



SPRING 2024

CLINIC NEWS

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

CLINICAL PROGRAMS HONOR STUDENTS DURING RECOGNITION EVENT

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The annual Student Recognition Event was held on April 24th in the Lanier Auditorium. Most clinic students were present and

recognized with a purple/silver cord for their dedication and participation in the clinical programs. Director Larry Spain welcomed and congratulated the students on another successful year.

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



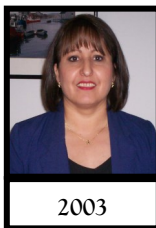
cannot otherwise afford to retain the services of an attorney.

Since the inception of the Clinical Programs which began with the LITC in April 2000, students have participated in the programs and contributed thousands of student hours and represented hundreds of clients with equal access to justice.

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



Elma Moreno Honored During Retirement Reception



2003

Retirement reception was held on April 22nd honoring Elma Moreno, Legal Assistant/Office Manager for Clinical Programs and Director of Pro Bono Projects. Elma joined Tech Law on October 1, 2001, after being employed at

West Texas Legal Services (aka Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas) for 22 years as a legal secretary then Coordinator of the Private Attorney Involvement Program. She has provided ongoing support to clinic faculty and students and oversees the day-to-day operations of the clinical programs to ensure that it operates an efficient and effective clinical program. She was a founding member of the *TTU Latino/Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association* and the *Coalition*



of *Community Assistance Volunteers* which oversees the local VITA program. In May 2017, she assumed the additional duties and responsibilities as Director of Pro Bono Projects and created partnerships with many local nonprofit organizations in an effort to assist students in meeting their public service graduation requirement. She has worked closely with the Pro Bono Student Board of Directors on various events throughout the academic years, as well as seeking and providing volunteer opportunities thru local and statewide entities. In addition to family and several faculty and staff in attendance, several members from the community attended the reception.



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

During the spring semester, the following eight students continued their work in the Civil Practice Clinic: **Benjamin Adeeso, James Ashmore, Mallory DeGroat, Wyatt McFarlane, Danielle Munstedt, Tyler Roberts, Khusbu Shah, and Malik Williams**. Each of these students took seriously their professional responsibility for representing the interests of their clients with their particular legal problem.

Over the course of the spring semester, a total of 21 new client cases were undertaken, 25 cases were completed and closed, and 12 cases remain open and will be carried over to the next academic year. This academic year, students were able to participate in evening in-person Pro Bono Clinics sponsored by Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas in addition to their individual casework.

This allowed students to be exposed to the substantial need for free legal services to individuals in the community with a variety of legal problems through interviewing prospective clients.

Each of the students were kept busy carrying an individual caseload of 3-4 clients at most times throughout the semester and assumed primary responsibility for the representation of clients in matters involving family law, disability claims, wills and other advance planning documents, and other civil matters. Over the course of the academic year, the students gained valuable lawyering skills which have prepared them well for entering the legal profession. It was a pleasure witnessing the confidence they gained in representing clients over the course of the past year and I enjoyed working with each of them and expect great accomplishments from them in the future.

I also wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance and administrative support of **Elma Moreno** and **Nancy Mojica** for all of the Clinics.

CIVIL PRACTICE CLINIC

- Focuses on development of professional skills and values in a closely supervised clinical setting
- Students will assume individual responsibility for representing actual clients in all phases of client representation in social security disability claims, family law, wills and advance planning, housing issues, consumer and civil rights claims and other civil cases of interest to students
- Classroom component will provide instruction in substantive and procedural law applicable to cases handled by the Clinic as well as ethical issues and professional values; professional skill development; and case rounds
- Students have individual supervisory sessions with faculty and maintain a reflective clinic journal.



I have really enjoyed getting to learn and grow in my legal education in an environment where I can ask questions and seek help when I need it. Helping clients and making a difference in my community, while still having the safety of supervision, has been the most beneficial part of law school to me.

James Ashmore
Civil Practice Clinic



Pictured L to R:

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

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Civil Practice Clinic** for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Matthew Amunrud, Alton Chamberlain, Samuel Dick, Sydney Dumas, Abby Dye, Megan Goracke, Katie Master, Meagan Vlasak.



From the Desk of Terri Morgeson- Director, Family Law Clinic

As my inaugural family law clinic ends, I need to reflect on the spirited group of women who made this year an absolute delight. They are each perfect in their own unique flawed way. **Kristi Berrier, Shelby Cason, Mary Franklin, Ruby Lira, Alexis Hill, Kathryn Nail, Sam Ward and Lauryn Vigil** are going to be super successful lawyers. I can only hope as they celebrate their future greatness they hear my word of encouragement in their ears.

The memories I will cherish are many but to name a few. Kristi who became a life coach to many of her clients but wins the award for finding 10 Facebook accounts for an opposing party. Shelby will always be remembered for entertaining us by reading her client's sarcastic text messages – "CLOTHES!". Mary who

literally argued with me during her successful protective order hearing. Ruby's fearlessness and excitement for practicing family will never be matched. I would give Ruby difficult cases to challenge her, but she always solved the legal puzzle and quickly finished the case. Alexis who always kept me straight and organized. "Terri, Terri! TERRI!" Kathryn who could never convince her client that dramatic language is not meant literally. Sam who can read the dense text and explain to her clients (and me) in simple terms. Lauryn, from demanding that I let her in clinic, has never stopped working. Now, if only her clients would stop reconciling.

This is my last semester with Elma as my mentor. Without Elma I would not be clinic director. She literally taught me tax which allowed me to expand my teaching skills and experience to finally get my dream job as the Family Law clinical director. I am ecstatic for Elma to enter her Retirement Era. She deserves it. Although we will be lost without her, I am eager to work with Melissa Vasquez and see how she transforms the role of clinical manager.



Participating in the Family Law Clinic has been not only my favorite experience but one of the most valuable experiences in law school! Working with clients and gaining practical experience has been immensely valuable, and working with our clients has been incredibly rewarding! I feel far more prepared to enter practice after graduation, and I'm so thankful to have had amazing colleagues and a wonderful mentor!

Kathryn Nail
Family Law Clinic

FAMILY LAW CLINIC

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

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

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



Pictured L to R:

Kristi Berrier, Sam Ward, Alexis Hill, Professor Terri Morgeson, Shelby Cason, Mary Franklin, Ruby Lira, Lauryn Vigil, and Kathryn Nail



Student Recognition Event

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Family Law Clinic** for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Samantha Beirne, Harlan Burk, Hagen Gardiner, Vanessa Jones, Carlie Jones, Izabelle Mendoza, Breuklyn Nivens, Fernanda Roman, Victoria Trujillo.



From the Desk of Miranda Rhyne - Director, Low- Income Taxpayer Clinic

All good things must come to an end. This semester, the Tax Clinic had seven Qualified Student Representatives authorized to practice before the IRS: **Adam Overstreet, Anna Long, Christopher Nájera, Connor Drysdale, Diana Hernandez, Jose Guillot, and Oleg Perry.** We also welcomed our new LITC Outreach Coordinator, Kaylee Jackson! Kaylee joins us with a background in public service, community engagement, and social media marketing. We're excited to have her onboard to help increase the Clinic's visibility and outreach efforts throughout the 88 county service area! A special thanks to Elma Moreno and Nancy Mojica, who help support the Tax Clinic daily! We (I) couldn't do it without y'all!

Students continued to effectively represent their clients, while also assisting hundreds of taxpayers in the community through free tax return preparation. Our community involvement, coupled with the IRS resuming its collection activities post-COVID, led to an increase in applications for Tax Clinic assistance. At any given time, each student had upwards of 10 clients. They managed their caseloads well and took the initiative to keep cases moving. Students represented clients in both administrative and judicial forums. The Clinic handled a range of IRS controversies including dependent-related issues, complex self-employment issues, cancellation of debt, missing stimulus payments, spousal relief, and identity theft (both employment and tax filing related). This semester alone, students saved clients \$33,370 through debt reduction and secured \$34,430 in refunds overdue to clients.

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LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

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

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

The TTU Low Income Taxpayer Clinic began its 24th year of operation in 2024 with a \$100,000.00 tax grant award for grant cycle beginning January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024. In grant year 2023, the LITC Program awarded over \$12 million in grants to 130 organizations in 46 states and the District of Columbia.

The 2023 Program Report can be viewed at
<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5066a.pdf>



Pictured L to R:

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

"My time in the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic has been among my favorite experiences while in law school. I have learned so many things about advocating for clients and understanding their specific needs that you don't necessarily get in classroom environment. I've also enjoyed the collaboration aspect with both my director and fellow students, this has led to ideas that have helped progress a case forward as well as build a sense of camaraderie."

Oleg Perry
Tax Clinic

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Low - Income Taxpayer Clinic** for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Jacob Durland, Morgan Hammel, Jacie Henefey, James Holdridge, Kolton Looka, Savannah Monterrey, Priyanka Pudasaini, Kasha Ross, Ryleigh Waldo, Meagan Watson.

From the Desk of Miranda Rhyné Director, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (continued from page 4)

Christopher Nájera was this year's recipient of the Ann and Robert J. Burbridge Tax Clinic Award, which is awarded to the top student in the Clinic. Chris's professionalism is unmatched. He diligently and zealously serves his clients with competence and compassion, while doing so with humility – a rare but admirable trait in our profession. Without any substantiation documents available, Chris successfully settled a case docketed in the United States Tax Court through deposition. This resulted in our client being due a refund in the amount of \$3,975, along with being relieved of a proposed tax deficiency in the amount of \$5,790.

Although it is bittersweet to see my first group of students graduate, I'm proud of the professional and personal growth I've witnessed in each of them the past academic year. When I

started, I knew I'd learn more from my students than I could ever teach them. The only thing I ask of them is to remember this lesson: know your audience! Having the wherewithal to understand and communicate with various audiences is critical to a successful career. I'm confident they understand the value of this after their time serving the under-represented clients of the Tax Clinic.

To my students (including Renee Rodriguez, who graduated in December): y'all have impacted my life in remarkable ways and there's no way I could've survived my first year without the group we had. I'm grateful to know each of you. And just for the record, you're all my favorite. I wish you all nothing but success and contentedness in your careers! My door will always be open (figuratively, of course).

CLINICAL PROGRAMS WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



Kaylee Jackson joined the LITC as the Outreach Coordinator for the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic during the Spring 2024 semester. She graduated from Texas Tech University with her B.A. in Political Science and plans to attend law school in the near future. Alongside her work at the law school, Kaylee volunteers her time as the Chief Executive Officer for the Texas Women's Alliance, a 501(c)(4) non-profit. In addition, she serves as the Director of Communications for the National Alliance of Women's Organizations based in the United Kingdom. Welcome Kaylee! We're excited to see what all you have planned for the LITC in the community!!

Former Senior Business Assistant for Caprock Regional Public Defender Office, Lori Obando, joined the TTU Law School Admissions team in March 2024 after 3 ½ years. Thank you Lori for all you did to fill the shoes Irma Shepler left behind! Although we were sad to see Lori leave us for another opportunity, we welcomed **Sally Moreno** as the new Senior Business Assistant. Sally came to us with ten plus years of experience in customer service support and plenty of organizational skills. After graduating from New Home High School in 1994, she began her career as a sales associate and sales specialist with various departments where she excelled in customer service and social interactions. She is married to Mercedes Moreno and together they have four kids of which two are adults. She enjoys watching movies and spending time with family. Welcome Sally to the Clinical Programs!



Melissa Vasquez joined the Clinical Programs on April 8th as the Unit Manager for Clinical Programs. Melissa Vasquez was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. She graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelor's degree in social work. Melissa started her career working as a substance abuse counselor for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. She found her place working as a probation officer at the Lubbock County Community Corrections Department. Her last position held at the probation department was court officer. As a court officer, she was the liaison between the probation department and the courts. She retired from probation after 22 years. Since retiring, she has gained some experience in insurance defense, as well as bankruptcy. Melissa has one daughter, Myra, who is a student at Texas Tech. Melissa is very excited to be back at Texas Tech with all the excitement and buzz that goes with working with a variety of different people. She knows she has BIG shoes to fill and hopes Ms. Elma doesn't stop answering her calls after she leaves here.



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

As is our custom, the students in the 2023-2024 Criminal Defense Clinic (CDC) were busy all year representing real people in real cases in real time. This year, the students handled 128 cases for 95 clients. Of these cases, 25 are still pending, 33 were disposed of through some type of negotiated plea, and 70 cases were dismissed. Cases consisted of 69 misdemeanors and 59 felonies. This is an average student caseload of 16 cases and 12 clients per student, which is well in excess of the clients and cases promised in the clinic catalogue. These numbers do not take into consideration the 46 cases for 27 clients which were handled by the student attorneys during the year and transferred to other attorneys, mostly at the end of the year when the students ran out of time. Students handled all phases of representation from initial interview through appearance in court.

Members of the clinic represented clients in the Lubbock Municipal Court, before the Justice of the Peace, in the Magistrate Court, in both Lubbock County Courts at Law, and in all three felony District Courts of Lubbock. Clinic students during the Spring semester were: **Nat Dudar, Samantha Escalon, Victoria Gallegos, Megan Gower, Maralicia Martinez, Josh Owens, Olivia Ramirez and Victoria Ukoh.** Please congratulate every one for all their hard work. These students are trained and ready for the practice of criminal law.

During the school year, these students performed over 3000 hours of pro bono representation of the poor. I am grateful for the tireless and invaluable help of Professors Dwight McDonald, Donnie Yandell, and Terri Morgeson who helped guide the students all year. The wide variety of cases, along with the collaborative nature of our clinics, gives the students exposure to the daily challenges of the criminal defense practitioner well in advance of graduation. Most students agree their clinical experience ranks among their best experiences in law school.

During the weekly two-hour classroom component, students shared with each other their accomplishments on their cases, their goals, fears and concerns. By freely sharing and participating in these open class discussions, students assisted each other in the learning experience and helped formulate strategies, themes and theories of their cases, while learning to perform very complicated and sophisticated legal analysis.

Collaborative class discussions were often very spirited and were always an enjoyable exchange of ideas. We are there to learn and enjoy our work. Several learning environments are available to the students, including mandatory office hours leading to collaborative learning. The students work in close proximity, sharing ideas and developing strategies while keying off the knowledge of their peers. It is my hope this becomes a custom that will follow them into practice as the criminal defense bar freely shares knowledge and experience with younger attorneys. Other experiential learning was courtesy of the criminal defense bar from throughout Texas and the United States. The

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CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC

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

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

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

Prerequisites include: Students must be 3L status, not be on academic probation.

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

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



Pictured L to R:

Professor Dwight McDonald, Maralicia Martinez, Samantha Escalon, Joshua Owens, Megan Gower, Victoria Ukoh, Victoria Gallegos, Nataliya Dudar, Olivia Ramirez, and Professor Patrick Metze

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Criminal Defense Clinic** for the 2024-2025 academic year: **Sydney Allison, Aiya Almzayen, Baylee Ballais, Mitchell Barry, Kalee Gore, and Katherine Jost.**



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

The 2023-2024 Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic has finished the year, 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 & Bryssa Rodriguez**. This semester, the student attorneys handled 163 cases and closed 64. The students spent over 4,500 hours working in clinic and travelled over 8,000 miles going to court and visiting crime scenes. Overall, they had a 71% dismissal rate! Unfortunately, we were unable to have a trial this year. The two cases we anticipated going to trial were both dismissed.

We have had multiple contested detention hearings on juveniles, and we have run into multiple extremely complicated issues. The students have excelled in handling every situation with which they have been confronted. They have learned to adapt to the situation and overcome the adversity through sheer willingness to work their cases harder than anyone else. As an example, we had one client that had co-defendants and the student attorney was able to negotiate a very favorable plea offer. The prosecutor was worried that everyone else involved in committing the crime would want the same offer. I was able to say to the prosecutor, "It is not my fault the co-defendants did not have a CRPDO student attorney." Nothing makes me prouder than to be able to hold out these "third year law students" as an example for the entire criminal defense bar.

In another case, the student attorney was able to show the prosecutor that the client did not commit four felony offenses with which he was charged. This case was harder than most because one of the "victims" of the crime was related to a very influential member of the community. The student attorney worked the case and proved to the prosecutor that the facts did not meet the elements of the crime. All four felony charges were dismissed.

The student attorneys have represented more juvenile cases this year than most years combined. The problem with handling juvenile cases is that it is a lot easier to get emotionally involved with the client. Most are just kids doing stupid kid stuff, like breaking into a concession stand to steal candy, and they are being locked up like adults, even having to wear waist and ankle chains. It is heartbreaking to see some child come walking into a courtroom like that. CRPDO's student attorneys had to get over the emotional response and go to work, which they did in every case, sometimes while wiping tears from their faces while doing so. Again, a very proud moment for me to see these young, almost attorneys, pushing past the emotion and fight for their clients.

The Burbridge Award this year was earned by Sarah Kannel. It was not given to her, she definitely earned it. Ms. Kannel is a force to be reckoned with and will be a rising star in her career. This year, Ms. Kannel was assigned 34 cases: 10 felonies, 22 misdemeanors and 2 juveniles. She ended the year closing 23 of those cases with 68% of them being dismissed. I cannot wait to see Ms. Kannel in the courtroom, hopefully from the gallery!

This will probably be the last newsletter I write for you. As most know, I will be leaving in
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CAPROCK REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER CLINIC

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

Prerequisites include: Students must be 3L status, not be on academic probation.

Recommended courses include Texas Criminal Procedure, Trial Advocacy, Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Professional Responsibility, and/or moot court or mock trial experience.

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



Pictured Standing (L to R):

Alek Benavides, Professor Donnie Yandell, Kaylyn Foreman, Sarah Kannel, Bryssa Rodriguez Muro, Professor Patrick Metze, and Professor Dwight McDonald

Sitting (L to R): Madalyn Cox, Anne Greenberg, Hunter Nasato, and Sally Moreno
(Not pictured Kate Pennington)

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic** for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Jose Miguel Covarrubias, Ethan Jimenez, and Victor Anthony Lopez

From the Desk of Patrick S. Metze Director, Criminal Defense Clinic (continued from page 6)

CDC continues with bragging rights that it produces the “best real chili” at the annual chili cookoff—even though the judges are often wrong.

The Lubbock Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Clifford Brown Award for 2024 was awarded to Victoria Gallegos for her “excellence in the art and science of criminal defense advocacy.” I only wish I had awards for all the students—they all deserve one. There was significant effort and professionalism shown this year by all members of the Clinic. I hope the experience was meaningful and a jumpstart to a successful practice in criminal law. Additionally, all my students showed a real interest in pro

bono work and I know that such a commitment to the poor will continue throughout their entire careers. Or, at least it better. Also, it is my sincere wish that each student remembers Texas Tech Law fondly with particular affection for their clinical experience. As I tell the students, practicing law is about treating each client as a valuable individual, doing their very best for each client one at a time, representing that client to the best of their ability, and ethically seeking Justice by holding the State to their burden. Preparation is the key. Remember to RGDS and all you need is that Gold Card. While studying for the Bar this summer, no drama, pass the Bar and stay in touch. Come back often.

From the Desk of Donnie Yandell, Director Caprock Region Public Defender’s Clinic (Continued from page 7)

January to start a new job. I will still be close, and I will still teach my technology course in the Fall, but I will no longer be the “Chief”. The decision to make this move was extremely difficult for Angie and me. Not as much because I would be leaving a job where I have tenure and the respect afforded law school professors, but because I will not have a new crop of student attorneys to train every year. I have been extremely privileged over the last 14 years to be associated with some of the hardest working, intelligent and passionate people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and working with. All of you are always welcome in my home and never forget, I am just a phone call away.

I hope we will have the new Chief hired in the next month or so. I will do my best to get that person up to speed and ready for next year’s crew prior to my leaving in January. In my opinion, this program is extremely important to not only the students, but also to the community and the Bar in general. I look forward to many more years of hearing about CRPDO’s victories! That being said, good luck on finals, do not stress too much about the bar exam, it is just another test, and enjoy the rest of your summer after the bar. You will soon be

members of the Bar and I look forward to hearing about your individual triumphs in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Metze for taking a chance on me so many years ago. When I was hired for this job, I was still a youngish gun. I had trial experience and had been a practicing attorney for several years, but I had very little to no experience teaching at this level. He took a chance on me, and I hope I have never made him regret that decision. He is a great professor and even better mentor for both me and the students in his care.

I also appreciate all Professor McDonald has taught me over the years. I hope to never forget the lessons I learned from him, not only as an attorney, but also personally. Professor McDonald, I will keep you in mind if I ever need a board/committee member!

Finally, I want to thank the TTU Law Faculty and Staff for all of their support over the last decade plus. This program nor I would have been as successful as it has been without your help and support.

ADVANCED ADR CLINIC

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

Congratulations to the following students selected for the **Advanced ADR Clinic** for the 2024 Fall semester:

Ashley Boyce, Taylor Brumbaugh, Lauren Caunitz, Abigail Cheeks, Cody Clayton, Gunnar Duke, Nura Elhentaty, Gregory Ferrer, Nusaybah Khan, Joshua Legg, Jorey Maples, Hunter Robinson, Caroline Smith, Lauren Somerlot, Claire Walker, Destiny Weeks, and Edmund Zafrani



From the Desk of Allison Clayton - Director, Innocence Clinic

What a Spring Semester the Innocence Clinic had! Before Spring Break, we had a hearing where we were asking the court to release one of our clients, who has been wrongly incarcerated since 1999. The students were fully engaged in preparing for the hearing, including tracking down witnesses, getting affidavits, and drafting direct and cross-examinations. One of our students even took a witness at the hearing (and did an awesome job). The judge agreed with us, and on March 12 our client finally walked out of prison into the arms of his family.

But of course, we stay busy, and there is always so much work to be done. So in addition to giving a client his Freedom Day, we put in thousands of hours of work on its cases this year, and it shows! This year's class spent

hundreds of hours drafting briefs, tracking down records, and setting the stage for next year's clinic. Ninety percent of our cases involve homicide—many times multiple homicides in one case. They implicate different areas of forensic science, including blood spatter, bitemark, DNA, and hair comparison. And they require the highest level of innocence advocacy and cutting-edge caselaw development.

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



During my time with the Innocence Clinic, I've found it to be incredibly rewarding. Despite the stigma associated with representing incarcerated individuals, the gratitude and appreciation from our clients for simply examining their cases have been profoundly fulfilling. There's no higher justice than what we seek for our clients, and it has been the most rewarding experience in my law school career.

Shelbi Stogdill
Innocence Clinic



Pictured L to R:

Professor Patrick Metze, Patrick Gonzales, Stewart Pryce, Shelbi Stogdill, Professor Allison Clayton, and Madysen Edwards

Allison is a phenomenal professor and a great example for future lawyers. The clinic provides opportunities to communicate with clients, investigate claims of innocence, and draft motions, orders, and briefs. I would recommend everyone participate in a clinic if given the opportunity.

Patrick Gonzales
Innocence Clinic

INNOCENCE CLINIC

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

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

Prerequisites include: Students must be 3L status, not be on academic probation.

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

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

Congratulations to the following students selected for the *Innocence Clinic* for the 2024-2025 academic year:
Alexandra Blair, Robin Heinz, Aimee Hernandez, Eva Lynch, Patrick Seger.



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

The Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases office (RPDCC) welcomed its fifteenth Capital Punishment Clinic this past Spring semester. This office is the only statewide defender for capital cases with eight regional offices throughout Texas. Their clients are, each of them, in the unenviable position of prolonged incarceration, generally single celled, alienated from family with little hope of eventual release. This semester one student was chosen from those that completed the Fall 2023 Capital Punishment Seminar. Completion of the seminar indoctrinates the chosen students into the unique world of the capital defender. The student chosen this year was **Abby Keese** (3L). She was immediately assimilated into the framework of not only the capital trial teams assigned to each case, but into the entire fabric of the office. She was instructed in the various office protocols, as well as the roles of the fact investigators, the mitigation specialists, and the line attorneys. With that limited exposure, she was quickly utilized by all of the RPDCC staff and morphed immediately from observer to valued contributor. Assignments include the mundane (research and drafting motions), the nerve wracking and the exhilarating. Biweekly office staffings are a critical communication technique utilized by the RPDCC. Each case is

thoroughly discussed, and various strategies vetted with all staff members participating. The student attorney not only attended the staffings, but was a regular contributor to the development of the mitigation and litigation plans for each client. She was a real part of the team. This is a very unique opportunity given to only a few to view a capital trial from the defense perspective. Whereas the RPDCC focused on the “how to” aspect of defending the capital case, many discussions emphasized the “why” aspect ~why the defense teams function in a particular way. Methodology and its underlying foundation is critical to the success of the capital defense practitioner, and is literally a matter of life and death for the client. During the semester the student saw progress in many capital cases and fully participated as a member of the trial teams. The office began voir dire in a capital case in early April. The student participated in the trial preparation in anticipation of jury selection and in the actual process of choosing a death penalty jury. In her application for the clinic, the student wrote, “One of my goals for my future legal career is to serve vulnerable communities to the best of my ability, a community that most people on death row are members of. These communities have more obstacles to overcome than most and deserve patient and devoted attorneys to help them. No one, under any circumstances, deserves less than a zealous, fierce, and hard-working advocate, especially when facing such an inhumane punishment.” This philosophy carried forward during her time with the office. We all wish her well and thank her for her diligent work.

Words from our Students!!

Being selected for the Caprock Clinic has been the greatest honor. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the office staff, including Ms. Elma, Ms. Nancy, Lori, and Ms. Sally, for their unwavering support during my time at the Caprock Criminal Defense Clinic. This has been an experience that I'll cherish for a lifetime. Working alongside such talented advocates, who I'm confident will excel as attorneys, has been a privilege. I'm especially grateful to our esteemed instructors: Professors Metze, Yandell, and McDonald. Their guidance and patience have profoundly shaped my understanding and dedication to this field. I'll carry the lessons learned and the bonds formed here throughout my career. From the bottom of my heart – THANK YOU!

Bryssa Rodriguez Muro
CRPDO Clinic

Clinic has been the single most valuable educational experience I have ever had! I have learned so much and thoroughly enjoyed my time working with CRPDO. We truly make a difference in the lives of our clients everyday!

Sarah Rose Kannel
CRPDO Clinic

Looking back on my year in the Criminal Defense Clinic, I couldn't be more grateful for the experience and educational gems I will take with me into practice. The friendships I made, lessons learned from the directors, confidence I built, and clients I helped were all wonderful aspects I will treasure from my time in clinic. Cheers to another great year of Tech Law serving the Lubbock community!

Olivia Ramirez
Criminal Defense Clinic



Pictured above: Professor Patrick Metze and Abby Keese



Clinical Programs Student Recognition Event

CLINIC STUDENTS RECOGNIZED DURING SPRING HONORS AND AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Annual Honors & Awards Ceremony was held on April 23rd. Students were recognized during a noon luncheon. Congratulations to clinic students who were honored with the following awards:

Noah Andel (Fall 2023 ADR Clinic) is the recipient of the *U.V. Jones Excellence in Legal Research Award* which is given annually to the 2L or 3L student who has successfully completed the Law Library's 20-hour extracurricular Excellence in Legal Research Program during that academic year and received the highest overall average on the final assessments for the courses they took.

The following Clinical Programs students were also recognized with *Excellence in Legal Research*: **Benjamin Adeeso** (Civil Clinic), **Sarah Courtney** (Fall '23 ADR Clinic), **Mallory DeGroat** (Civil Clinic), **Madyson Edwards** (Innocence Clinic), **Samantha Escalon** (Criminal Defense Clinic), **Diana Hernandez** (Tax Clinic), **Joe Lizcano** (Fall '23 ADR Clinic), **Anna Long** (Tax Clinic), **Renee Rodriguez** (Tax Clinic), **Khusbu Shah** (Civil Clinic), **Ashley Williams** (Fall '23 ADR Clinic), and **Malik Williams** (Civil Clinic).

Oleg Perry (Tax Clinic) is the recipient of the *Edward R. Smith and Norton Baker Tax Award* which is an award presented to a student who intends to practice in the tax area and is permanently endowed by Karl Clifford ('72) and Steve Krier ('77).



Sarah Kannel (CRPDO Clinic) is the recipient of the *Brendan Murray Public Service Award* which is funded by the Student Bar Association honoring a Lubbock native, Brendan Murray, who was a second-year law student when he passed in 2006. Recipient is selected based on

his or her service to underserved populations, disability rights, defense and representation of low-income families, and volunteer work.

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



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

Ashley Williams (Fall 2023 ADR Clinic) was recognized as the recipient of the *George W. and Sarah H. Dupree Award*. This award is an endowed award given to the member of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the student's colleagues, best exemplifies the ability desired in one soon to join the legal profession.

Christopher Najera (Tax Clinic) is the recipient of the *Ann and Robert J. Burbridge Tax Clinic Award*. This award is given to the top student in the Tax Practice Clinic. This student exemplifies professionalism and goes above and beyond to represent their client. It is funded through a generous bequest gift by Ann Burbridge, long-time registrar of the law school, and her husband Robert.



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

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



Malik Williams (Civil Practice Clinic) is the recipient of the *Robin M. Green and Paulina M. Jacobo Endowed Scholarship* which was created to honor the memory of Robin Green, who was a member of the Law School's first class. He was a passionate advocate for education, voter rights, and equal treatment under the law. The scholarship is awarded to students who have demonstrated a commitment and contribution to diversity, equity, inclusion, community, and engagement.



CLINIC STUDENTS RECOGNIZED DURING SPRING HONOR AND AWARDS LUNCHEON (Continued from page 11)

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



Joseph Patrick Gonzales is the recipient of the Jack Wade Nowlin Innocence Clinic Award which is awarded to a student attorney in the Texas Tech Innocence Clinic.

Malik Williams (Civil Practice Clinic) and Peter Benson were recognized as the recipients of the Linda J. Kamp Service Award which is awarded to graduating student whose service to the law school best represents the dedication, service, and spirit of Linda Kamp, who served as the law school registrar from 1991 through her death in 2002.



Megan Gower (Criminal Defense Clinic) is the recipient of the Excellence in Service Award which is an award donated by Donna L. Courville ('94) and Judge Lee Ann Reno ('94) which recognizes a third-year law student who is a current member of any law review, a current or former member of the Board of Barristers, an SBA office, or class officer, and has excelled in overall service to the law school.



CONGRATULATIONS to all award recipients!

Well deserved by all!!

ELMA MORENO PRO BONO AWARD



The **Elma Moreno Pro Bono Award** (aka Graduating Pro Bono Student of the Year Award) was created in 2000 by Professors Timothy and Daisy Floyd and is named in honor of Elma Moreno, original coordinator for the Private Attorney Involvement Program for Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas. She is currently the Legal Assistant/Office Manager for the TTU School of Law Clinical Programs and Director of Pro Bono Projects. The award is funded by the first award recipient and managing attorney at Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Tamara Duncan (2000). Recipient gets a cash award and a plaque in addition to their name being added to the plaque which is displayed at TTU School of Law.



The Elma Moreno Pro Bono Award and the Graduating Pro Bono Student of the Year Award were combined into one award during the Spring 2018 Honors & Awards ceremony and continues to recognize a law student whose pro bono activities best exemplify the lawyer's obligation to ensure equal access to justice.

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

CHARLSIE MOORE ADR & MEDIATION AWARD



The Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc., a non-profit, volunteer organization in Conroe, Texas originally formed by the Montgomery County Bar Association which provides mediation and conflict resolution training to individuals, businesses, agencies, and the courts, funds an annual scholarship award in honor of a long-time member of their Board of Directors, Charlise Moore, to recognize the top student in the Advanced ADR Clinic for their demonstrated mediation skills. The recipient of this



award, selected by the faculty teaching the Advanced ADR Clinic, and recognized during the Honors and Awards Ceremony, was Cassidy Terrazas. She received a scholarship award and will have her name inscribed on a permanent plaque displayed in the law school.

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED DURING PRO BONO AWARDS LUNCHEON



Congratulations to the following students who were recognized with the *Pro Bono Honors Award* for completing

at least 60 hours of pro bono work over three years where at least half of their hours were legal-related pro bono: Noah Andel, James Ashmore, David Bedgood, Haley Bray, Connor Drysdale, Nataliya Dudar, Colleen Frainey, Diana Hernandez, Derek Israel, Emily Jacobs, Ty Koether, Julia Koert, Anna Long, Wyatt MacFarlane, Haley Marlow, Macy Massey, Cassidy Monska, Christopher Najera, Hunter Nasato, Orlando Oropez, Oleg Perry, Arabella Pesce, Renee Rodriguez, Halee Sanderson, Khusbu Shah, Madeleine Spjut, Amy Stephens, Maydrian Strozier-Lowe, Samantha Tweet, Victoria Ukoh, and Morgan Webb.



Congratulations to the following clinic students recognized with the *Pro Bono Achievement Award*

for completing 150 plus hours of legal-related pro bono work over three years: Benjamin Adeeso, Alexander Antoniou, William Bashur, Sarah Courtney, Emily Daniel, Arvin Farangi, Macy Green, Cameron Hekkert, Melissa Hightower, Alexis Hill, Daniel Jaso, Abigail Keese, Zachary Kim, Ruby Lira, Joe Lizcano, Lauren Lopez, Lliana Martinez, Katey McCall, Sarah McClure, Kathryn Nail, Joshua Owens, Kate Pennington, Caroline Ramsey, Tyler Roberts, Bryssa Rodriguez Muro, Madeline Royal, Shelbi Stogdill, Samantha Ward, Malik White-Williams, Jared Williams, Craig Woody, and Josephine Woytas.

Elma Moreno Honored During Retirement Reception

(continued from page 1)

During her time at Tech Law, Elma served as a member of the following organizations having served in various officer capacities: *Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas Pro Bono Advisory Committee*; *South Plains College Paralegal Studies Advisory Committee*; *Hispanic Association of Women*, and *West Texas Paralegal Association*. She was also a former member of the *Texas Access to Justice Commission* and the *American Bar Association Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service*.

Elma has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards while at Tech Law which have included the following: *2021 TTU School of Law Employee of the Year Award*, *2014 TTU President's Award of Excellence*, *2012 State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division Exceptional Pro*

Bono Service Award, *West Texas Paralegal Association 2009 Paralegal of the Year Award*, *Coalition of Community Assistance Volunteers Site Coordinator of the Year Awards*, *Hispanic Association of Women - 2007 Hispana Inspiradora Award*, *2007 Texas Tech University Quality Service Award*, and *2004 YWCA Women of Excellence Government Award*.

Elma has indicated she will continue to be involved with some of the organizations during retirement. Known as the “energizer bunny” to many, she will keep busy! Best of luck to Elma in your next chapter of life!

THANKS TO FACULTY AND STUDENTS SUPPORTING PRO BONO

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

Thank you to students who volunteered their time at the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site during tax filing season along with the **Tax Clinic students**, **Professor Miranda Rhyne**, **Terri Morgeson**, and **Elma Moreno**: **Brettney Jones**, **Erica Lopez**, **Ty Koether**, **Cole Palmer**, **Hayden Mariott**, **Allissa Johnson**, **Hannah Gerold**, **Kasha Ross**, and **Pudasaini Priyanka**



FAREWELL FROM ELMA MORENO

Tech Law hosted retirement celebrations in my honor on April 22nd and Clinical Programs on April 26th. After 22 ½ years of my time at Tech Law, I made the decision to officially retire. I credit Professor Spain, Don Williams, Tim Floyd, and Frank Ramos for making the decision to hire me in 2001. It has been a great privilege to serve as the Legal Assistant/Office Manager for the Clinical Programs since October 1, 2001, and the Director of Pro Bono Projects since May 2017. Throughout these years, I have been able to provide assistance and guidance to a total of 1,705 students. This does not include the total number of students I have known as Director of Pro Bono Projects. I am extremely grateful for the privilege of working with all these students! At the time I joined Tech Law, the Clinical Programs consisted of only three faculty members who were supervising approximately 30 students a year. The Clinical Programs has grown to 8 faculty members supervising approximately 65 students per year in eight different clinics. I am honored to have served in this capacity and assisted students, faculty, and staff with various tasks and projects, as well as assisting all law students with public service opportunities. I have worked under the leadership of Clinical Programs Director, Larry Spain, since I joined the Tech Law community. He has been a mentor and a perfect “boss”. I will always be very appreciative to him for believing in me and having confidence that I will get the job done. I have been fortunate to also work under the leadership of several deans who have also shown gratitude and appreciation for my contributions to the Clinical Programs and Tech Law. Thank you to Dean Nowlin for also believing in me and having confidence that I could continue to serve as Director of Pro Bono Projects when you came to Tech Law! Your support has made it extremely easy for me to continue with my projects. I have made longtime friendships with my LTC traveling buddy, Terri Morgeson, who has a very compassionate commitment to serving those in need, as well as

those I have known since my days as Coordinator of the Private Attorney Involvement Program at West Texas Legal Services (aka Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas) such as Nancy Mojica, Dwight McDonald, and Patrick Metze. Because I acquired the tax grant duties and responsibilities when I joined Tech Law and worked very closely with prior Tax Clinic directors such as Don Williams, Marilyn Phelan, Terri Morgeson, Vaughn James, and now Miranda Rhyne, they will always have a special place in my heart, as well as all the staff I have worked with not only in clinics but at Tech Law. You are all rock stars! Keep up the great work you do for the law school and never give up on your goals of striving for more! Words cannot express how fortunate I have been to also work alongside all clinic directors. The commitment, mentoring, and guidance they provide to their students and the representation they provide to their clients is extraordinary. Our clients would not have equal access to the justice system if it weren't for this wonderful group of individuals. As I move from one chapter in my life to another, thank you to everyone who has been part of my life while at Tech Law! I have confidence and faith that my successor, Melissa Vasquez, with the assistance of clinic staff and faculty, will “take it from here” and succeed! It has been an amazing 22 ½ year journey which I will cherish forever! That's a wrap!



SMALL TOWN GIRL RETIRES AFTER 22 1/2 YEARS

(BY TERRI MORGESON)

When the history of the Lubbock Legal community, the names of several legendary men will be listed. This history writers will boast of their great achievements and impact on the citizens of Lubbock County. But their achievements will pale in comparison to small town girl from Petersburg who dedicated her life to helping low-income citizens have equal access to the legal system. When Elma Moreno graduated from high school, she was not encouraged to attend college or how to make it financially feasible. Since no one in her family had attended college, she was unaware of any financial assistance or how to access a higher education. She was under the impression, if your family did not have the funds to send you to college you would not be able to attend. Instead she was advised to move to Lubbock and get a job as a secretary.

Luckily, after having held a couple of short term job opportunities, she was hired by Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (formerly known as West Texas Legal Services) as a legal secretary then eventually promoted to the position of Private Attorney Involvement Program Pro Bono Coordinator. As the coordinator, Elma would recruit private attorneys to represent low-income clients on a pro bono basis. During her time with WTLS, Elma saw the need of legal representation for the low-income citizens of Lubbock. Elma launched the Pro Bono Clinics of Lubbock where local law firms and attorneys are recruited to sponsor individual clinics. At the Pro Bono Clinics, the attorneys would provide consultation or accept cases wherein they would draft wills, handle landlord tenant issues, assist with public benefits applications/ appeals and family law matters. The number of individuals who had access to the legal system is immeasurable.

After working as a legal secretary then Pro Bono Coordinator for 22 years, Elma came the Law School to assist in the development of Texas Tech Clinical Programs which would allow law students to get real life experience while providing legal services to the low-income citizens of Lubbock County. The first clinic founded prior to her joining Tech Law was the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic. Working with the Tax Clinic taught Elma about predatory tax preparers and the financial schemes they run on the poor. This led to Elma being a founding board member of the Coalition of Tax Assistance Volunteers who assist low-income citizens of Lubbock file their federal income tax returns for free. Since its formation, CCAV has prepared 40,000 tax returned and infused the Lubbock economy with millions of dollars since 2003.

Elma has seen the clinical programs grow from one clinic to eight. Students enrolled in the clinics in addition to learning how to practice, learn an appreciation for the equal access to the legal system and the barriers which exist in today's justice system.

In 2017, Elma became Director of Pro Bono Projects for Texas Tech where she finds pro bono projects where students can complete their 30 hours of required community service. Since the inception of mandatory pro bono, all graduating students have completed 30 hours of community service and most have gone above and beyond. This past academic year, Texas Tech University School of Law was recognized by Texas Tech University as one of the top three contributors by to the Centennial Year goal of One Million Volunteerism and Service Hours. Tech Law reported 23,859 hours!

Hispanic Association of Women (HAW) solicits donation from local businesses and colleges to provide scholarships to young women to go college. Through her work with HAW, Elma assists young women to receive a college degree which is something she would have wanted to pursue and never had the opportunity or drive to do. Since 2020, HAW has raised at its annual gala over \$120,000 dollars annually thus providing scholarships to worthy applicants.

Elma's dedication to Pro Bono was recognized with the *Elma Moreno Pro Bono Award* which recognizes a student who has preformed more than 200 hours of community service and has distinguished themselves with their dedication to pro bono work.

Elma is retiring from the law school in May, the Clinical staff is devastated to lose their foundation and the driving force of the clinics. Elma is the employee who has the answer to any problem. From fixing the copier to how do I e-file, everyone needs Elma. The number of families, Elma has affected directly and indirectly with her pro bono work is truly immeasurable whether it is finding a lawyer for a family in crisis, to preparing a tax return, giving a young girl a scholarship or showing by example how young lawyers should be dedicated to pro bono work. Not bad for a small town girl from Petersburg who wasn't labeled as college material.



CLINICAL PROGRAMS HOST INFORMATION SESSION FOR 2024-2025 ACADEMIC YEAR



The Clinical Programs hosted an information session and completed their selection process for 2024-2025 academic year. The session was well attended by 120 students interested in applying to participate in one of the clinical courses during the upcoming academic year. The student selection process begins in late January or early February of each Spring semester to fill all slots available in the clinical programs. A total of 62 slots needed to be filled for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Clinic directors provided information on the following clinics:

- Advanced ADR Clinic (Fall 2024 semester)
- Civil Practice Clinic
- Criminal Defense Clinic
- Caprock Regional Public Defender Clinic

- Family Law Clinic
- Innocence Clinic
- Tax Clinic

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

Although a great number of students attended the session, 66 students applied to participate in one or more clinics. Students are allowed to rank their choices while completing the application. All clinic slots were filled. We look forward to the new group of students to participate in clinics during the 2024-2025 academic year!



CONGRATULATIONS to the 2024-2025 clinical program students!

We are looking forward to having you in the clinics. See you during Clinical Programs orientation!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Laycie Duncan (CRPDO '23) – is working in criminal & juvenile defense right here in Lubbock, at the Wanner Law Firm with Chris Wanner and Haley Hickey!

Jessica Lieck (Criminal Defense '23) – is practicing criminal defense at Deandra Grant Law in Austin.

Darren M. Garcia (CRPDO '23) – is currently practicing criminal defense law out of Mission, Texas at the Law Office of Carlos A. Garcia, PLLC. Words from Darren “I hope everyone in the clinic office is doing well. I learned a lot from interacting with everyone there, and I carry their shared wisdom with me daily. Give everyone my best!”

Connor Beique (Tax Clinic '23) - After graduation, went to Houston, Texas and began his legal career at a boutique Estate Planning and Probate law firm. The firm specializes in estate tax planning; and while it is not the tax law he originally set out to practice, he is finding that this area of the law has as he states “its own intricacies that make it really fun!”

Tabitha Dwyer (Civil Practice Clinic '23) - works at Disability Rights Texas in Lubbock and practices education and disability rights law. She is an Equal Justice Works fellow, and her fellowship project focuses on representing special education students who have been illegally disciplined at school in rural areas of West Texas. Tabitha states “I love my job, and I’m so grateful to have gotten such great experience working with clients at the clinic”.

Amanda Smith (Tax Clinic '23) – will start a position on May 8th as a Classification Attorney in the Austin Chief Disciplinary Counsel Office at the State Bar of Texas

Ben Casey (ADR Clinic – Fall '22) - practicing civil law, including business & commercial litigation, labor & employment law, intellectual property, receiverships, appeals, and even constitutional law in Lubbock. The law firm is one of maybe two or three in Lubbock that regularly goes to federal court (on purpose!) so there is never a full moment.

Lily J. Talamantes (Civil Practice Clinic '23) – is practicing Labor & Employment Law in El Paso, Texas.

Payton Tompkins (Saunders) (Civil Practice Clinic '23) – is currently practicing in Seattle, Washington doing civil litigation and religious nonprofit matters.

Klaryx Martinez (Tax Clinic '23) is currently practicing at Dasplit Law Firm in San Antonio and specializing in personal injury cases. She is handling New Mexico cases for now and soon Oklahoma and is planning to take the Texas Bar in July.

Courtney Stamper (CDC '10) is currently moving his practice to Fort Worth to practice with Frank Sellers ('11). Courtney has been working for the New Mexico Public Defender in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and previously worked for the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas.

WORDS FROM OUR STUDENTS

I am so thankful for my year spent in the Civil Practice Clinic. The opportunity to represent and manage my own clients with Professor Spain's guidance has been one of the most valuable law school experiences for me. Most of all, I am so thankful for the group of students in the Civil Practice Clinic. I have loved spending hours at a time with them and forming friendships that go beyond the clinic office!

Mallory DeGroat
Civil Practice Clinic

I don't even know how to begin to say how beyond appreciative, I am to have been apart of the criminal defense clinic and all of the wonderful people that I have met along the way who became a vital part of this amazing experience. Thank you, clinic, for all the new friendships and forever memories I have been able to create with other students. Most of all, I am thankful for all of the life lessons, knowledge, insight, and mentorship that I've experienced throughout this year. Being a part of the criminal defense clinic has made me a better person and more importantly, a better advocate now and forever and I wouldn't trade my experience and time in this program for anything. With much love and gratitude,

Madalyn Cox
CRPDO Clinic

I have gained valuable experience while in the Criminal Defense Clinic. Not only have I gained life skills, but I have learned skills that are transferrable to any area of practice. I am grateful for this experience and I encourage all to apply for a clinic.

Samantha Escalón
Criminal Defense Clinic

Working in the Caprock Clinic has been the most rewarding part of law school for me, and I could not be more grateful for this experience. I have had the privilege of learning from incredible attorneys and mentors while working with the most dedicated students at this school to defend indigent clients who have trusted us to help them through some of the most difficult times in their life. I am excited and prepared to start my work as a public defender in rural Texas because of the experience and guidance I have received over the past year!

Hunter Nasato (she/her)
CRPDO Clinic

My time in clinic continues to be the best experience I have had in law school. Every day I learn more and more that a classroom setting is just not capable of teaching. Professor Yandell is the best mentor and teacher we could ask for and the other students are the best group of friends I could have hoped for. I will miss clinic more than anything else from law school.

Alek Benavides
CRPDO Clinic

I am grateful for everything I have learned in clinic. I look forward to seeing how the skills I have learned here translate into real-world practice.

Nat Dudar
Criminal Defense Clinic

Being part of the Family Law Clinic has been the highlight of my time at Texas Tech School of Law. I've gained invaluable experience that will undoubtedly make me a stronger advocate for my clients in the future. Terri Morgeson's vast knowledge and experience in family law, along with her approachability and willingness to help, make her the best professor I've had in law school. Elma Moreno and Nancy Mojica also made this a great experience. Their support, expertise, smiles, and hugs helped make the clinic a great place to work. And best of luck to Elma as she enters her well-deserved retirement!

Kristen "Kristi" Berrier
Family Law Clinic

I find it difficult to find the right words to describe how amazing my experience has been in the criminal defense clinic throughout my third year of law school. I am beyond grateful for the legal foundation the clinic has provided me that I will continue to build upon in my future career. The confidence, knowledge, and skills I have acquired are invaluable, I will miss the clinic dearly.

Victoria Gallegos
Criminal Defense Clinic

I had some of the most difficult, yet rewarding, practical experiences in the criminal defense clinic. While not always easy, I have enjoyed my time serving indigent clients. I was constantly presented challenges by the directors and I am confident that I will be a better equipped attorney as a result.

Joshua Owens
Criminal Defense Clinic

I have found some of my best friends through the Caprock Public Defenders Clinic. We have laughed together, shared stress, celebrated highs, and supported each other through lows. My time in clinic flew by too quickly and I will always look back on my time here. This clinic did so much to prepare me for my future in criminal defense. Donnie Yandel has been an amazing mentor, and I feel so lucky to have been in the CRPDO Clinic.

Kaylyn Foreman
CRPDO Clinic

The Tax Clinic has been a great experience for me. Ms. Professor Director Miranda Rhyne has taught me so much and has been so kind. I've learned how research and solve problems that I don't know the answer to. I've also grown skills in communicating with clients. The Tax Clinic is great!

Adam Overstreet
Tax Clinic

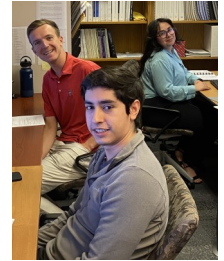
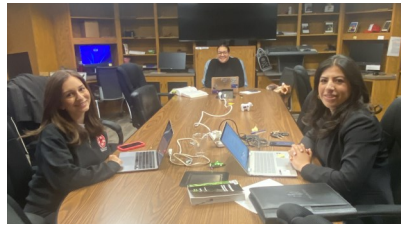
Participating in the civil clinic has proven to be an invaluable experience, offering a great platform to delve into various areas of law while navigating the nuances of the legal profession. Through hands-on work with real-world cases, this opportunity has been the best experience I have had while in law school.

Khusbu Shah
Civil Practice Clinic

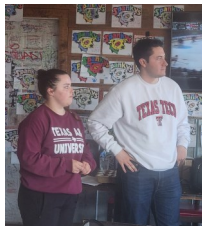
On behalf of the Clinical Programs Faculty and Staff we thank the students for everything they have done and providing high quality representation to their clients!

For more information on the Clinical Programs, please visit:
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/law/clinics-and-externships/clinics/index.php>

SNAPSHOT CORNER



SNAPSHOT CORNER



CLINIC DIRECTORS:

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

Terri M. 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

STAFF:

Elma Moreno
Office Manager/Legal
Assistant

Melissa Vasquez
Unit Manager for Clinical
Programs

Nancy Mojica
Senior Business Assistant

Sally Moreno
Senior Business Assistant for
CRPDO

Kaylee Jackson
LITC Community Outreach
Coordinator

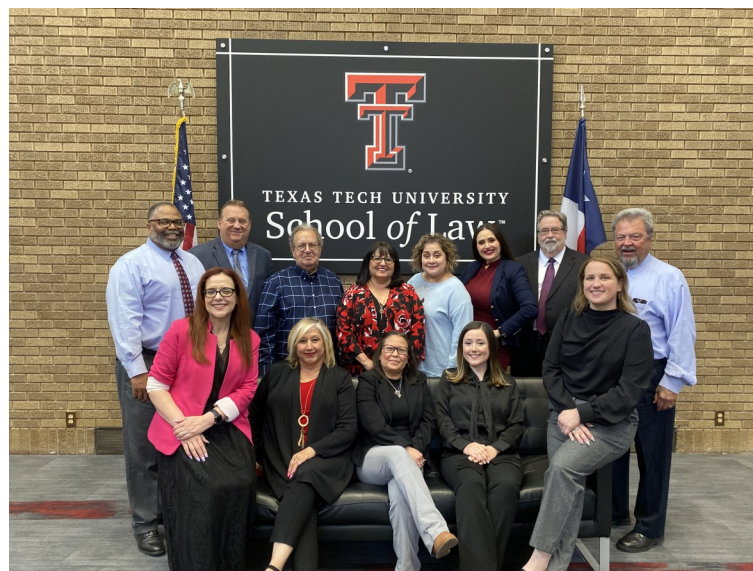
***Congratulations to all students who passed the
February Bar Exam!***

Job well done!!!

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



Good Luck with the Bar Exam!



Pictured L to R

Standing: Professor
Dwight McDonald,
Professor Donnie
Yandell, Professor Larry
Spain, Elma Moreno,
Melissa Vasquez,
Professor Allison
Clayton, Professor
Patrick Metze, Adjunct
Professor Gene Valentini

Sitting: Professor Terri
Morgeson, Nancy Mojica,
Sally Moreno, Kaylee
Jackson, and Professor
Miranda Rhyne

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