



The Center for Excellence in Advocacy unites students, judges, law faculty, and practicing lawyers who share interests in a broad range of advocacy-related fields of law.

INTENSIVE TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM BUILDS PRACTICAL COURTROOM SKILLS



Washburn Law's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program participants.

After an intensive week of courtroom skills training, 24 Washburn Law students walked away with the skills, poise, and confidence needed to try a case in court. Each May, between spring and summer sessions, the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program (ITAP) is offered at the law school. ITAP is a total immersion trial skills course in which entire days are spent learning and practicing trial skills. The week concluded with student teams participating in a simulated jury trial at the Shawnee County Courthouse.

A group of 19 instructors, experienced trial lawyers and two judges, worked with the students in small groups

to teach them how to combine knowledge of the law with persuasive trial advocacy skills. Students learned how to create persuasive case theory; deliver persuasive opening statements and closing arguments; and conduct clear, persuasive witness examinations.

Students developed skills to use demonstrative aids and exhibits at trial, and make the rules of evidence work in their favor during a trial. They also learned how to object successfully to an opponent's questions and arguments, and respond to opponent's objections to their questions and arguments.

"Our trial went really well and our jury was deadlocked for a while," said Kayla Roehler, J.D. Candidate '15. "Although our side lost, I learned what I need to change in my trial preparations so it will not happen again."

A new element added this year to ITAP was a video review, designed to focus on the student advocate's communication skills. During small breakout sessions, the student's performance was recorded, then subsequently reviewed one-on-one with an ITAP instructor who provided constructive criticism.

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SPOTLIGHT ON CENTER ACTIVITIES

*Cal Williams, '78**Larry Rute, '73**Ron Pope, '84**Tessa Jacob, '92**Todd Hiatt, '05*

9/30/13 - Lunch & Learn: **Todd Hiatt, '05**, Shawnee County assistant district attorney, co-sponsored with the Law Clinic.

10/10/13 – Grand Jury Practice in Shawnee County, presented by District Attorney Chad Taylor and Assistant District Attorney **Todd Hiatt, '05**.

10/14/13 – Lunch & Learn: Mindfulness Techniques for Law Students: A Psychological Perspective on Studying Law, presented by Joseph Currin, Washburn Campus Counseling Services.

10/14/13 – Committee on Air and Space Law Crash Litigation Meeting with **Ron Pope, '84**, a partner with Ralston, Pope and Diehl, LLC, and adjunct professor at Washburn Law.

10/16/13 – Lunch & Learn: Electronic Discovery for Attorneys in Training,

presented by **Tessa Jacob, '92**, senior counsel at Husch Blackwell.

11/4/13 – ADR Week – The Future of Case Resolution: An Introduction, presented by Art Thompson, Dispute Resolution coordinator for the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration, and Joanne Katz, a professor at Western State University.

11/5/13 – ADR Week – Domestic Mediation, presented by Deborah Medlock, a mediator with Johnson County Court Services; co-sponsored with the Children and Family Law Center.

11/6/13 – ADR Week – Introduction into Restorative Justice, presented by Joanne Katz.

11/7/13 – ADR Week – Civil Mediation, presented by **Larry Rute, '73**, a partner

and co-founder of Associates in Dispute Resolution; co-sponsored with the Business and Transactional Law Center.

2/20/14 – Lunch & Learn: Get out of Your Mind and into your Life-Mindfulness Informational Forum, presented by Bailea Meeks, a student at Washburn University.

3/25/14 – Lunch & Learn: Small(er) Town Practice Tips from a Western Kansas Lawyer, presented by Practitioner in Residence **Cal Williams, '78**.

3/26/14 – Lunch & Learn: Criminal Defense Practice and Advocacy in Western Kansas, presented by Practitioner in Residence, **Cal Williams, '78**.

5/12-18/14 - Intensive Trial Advocacy Program.

*Deborah Medlock and Joanne Katz**Joseph Currin**Art Thompson*

CERTIFICATE IN ADVOCACY

CERTIFICATE OF CONCENTRATION

The Certificate in Advocacy is available for students who have a serious interest in the art, science, and law of advocacy. The recipient of the Certificate in Advocacy has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the litigation process, the ability to produce appropriate legal pleadings and other litigation documents, and the ability to try a case proficiently to a judge or jury. The Certificate is an acknowledgment by the Faculty that the student has successfully completed a focused course of study in advocacy.

SERVICE REQUIREMENT

- Complete 10 hours of pre-approved pro bono activities which involve advocacy skills.
- Complete 18 hours of pre-approved Advocacy Center activities.
- Complete and submit the Advocacy Certificate Service Form within one month of completing any service hours.

LAWYERING EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT

Students earning an Advocacy Certificate must complete a lawyering experience consisting of either Clinic Internship/Litigation, Criminal Appeal Advocacy, or an externship that involves a lawyering experience in an advocacy placement. The Advocacy Certificate administrator, working with the externship coordinator, will determine whether an externship meets the necessary criteria.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Any student interested in pursuing a Certificate in Advocacy must first meet with a faculty member administering the program (Professor Michael Kaye) to declare their interest and plan their course of study. This must be done prior to completing 40 hours of study. Following the meeting, the faculty member and student will complete the "Meeting Summary". This faculty member will also serve as the student's Certificate advisor and will approve any waivers or alternative courses allowed or required by the program.

The student must complete 90 hours of total law school credit and achieve a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in courses used to satisfy their Certificate requirements. Students who obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for courses used to satisfy their Certificate requirements will be awarded the Advocacy Certificate (with distinction).

EXTERNSHIP BUSINESS PARTNERS

Most State Agencies, Entities, and Boards
 Banking Entities and Corporations
 Chevron U.S.A.
 Children and Family Guidance Center
 Disability Rights Center
 Environmental Protection Agency
 Immigration and Customs Enforcement
 Internal Revenue Service
 Kansas Association of Counties
 Kansas Association of School Boards
 Kansas Attorney General's Office
 Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence
 Kansas Corporation Commission
 Oil and Gas Conservation Division
 Kansas Court of Tax Appeals
 Kansas Department for Children and Families
 Kansas Department of Agriculture
 Kansas Department of Commerce
 Kansas Department of Health and Environment
 Kansas Department of Revenue
 Kansas Department of Revenue - Alcoholic Beverage Control
 Kansas Insurance Department
 Kansas League of Municipalities
 Kansas Legal Services
 Kansas Soybean Association
 Kansas State Bankers Association
 Local Corporations
 Midwest Innocence Project
 Non-profit Organizations
 Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner
 Payless ShoeSource
 Prairie Band Potawatomi Court System
 Regional Federal Agencies
 Shawnee County Sheriff's Office
 State and Federal Courts
 Statewide and Nationwide Courts and Prosecutors/Defenders Offices
 Statewide Board of Indigents' Defense Services
 Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority
 YWCA Center for Safety and Empowerment

And many others
 Placement opportunities vary annually

INTENSIVE TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM *(continued from page 1)*

The reviewers began by giving a Headline that identified the teaching point chosen to address; showed the student video, called Playback; provided a Prescription, or a "fix", for improvement; and ended with a Rationale explaining why the critiquing point is essential for good advocacy. The new video review element was well-received by the students. Roehler commented, "At first I was apprehensive about it, until I started noticing my nervous ticks. The faculty was great on helping all of us recognize the ticks and how they could impact the jury."

Professor Michael Kaye created Washburn Law's ITAP program more than 10 years ago based on his experience as an instructor and teacher trainer for the National



Institute of Trial Advocacy. He has directed ITAP at the law school since its inception and praises The Center for Excellence in Advocacy for their outstanding administration of the program.

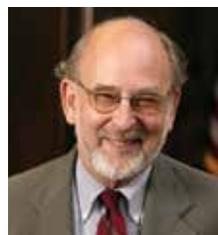
A noteworthy result of the week is that the ITAP students learned the importance of becoming thoughtful, credible, professional, energetic, and compassionate advocates — essential skills that will serve them well in their careers.

About Us

Center mentorships, court observation opportunities, seminars, lectures, skills training courses, live-client clinics, and externship placements provide diverse opportunities for students to acquire strong advocacy skills. Participation in the Center also offers law students a guided path to future careers in advocacy-centered law practice.

Washburn Law has years of experience in advocacy skills training. Many noted trial lawyers and judges received their legal training at Washburn and have returned to help train the newest generation of advocates. Talented practitioners teach a variety of specialized elective advocacy skills courses and spend time mentoring law students. Center mentorships, court observation opportunities, seminars, lectures, skills training courses, live-client clinics, and externship placements provide diverse opportunities for students to acquire strong advocacy skills.

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