's administrative in nature and because people aren't usually aware of the remedies available. Nobody is making a TV series about taxes. People don't sit around thinking about how the IRS impacts their day-to-day decisions. Or if they do, it's how they don't want to pay the IRS. That's a little bit of what we do – help folks avoid or reduce tax liability. We also help put money in our clients' pockets. For some, the IRS is holding a refund that will help pay rent or their car note. The same vehicle they need to drop their children off at school and go to work to earn enough money to make ends meet. For others, having a tax balance is impacting their ability to access credit or get a job – things most of us take for granted. These are some of the ways the Tax Clinic's representation has a real impact on the daily lives of clients.

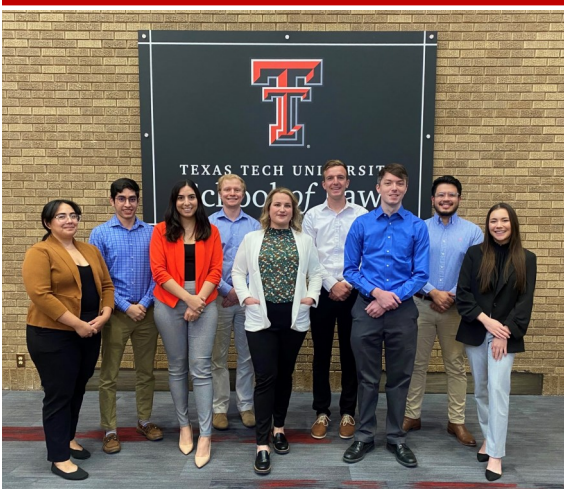
Prior to joining Tech, I practiced law in the public sector under the same funding grant the Tax Clinic receives. I represented the same client community and handled the same types of cases. Yet, stepping into this role has been a first for me.

(continued on page 9)



Miranda M. Rhyne is a Clinical Instructor and the Director of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas and is also admitted to practice in United States Tax Court. Miranda graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After earning her J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law, she made her way to Texas and obtained an L.L.M. in Taxation from SMU Dedman School of Law.

As a law student, Miranda served on the International and Comparative Law Review as both an Articles and Comments Editor and Executive Editor. Prior to entering legal education, she worked as a tax attorney for a non-profit organization representing taxpayers before the IRS in controversy resolution. In doing so, she saved clients hundreds of thousands of dollars through debt reduction or elimination and assisted in securing delayed or denied refunds. During her time in the public sector, Miranda discovered her passion for advocacy and has dedicated her career to helping others. She has found community engagement and education to be one of the most rewarding aspects of her practice. Miranda has presented on various tax topics to a wide variety of audiences and has a knack for engaging non-tax legal professionals and the lay person alike.



Pictured L to R:

Diana Hernandez, Jose Guillot, Renee Rodriguez, Oleg Perry, Director Miranda Rhyne, Adam Overstreet, Connor Drysdale, Chris Najera, and Anna Long

FROM THE DESK OF DONNIE YANDELL

CAPROCK REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

(continued from page 6)

Finally, one of the things I do not feel I ever do effectively in these newsletters is get across the sheer amount of work these students put into the clinic and I am always trying to find a way to better convey that information to you. In that effort, CRPDO students logged 2,364 hours this semester and I believe that to be a low estimate on the number of hours they actually put in. I say that

because one student, who I think lives in the clinic offices, reported 289 hours. I know beyond a doubt he worked more hours than that.

With all of that being said, Caprock 2023-2024, good luck on finals! Have a great Winter Break and look forward to hitting the ground running when you return.

FROM THE DESK OF MIRANDA M. RHYNE

DIRECTOR, LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

(continued from page 8)

I'm fortunate Professor Terri Morgeson only moved three doors down so she could right me when I'm wrong (see what I did there). In all seriousness, Professor Morgeson has been a tremendous help in getting me settled at Tech. I'm happy to have the chance to follow in her footsteps, while also benefiting from her expertise and institutional knowledge. A special thanks to Elma Moreno, who has allowed for a seamless

transition between the Clinic Directors. Elma is responsible for all the behind-the-scenes work that ensures we continue receiving the funding necessary to serve and represent taxpayers in under-represented communities. In fact, I've found the entire Tech Law community to be welcoming and supportive. Thank you all, especially my students, for the incredible learning experience! See y'all next year.

CCAV SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR UPCOMING TAX SEASON



As a member of the Board of Directors of the *Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers* I continue to seek volunteers prior to the holiday break to assist with the tax season around the corner.

An information session was held in November and was very well attended. As a result of the meeting and in addition to the tax clinic students who have assisted for several years, several students have completed volunteer commitment forms!

It's not too late to sign up to volunteer! The *Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers* asks that you consider volunteering your time and talents to prepare and e-file income tax returns FREE for low income taxpayers in our community. Tech Law students have played an important role in the community by serving as volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for over 30 years. Last year our volunteers enabled more than 2,704 taxpayers to save approximately \$400,000 in unnecessary tax preparation and rapid

refund loan fees, while bringing more than \$3.3 million in refunds into the local economy. Volunteers prepare basic individual income tax returns on an easy-to-use computer software program and enjoy protections under state and federal Volunteer Protection Acts. Hours also qualify for law-related pro bono hours to meet the graduation public service requirement.

CCAV asks that law students **train and test at the Advanced Level**. Training and testing must be done on-line.

We hope you'll choose to participate with us during the upcoming tax season which runs from January 29th thru April 15th by volunteering 2-4 hours of your time per week. Not too late to volunteer if you are interested, please feel free to contact me at elma.moreno@ttu.edu if you have any questions or if you would like to pick up a packet. You can find more information at <https://freetaxlubbock.org>

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Judy M. Tejada-Gonzales

(May '23 -Tax Clinic) - is with the Small Business/Self-Employed section of the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in Dallas, Texas.

Braden Anderson (May '23— Family Law & Housing Clinic) is clerking for Judge Nowlin in the U.S. Courts.

Curtis Phelps (May'23—

Family Law & Housing Clinic) - currently working as a Staff Attorney at Legal Aid Society of Lubbock. As such, his practice interests are focused on family law and domestic violence intervention. He is very grateful to the Family Law and Housing Clinic for affording him the opportunity to develop his litigation skills in a controlled setting.

Sarah Dickie (May'23 -

Innocence Clinic) - Sarah is working in Dallas as an associate attorney for the Martin Legal Group specializing in energy and real estate transactional law.

Jacob N. Rey (May'23 - Fall

2022 ADR Clinic) - Associate with Mendez, Isaac, Joudi Law Firm in El Paso, Texas.

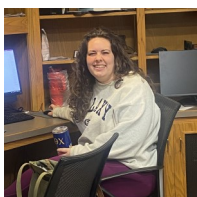
Hailey Schmitt (May '23 -

Family Law and Housing Clinic) - at Armstrong Divorce & Family Law (Dallas & Plano) and loving doing family law.

Rachel Givens (May '23 -

Family Law and Housing Clinic) - got married in September and moved with her husband to Kauai, Hawaii where she is seeking to assist the local legal aid office on the island.

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS



"The Caprock Regional Public Defender's Office has been a great place for me to learn on my feet alongside my classmates. Spending time in the rural communities around Lubbock has changed my perspective of West Texas and I appreciate how this clinic fosters that growth."

Kate Pennington
CRPDO Clinic

divorces and social security claims. Professor Spain always makes it a point to be available to his students whenever we have questions or are not sure how to proceed, but he also gives us the independence to fully work the case on our own. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of the clinic program and look forward to taking these skills with me following law school!"

Khusbu Shah
Civil Practice Clinic

"As a clinic student, I am able to utilize my passion for helping others daily in order to help clients receive the best result possible. Being criminal defense students, it is axiomatic that our clients are vulnerable, and need help. In our representation, we know them—and the difficulties in their lives—intimately. With that intimate knowledge, we have a responsibility to get them the justice they deserve while keeping in mind the effects our representation has on their futures. Clinic has been invaluable in teaching us how to utilize our representation effectively, and pursue the outcome our clients deserve. I feel so lucky to be a part of it."

Anne Greenberg
CRPDO

"The opportunity to be in clinic has quickly become one of my favorite experiences of law school. In the past semester, clinic has continually shown me the impact I can make on my client's lives while also reminding me that at the heart of a taxpayer's issue is the taxpayer. I am grateful for the opportunity to navigate everything that is the legal world of tax along with Miranda and my fellow classmates!"

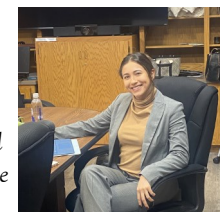
Anna Long
Tax Clinic

"My experience in clinic has been great! Donnie is an excellent mentor and professor and I am grateful to be participating in Caprock. My experience has made me feel more confident about practicing in the real world after graduation!"

Sarah Kannel
CRPDO Clinic



"Prior to attending law school, I knew I wanted to be in a clinic because of the hands-on experience. I got that and so much more. As I navigated law school, my interest for criminal law grew and I settled on practicing criminal defense. I am grateful that I have been able to assist indigent clients in the Lubbock community facing criminal allegations. Because of clinic, I know I will be prepared to practice criminal defense on my own."

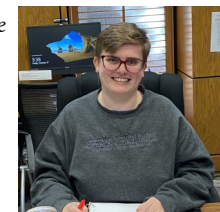


Samantha Escalon
Criminal Defense Clinic

"The Criminal Defense Clinic has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences I've had in law school thus far. It has been such a pleasure working with clinic staff and learning from my other wonderful clinic peers and incredible directors. I am so excited to continue serving the Lubbock community and see all the amazing things that come out of this year's clinic team!"

Olivia Ramirez
Criminal Defense Clinic

"Being in the Criminal Defense Clinic has been the best experience I've had in law school. Having the freedom to help clients in a safe learning environment has reminded me why I came to law school in the first place. CDC has once again reinforced the idea that I am definitely in the right place in life & that I will be an amazing attorney in the future."



Nat Dudar
Criminal Defense Clinic

"My time in clinic has been the best part of my law school experience. I have gotten valuable practical experience as well as made some of my closest friends."

Alek Benavides
CRPDO Clinic



"In the short time that I have been a part of the Caprock Clinic I have learned so much more than I could have ever expected or hoped to have learned and I can confidently say that in that time I have become a better student, person, and future criminal defense attorney. Most of all I am grateful to Professor Yandell for giving me the tools, confidence, and the hands-on instruction that I have needed to best represent my indigent clients every step of the way. I love clinic so much and I love being a part of the Caprock family even more!"

Maddy Cox
CRPDO Clinic

"Being part of the Civil Clinic program is a goal I had coming into law school as a 1L and it has proven to be one of the most rewarding experiences I have had while in law school. This experience has given me the opportunity to learn how to better communicate with clients, draft documents, and learn the process for different types of cases including

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

"Working in the Caprock clinic has been such a valuable and rewarding experience. I couldn't ask for a better group of attorneys to guide me through my first cases, or a better group of students to work with. This year is flying by and I already know I will be so sad to leave the CRPDO office."

Kaylyn Foreman(she/her)
CRPDO Clinic



"Being part of the Caprock Clinic has meant the world to me! Working with fellow students and under the guidance of Professors Metzger, Yandell, and McDonald has been a privilege. I'm grateful for the invaluable learning experiences and genuine support I've received. The clinic's collaborative environment has made a real difference, and I

appreciate it more than words can say."

Bryssa Rodriguez Muro
CRPDO Clinic

"Being part of the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic has been an enriching experience that blended my passion for law with a commitment to empowering individuals. The clinic provided a unique opportunity to directly assist individuals facing tax challenges, fostering a deep sense of fulfillment as I navigate their cases and ease the burden on my clients. Moreover, collaborating with my peers and our director, Miranda M. Rhyne, has helped to create meaningful personal relationships, making the experience satisfactory on both a personal and professional level."

Christopher Nájera
Tax Clinic

"Working in the low-income taxpayer clinic has been a rewarding experience, it has allowed me to make a meaningful impact on the lives of individuals facing financial challenges. Assisting clients in navigating complex tax issues has helped my technical skills. The sense of fulfillment derived from providing support to those in need has made my time in the tax clinic both professionally enriching and personally gratifying."

Jose Guillot
Tax Clinic

"The Tax Clinic has helped prepare me as an advocate. With a great director and helpful peers, I have improved in client counseling, communicating with adversaries, and research skills. I'm thankful for the jumpstart on my legal career the tax clinic has given me!"

Adam Overstreet
Tax Clinic

"The Clinical Programs are what drew me to Texas Tech School of Law. The Civil Practice Clinic has allowed me to handle real cases with real clients on a daily basis—an experience I would not have had prior to graduation. The Civil Practice Clinic has also fostered new relationships and a unique skill set that I will value for the rest of my life."

Tyler Madison Roberts
Civil Practice Clinic

"I have been looking forward to this opportunity since 1L year. The Civil Practice Clinic allowed me, as a student, to put some of the things I learned in the classroom to practical use while assisting low-income clients—individuals from the Lubbock community. This clinic has also allowed me to form new relationships, become more responsible, and become a leader within our law school community. This experience is invaluable and is a major reason, aside from the advocacy competitions, that I chose Tech Law!"

Malik Williams (He, Him, His)
Civil Practice Clinic

"My first semester in criminal defense clinic has been both challenging and rewarding. I have enjoyed the practical experience this clinic offers and the collaborative environment. I have learned so much from my peers and it has been great to brainstorm strategies and talk through legal issues with individuals who care about zealously representing our clients."



Joshua Owens
Criminal Defense Clinic

THANKS TO CLINICAL PROGRAM FACULTY AND STUDENTS SUPPORTING PRO BONO

Pro bono clinics hosted by Legal Aid of Northwest Texas were limited during the semester, however, clinic faculty and students were able to volunteer during the semester. Thank you to Civil Practice Clinic and Family Law Clinic students who helped throughout the semester, as well as Professor Larry Spain, Family Law Clinic Director Terri Morgeson, and Tax Clinic Director Miranda Rhyne for taking time to volunteer! A few were able to

volunteer during National Pro Bono Week and along with members of the Lubbock Area Bar Association who sponsored the October clinics.



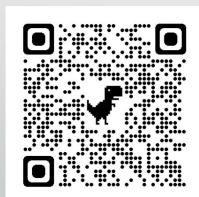
CLINICAL PROGRAMS MANDATORY INFORMATION SESSION
FOR 2024-2025 STUDENT SELECTION PROCESS SCHEDULED

Clinical Programs Mandatory Information Session

**Monday, January 29th
Noon – 12:50 p.m.
Lanier Auditorium**

If you are interested in applying to
participate in a clinic during the
2024–2025 academic year,
DON'T MISS OUT!
Make plans to attend this session!

For More Information on clinic opportunities, selection policies,
application link, and to watch the
clinic video, scan QR CODE



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!

Lunch Provided! Current students will be Available to answer questions as well!

*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 only be able to apply to the Advanced ADR Clinic.*

*Selection process for Students Interested in Participating in the Clinical Programs during the 2024-2025 academic year
will begin in late January! Mandatory Information Session is scheduled for January 29, 2024 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!*

SNAPSHOT CORNER



CLINIC DIRECTORS:

Larry R. Spain
Director of Clinical Programs
Civil Practice Clinic
Advanced ADR Clinic

Terri Morgeson
Family Law Clinic

Miranda Rhyne
Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic

Patrick S. Metze
Criminal Defense Clinic
Capital Punishment Clinic
Caprock Regional Public
Defender Clinic
Innocence Clinic

INSTRUCTORS:

Allison Clayton
Innocence Clinic

Dwight McDonald
Criminal Defense Clinics

Gene Valentini
Adjunct 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 Obando
Senior Business Assistant for
CRPDO



FROM THE
CLINICAL PROGRAMS
FACULTY AND STAFF



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO PASSED THE BAR EXAM!
WE ARE TECHLAW PROUD!
CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER GRADUATES!!



**SEARCH TTU SCHOOL OF
LAW CLINICAL PROGRAMS**

CLINIC NEWS

Fall 2023 Edition

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