

Washburn Law Clinic



Professor John Francis



NEW PROGRAMS

Academic year 2004-2005 began on a strong note in the Washburn Law Clinic. The Clinic added two new programs to its already impressive clinical offerings. For the first initiative, Professor Aliza Organick opened up a new area of practice in the Clinic to serve Native Americans in our community. This program has resulted in the Clinic's first appearance on a case in Tribal Court. Throughout the summer and fall semesters, Organick has been cultivating relationships with area groups to help us better serve the Native American population and further enrich our clinical program.

This year marked the launch of another new program – the Appellate Defender Clinic. Backed by a grant from the Board of Indigent Defenders, Washburn Law students now represent clients on criminal matters at the appellate level. Heading up this new clinical experience is visiting Professor Nathan Webb, on loan from the Appellate Defenders Office. Students under Webb's supervision have drafted and filed ten briefs with the Kansas Court of Appeals.

ONGOING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

In addition to serving clients through the new programs, the Clinic represented clients in family law cases, civil cases, juvenile cases and criminal

defense matters. During the summer and fall semesters of 2004, the Clinic represented over 150 clients who could not afford to hire attorneys. Students handling these cases engaged in an educational experience that cannot be matched in any other law school course; they counseled clients, negotiated with opponents, and appeared in Municipal, District, Federal and Tribal Court on behalf of their clients. During the summer and fall, Clinic students conducted five trials and litigated 35 hearings that were contested, were evidentiary in nature or involved oral argument on a legal or factual issue.

CLINIC AWARDS

Twice each year, the Clinic selects a student to receive the Irvine E. Ungerman Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice. This award is given to the outstanding clinical student of the semester. This fall, the selection was particularly difficult as there were so many students who had engaged in exemplary work on behalf of their clients. This semester's recipient, Wes Barnum '05, a former law enforcement officer from Missouri, distinguished himself through the superior work he conducted for clients on complex and unusual cases. During his time in the Clinic, Barnum



Wes Barnum '05

handled primarily criminal defense cases. His legal analytical skills were tested by some intricate 4th Amendment issues that arose in one case and by a rare claim of testimonial privilege by a witness in another case. Barnum's motion practice was well-researched and written; his case strategies considered ethical issues and were drawn from legal standards, factual strengths and weaknesses and client objectives. One particular matter presented Barnum with the opportunity to expand

his courtroom advocacy skills by conducting an impressive oral argument on a complex motion in Federal Court. Barnum's compassion for his clients was demonstrated in the sound counseling he provided to them as well as by the professional manner in which he negotiated on their behalf. Barnum plans to go into private practice in Joplin, Missouri after his graduation in December 2004.

The Raymond Spring Award, sponsored by the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, is given annually to the Washburn Law Clinic student who exhibits the highest commitment to providing legal services for clients in need. This year's recipient is Eduardo Beckett '04. Beckett handled several cases in which he served as guardian *ad litem* for youth who were adjudicated as "children in need of care." Through his work and interaction with court personnel, Beckett demonstrated his belief that attorneys should work to help people in a meaningful way and not just administer band-aid solutions. Beckett's supervising attorney Professor Lynette Petty related, "He constantly reminded me that we couldn't give up or make assumptions that put a cap on potential. He worked with his clients not only to find solutions to their legal problems but also to find solutions to their underlying cultural, social and economic problems." One court services officer with whom Beckett interacted expressed that she wished more attorneys shared his perspective and idealism. Beckett graduated in May 2004 and currently works for Legal Services in Las Cruces, New Mexico.



Eduardo Beckett '04

UPCOMING EVENTS

2005 MIDWEST CLINICAL CONFERENCE

At the Midwest Clinical Conference in Champaign, Illinois in 2004, Washburn made a successful bid to host the 2005 Midwest Clinical Conference. This regional event involving clinical legal educators from dozens of law schools, involves presentations and discussion groups focused on clinical teaching methods and substantive topics affecting representation of clients. Washburn Law faculty members who teach in the Clinic are in the process of planning programs and events, some of which will revolve around the impact of the landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Clinic expects the 2005 conference will draw national leaders in clinical legal education to the Washburn campus. The conference is scheduled for October 7-8, 2005.

CLINIC 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Save the Date - The Washburn Law Clinic is celebrating an anniversary and you are invited. In 2005, the Law Clinic will turn 35 years old and plans to celebrate this event with alumni and friends to recognize Washburn's leadership role in clinical legal education. The Law Clinic, which opened its doors in 1970, is among the longest continuously running law school clinics in the country. The Clinic is currently planning events which will include a dinner and even a free CLE. Join us on Saturday, September 10, 2005 for this event. More details will follow in the coming months.

For more information on the Law Clinic, contact Director, Professor John Francis, at 785-231-1191 or john.francis@washburn.edu