

AALS CLINICAL SECTION

Newsletter – December 2015

Welcome to the December 2015 AALS Clinical Section Newsletter! We, your new editors, are pleased to bring you exciting information and updates from both the Section and from schools and programs around the country. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out. Our contact information is listed below and we'd love to hear from you!

Clinical Section at the January AALS Conference

The William Pinkus Award will be presented to Bryan Adamson during the Section on Clinical Legal Education Luncheon on Friday, January 8th. Lunch tickets must be purchased in advance; AALS will not sell tickets at the door. Tickets will be available at Registration until close of business on January 7th. Please note that a full meeting registration is also required to purchase luncheon tickets. If you have any questions, contact registration@aals.org.

Please come to the Clinical Section program, immediately following the lunch, from 1:30-3:15 on January 8th. We have an excellent panel who will help us think through the question of value in clinical education – moving our understanding beyond cost to its value for our students, institutions, and communities. Tirien Steinbach will be moderating the panel, which features Luz Herrera, Bob Kuehn, Jaime Lee, and David Santacroce.

The AALS Section on Transactional Law and Skills Program on Pedagogy for New Law School Teachers will sponsor a session entitled: "Teaching Transactional Skills Using Interactive Methods in Doctrinal Classes: Flipped Class Rooms, Lab Courses, Drafting and More." Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 7, 2016, from 3:30 to 4:45 pm.

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Committee Reports

The **Transactional Clinics Committee** met during the Clinical Conference on May 7, 2015, in Rancho Mirage, CA.

Participants identified the following focus areas for 2015-2016:

1. Comparative Analysis of Transactional Legal Clinics (TLC) in other countries. TLC are emerging in other countries and participants desire to learn from and compare other countries' models.
2. Survey of TLC Graduates. Participants discussed assessing the impact of transactional law clinics on law graduates and the creation of a survey to assess the impact of TLC on lawyers who participated in TLC in law school.
3. Virtual Law Practice. In the "new normal," participants discussed the need to examine the possibility of virtual TLC.
4. Intra- and Inter-Clinic Collaborations. Participants discussed the need to learn more about how schools with multiple TLC interact and how TLC work across disciplines.
5. TLC Faculty Mentoring & the Future of Scholarship. Participants determined that there is a need to examine how changes in what "counts as scholarship" might be viewed where the tenure review process consists of non-law faculty, often PhDs in other disciplines.
6. Hackathons. Broadly defined, Hackathons are events where people come together to creatively solve problems, often using technology. Participants discussed the possibility of hosting a half-day hack session at a future clinical conference to build platforms, tools and other solutions to access to justice.
7. Worker Cooperatives and the Sharing Economy. A number of TLC are representing worker cooperative and entities in the sharing economy. Participants determined that there is a need for sharing resources and ideas.



AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

Mentorship
Opportunities
Available!

Sign up for a mentor or to be a mentor through the AALS Membership, Outreach and Training Committee's Helping Hands Mentoring Program.

Be a mentor: sign up [here](#).
Request a mentor: sign up [here](#).

Contact Jodi Balsam
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Program Updates

Georgetown Law Juvenile Justice Clinic has marked its 40th anniversary with leadership changes and new initiatives. Professor Wally Mlyniec, who has led the clinic since its inception, has stepped down as director and has become senior counsel. Professor Kristin Henning, formerly the co-director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic, has been appointed the Director. She will guide the Clinic and the new programs established by the Clinic under the banner of the Georgetown Law Center Juvenile Justice Initiative.

The **University of New Mexico School of Law** has named Professor Aliza Organick as Associate Dean of its top-ranked Clinical Law Programs.



Organick joined UNMSOL in August, 2012, and currently teaches in the Clinical Law Programs. Professor Organick is a past Chair of the American Association of Law School's section on Indian Nations and Indigenous Peoples.

The **University of Miami School of Law's Center for Ethics & Public Service** is pleased to announce the creation of The **Environmental Justice Clinic**. The Clinic provides rights education, interdisciplinary research, public policy resources, and advocacy and transactional assistance to low- and moderate-income communities in civil rights and environmental law reform campaigns related to the built (housing, economic development, and public transportation) and natural (incinerator contamination and industrial pollution) environment. UM partners include the Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy and the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society).

In 2015, **Wayne Law's** Clinical Education Program welcomed new leadership under D'Iorah L. Hughes as Director of Clinical Education and Ashley E. Lowe as Associate Director. Additionally, the program welcomed Amber J. Burse as the program's new Clinic Office Assistant. After a brief hiatus, the **Disability Law Clinic** reopened its doors to students and the public with a renewed focus on disability civil rights litigation.

Harvard Law School (HLS) launched its Federal Tax Clinic in fall 2015. The Clinic represents taxpayers in the full range of tax controversies, at both the agency and court levels, with a particular focus on low-income veterans and on low-income immigrant communities. Visiting Professor of Law T. Keith Fogg has served as the Director of the Federal Tax Clinic in its inaugural year.

The HLS Legal Services Center launched a new initiative to represent clients of the Family and Domestic Violence Law Clinic on consumer issues such as debt collection defense, access to housing, and bankruptcy. Audrey Patten joined the Legal Services Center as a clinical fellow in 2015 to lead the initiative.

In fall 2015, the HLS Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation launched a new litigation initiative headed by Kevin Costello, Senior Associate Director and Litigation Manager. The program aims to expand access to healthcare for low-income populations and to promote more equitable and effective health care systems.

As of December 21, 2015, the **American University, Washington College of Law** Clinical Program will be taking up residence in our brand new building at 4300 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016. We are excited about our beautiful, expanded space and all the new opportunities it opens for us.

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This is an exciting time for the Legal Clinics at **SMU Dedman School of Law**. In August, the **Innocence Clinic** opened its doors. In January 2016, the VanSickle **Family Law Clinic**, directed by Professor Chante Prox, and the **Judge Elmo B. Hunter Legal Center for Victims of Crimes Against Women**, directed by Professor Natalie Nanasi, will enroll their first students. The opening of these new clinics follows the opening in 2014 of the Patent and Trademark Clinics, that operate as part of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's Law School Clinic Certification Program. This brings the total number of clinics at SMU to ten, up from six just two years ago!

Boston University School of Law has introduced, for spring 2016, an **Environmental Justice Practicum**. Students will be paired with a local environmental law organization to work on an environmental justice project. Students will be supervised by both an attorney at the organization and a BU Law faculty member. As such, the practicum is a hybrid between a clinic and externship, drawing on the expertise housed in the school and in the legal community.

The **University of Missouri School of Law** launched the **Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic** (law.missouri.edu/ELC) in August. The Clinic is the lifeblood of the School of Law's new Center for Intellectual Property & Entrepreneurship (law.missouri.edu/IP).

Case Western Reserve University School of Law, with grants from the Ohio Attorney General's Office and the Office of Refugee Resettlement has launched a **human trafficking law project** in which students, under faculty supervision, will represent victims of human trafficking and sexual assault. The grant will ultimately support creation of a Human Trafficking Law Clinic. Professors Judith Lipton, Associate Dean for Experiential Education, and Maureen Kenny, Professor of Lawyering Skills, will serve as co-directors of the Human Trafficking Project.

Washington University School of Law's Entrepreneurship and Intellectual Property Clinic (directed by Geetha Sant and David Deal) has joined the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's launch of the "Patent Pro Bono Program." Under the new program, low-income individuals or small businesses who have an invention or other potentially patentable good are screened by the Federal Circuit Bar Association for viability and then sent to the Clinic for assistance.

The **University of Tennessee College of Law's** Legal Clinic is currently partnering with the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Program to host Valeria Gomez as a legal fellow (<http://law.utk.edu/2015/10/29/equal-justice-works-ameri-corps-fellow/>). As the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow, Gomez works with Professor Karla Mcanders and assists UT student attorneys in the college's **Immigration Clinic** as they represent unaccompanied immigrant children who have migrated to the state, often hoping to escape violence in their home countries, domestic violence, abuse, or neglect.

Associate Professor Tamara Kuennen and Assistant Professor Robin Walker Sterling are appointed as the interim directors of the **University of Denver Sturm College of Law Clinical Programs** commencing January 2016. Associate Professor Laura Rovner will resume her director role when she returns from leave in January 2017.



Honors, Accolades and Victories

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Lindsey Webb, the **Civil Rights Clinic** at **University of Denver Sturm College of Law** and co-counsel **Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center** (CREEC) for the successful Colorado State Penitentiary (CSP) out-door exercise class action settlement: <http://www.westword.com/news/colorado-supermax-will-build-rec-yards-to-settle-prisoners-lawsuit-7402391>. Associate Professor Laura Rovner was also named a 5280 Magazine 2016 Top Civil Rights Lawyer.

Low-income individuals with IRS tax issues received brief advice from UNM Clinical Law Students at a free Income Tax Controversy Fair sponsored by the UNM Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, which is part of the **UNM Law School's Business and Tax Clinic**. Third-year law students were supervised by licensed attorneys, including faculty members Grace Allison, Serge Martinez and Mary Leto Pareja.



From October 2-4, 2015, 100 law students from 50 law schools convened at **Harvard Law School** for the first Food Law Student Leadership Summit. The Summit was hosted by the **Food Law and Policy Clinic**. The Harvard Mediation Program, part of the Harvard **Negotiation & Mediation Clinical Program**, has worked with the Boston Police Department to craft a civilian complaint mediation program for the Department. The program would handle grievances involving accusations of rudeness, unprofessional conduct, and abusive language [by police officers towards members of the public?]

Ohio State Bar Foundation awarded a competitive grant to the **University of Akron School of Law Reentry Clinic** to fund the Statewide Certificate of Qualification (CQE) Project. This project trained others in Ohio to develop clinics to assist with the CQE application process. A video about the project is available at this link: <https://youtu.be/mK77xGCcu4Y>. The **Small Entrepreneur and Economic Development (SEED) Clinic** received the Small Business Legal Services Champion Award for the Cleveland Region from the U.S. Small Business Administration. This award honors exemplary legal services programs that assist new and existing businesses.

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The **University of Baltimore School of Law Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts** recently received substantial funding for its successful Truancy Court Program (TCP). The TCP works with truant students in Baltimore’s inner city schools and capitalizes on the stature and authority of District and Circuit Court judges who volunteer to serve as TCP judges. The TCP recently received \$117,025 from the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts to support an attorney-who focuses on housing, homelessness, special education, and other legal issues that affect truant students and their families. The TCP also received a \$60,000 grant from the Charles Crane Family Foundation and a \$25,000 grant from Open Society Institute—Baltimore to support the general operation of the program.

Adjunct Clinical Professor Grace Allison, Qualified Tax Expert in the **University of New Mexico Law School Low Income Taxpayer Clinic**, led a panel discussion on “Effectively Recruiting and Using Volunteers” at the 2016 Annual LITC Grantee Conference, sponsored by the Taxpayer Advocate Service of the IRS. Held in Washington, D.C. from December 7-10, the conference featured panelists from both academic and non-academic low-income taxpayer clinics funded by TAS.

The **Health Justice Project at Loyola University Chicago School of Law**, directed by Emily A. Benfer, received the 2015 Outstanding Medical-Legal Partnership Award from the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership.

University of New Mexico Law School’s **Community Lawyering Clinic** helped clients adopt their twin grandchildren after six years of caring for them. The adoption was finalized at the Second Judicial District Children’s Court on National Adoption Day. After years of waiting and months of paperwork and court proceedings, now the adoption is official, and the clients’ family is a happy one. “The adoption is such a relief and we’re very grateful to the Law School Clinic for their help,” says the client.



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Wayne State University Law School's Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic added to the map of medical-legal partnerships across the United States maintained by the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership.

Georgetown Law's Juvenile Justice Initiative, established this year as a project encompassing the work of the Juvenile Justice Clinic and the Mid-Atlantic Juvenile Defender Center (MAJDC), has won a grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to enhance the quality of representation for youth in the juvenile justice system. The grant, which was awarded by the OJJDP's 2015 "Smart on Juvenile Justice: Enhancing Youth Access to Justice Initiative," provides funds to develop model juvenile indigent defense legal delivery systems, develop and implement standards of practice and policy, and develop state or regional resource centers to help enhance the quality of legal representation, leverage resources, and collect and analyze data to measure the effectiveness of specific initiatives.

Congratulations to Heather Scavone, Director of the **Humanitarian Immigration Clinic at Elon Law School**, who was recently honored with Elon University's Periclean Award for Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility. The award recognizes an Elon faculty or staff member who has helped make social responsibility and participatory citizenship an essential part of Elon's educational programs. She is the first Law School faculty member to win one of the major Elon faculty/staff awards.

In spring 2015, the **Florida International University College of Law ("FIU Law") Small Business Counseling Clinic** was awarded a grant by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Juan C. Zapata to assist in the administration of and to provide technical support to the local Mom and Pop Business Grant Program. In May 2015, the FIU Law **Immigration and Human Rights Law Clinic** received funding in support of its on-going collaboration with Americans for Immigrant Justice. In late summer 2015, FIU Law's **Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic**, in cooperation with Liberty City Advocates, a legal services organization, launched the Dannette Willory Access to Justice for Victims of Domestic Violence Project. Finally, Professor Stephen Harper who runs FIU Law **Death Penalty Clinic's Florida Center for Capital Representation** successfully secured three grants to support an initiative providing education and consultation to lawyers representing clients facing the death penalty.

In early December, former Kansas inmate Floyd S. Bledsoe was exonerated after serving 16 years for crimes he did not commit. The **Project for Innocence at the University of Kansas School of Law** working with the Midwest Innocence Project secured his release based on exculpatory DNA testing. Our Project interns were integral to this exoneration. Interns wrote the federal habeas petition and appeal; one intern determined we should pursue touch DNA testing; and others secured the evidence and worked with the DNA lab during the testing process. Their dedication to their client was remarkable and the experience of working with Floyd is an enduring lesson.

Conferences and Meetings

The New England Clinicians Conference, “Teaching Race, Gender and Class: Learning from our Students, Communities, and Each Other” was held at Harvard Law School on November 6-7, 2015. Great thanks to Phil Torrey, Sabi Ardalan, Maggie Morgan, and Liz Solar of Harvard Law School, Laila Hlass and Sarah Sherman-Stokes of Boston University, Deborah Gonzalez of Roger Williams School of Law, Nadiyah Humber and Sherley Rodriguez of Suffolk University School of Law, and Margaret Barry of Vermont Law School for their collective leadership in organizing the conference. Also, special thanks to Brenda Smith of the Washington College of Law, American University for her keynote address and to all of the speakers and participants who made this such a memorable conference. Thanks also to CLEA and AALS for their sponsorship of the conference.

Save the date! The 15th Annual Transactional Clinical Conference, “Tools of Translation,” will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016, at the University of Baltimore School of Law. It will feature (1) a new clinician’s “Launch Pad” and (2) various teaching workshops focused on “Tools and Skills to Serve Smaller Enterprises.” Please look for a Call for Proposals in the weeks to come.

Boston University School of Law is collaborating with the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, to present a conference in early April (April 1 & 2), entitled "Responding to the New ABA Standards: Best Practices in Outcomes Assessment." It is a one-day conference for law teachers and administrators who want to learn how to design, implement, and evaluate effective institutional outcomes for their schools. More information can be found at: <http://lawteaching.org/conferences/2016spring/>.
