

WASHBURN[®]

UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF LAW

Washburn Law Clinic



Gillian Chadwick

A Message from the Director

Dear Friends of the Washburn Law Clinic:

We are delighted to share with you this new issue of the Washburn Law Clinic Newsletter! As you can see from this issue, despite the unique adversities posed by the pandemic, Washburn Law Clinic interns, staff, and faculty have tirelessly carried out the clinic's service-learning mission this fall. Although class, supervision, client interviews, and court appearances

have looked a bit different since March, the quality of student learning and client service has remained high.

Clinic students have availed themselves of intensive opportunities to develop their virtual practice skills, which will be valuable through their legal careers. Our interns finish this semester with extensive experience and confidence in videoconferencing, cloud computing, virtual collaboration, and other critical skills for the practice of law in the 2020s. Through these technologies as well as social distancing protocols, the clinic has continued to serve clients in civil, family, immigration, and small business and nonprofit transactional law matters. We have also taken the opportunity to extend our reach into underserved areas, accepting cases from Southeast and Western Kansas.

This newsletter would not be complete without a resounding thank you to our alumni and other supporters in the local legal community. Last spring, the clinic identified a pressing legal need arising from the pandemic. We reached out to invite local lawyers to join us in addressing this need and we were overwhelmed by offers to volunteer. With seamless coordination by Director Debi Schrock and thanks to the joint efforts of Professor Michelle Ewert and her students and our wonderful HELP Project volunteers, the clinic was able to offer legal planning services to front-line healthcare workers, providing them the peace of mind to know that their own healthcare, family, and financial affairs would be in order as they faced down the uncertainty posed by the pandemic. Please take a look at the “Clinic Allies” section of this issue of the newsletter and join us in recognizing and thanking our volunteers. The clinic is incredibly lucky to have such a supportive community around us!

This has been another unusual and challenging semester, but through the tenacity of our students, the selflessness of our supporters, and the

ingenuity of our clinic faculty and staff, we are happy to report that the clinic's important work continues!

Sincerely,

Gillian Chadwick
Law Clinic Director