



CLINIC MATTERS

News from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law Legal Clinics

Volume 8

Summer 2008

Family Law Clinic Completes another Successful Year

Professor Harry Gruener

The 2007-2008 academic year proved to be an innovative, productive, and technologically groundbreaking experience for the Family Law Clinic’s ten student lawyers.

Once again, the clinic experience was intense. Students interviewed over 400 clients and prepared close to 400 motions on behalf of those clients. They argued close to seventy motions before the judges of the Family Division of the Allegheny County Common Pleas Court. Many of these motions were argued against either the opposing party, counsel for the opposing party, or a student from the Duquesne Pro Se Clinic representing the opposing party. As usual, the most spirited arguments occurred in the cases in which a Pitt student and a Duquesne student were opposed. School spirit is quite evident during these arguments!

This year’s clinic training was enhanced by placing extra emphasis upon the negotiation of settlements prior to argument for cases in which pretrial settlements had been lacking. Additional training in

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New Head of Environmental Law Clinic

Caitlin Cater

The Environmental Law Clinic will reopen in the Spring 2009 semester under the supervision of Professor Emily Collins.

Professor Collins recently joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law as Supervising Attorney and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Environmental Law Clinic. She previously served as Assistant Public Interest Council for the state of Texas, where she focused on water policy.

Recalling her experience as a student in the Environmental Law Clinic at Pace University, Professor Collins recognizes the advantages of clinic instruction. She highlights the opportunity for students to “literally practice law under the supervision of an admitted attorney,” thereby acquiring knowledge and experience that cannot be gleaned from textbooks.

One of Professor Collins’ goals for the Environmental Law clinic is to “bring the nexus of different professions together within the field of environmental law.” She feels that environmental law is “somewhat reliant upon other disciplines” and that students must learn how to work with people from outside the legal profession in order to be effective as environmental lawyers.

To that end, Professor Collins is designing an interdisciplinary program in which students will have the opportunity to work with experts from fields as diverse as engineering, geology, and physics. She plans to make use of her expertise in water law at Pitt’s Environmental Law Clinic by coordinating a diverse range of projects unified by their focus on water law.

Professor Collins will spend the fall semester developing the curriculum and identifying cases for her inaugural clinic. Ω

♥ A HUGE THANK YOU TO CAITLIN CATER AND ADAM BROK, OUR NEWSLETTER EDITORS!!

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Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic Saves Money, Reduces Stress

Adam Brok

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) is an “advocacy clinic.” As such, it assists low-income taxpayers resolve open issues with the IRS. The LITC represents a diverse population of all ages, including single and married parents, abused spouses, retirees and disabled individuals, all of whom present a variety of tax issues. The clinic continues to see an increase in cases involving Cancellation of Debt (COD) income and levies on Social Security and SSD benefit payments. The number of senior citizen clients continues to increase as taxpayers are forced to work longer in life or—if retired or disabled—live solely on Social Security or SSD benefits. The number of grandparents claiming grandchildren as their “qualified children” for taxes purposes also continues to increase.

Fourteen students participated in the LITC this past spring. They took on thirty-two new cases as well as the clinic’s existing caseload. The students are mentored and closely supervised by three experienced tax lawyers – Professors Dixon Rich Jr., Leo Hitt and Thomas Arbogast – who also serve as the clinic’s adjunct faculty. Upon receipt of an inquiry, a student is assigned to contact the taxpayer and interview them to determine their eligibility. If the taxpayer is eligible the student proceeds with the representation and prepares an engagement letter. Students work closely with their clients, collecting and analyzing all their financial records to find the best way to resolve their issues with the IRS, whether it be by seeking Currently Not Collectable (CNC) status for their clients, or by helping them establish a repayment plan that allows them to

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Elizabeth Sattler '06: Victory in First Pro Bono Case

Elizabeth Sattler is an associate with the law firm of Goehring Rutter & Boehm, in Pittsburgh. She also represents pro bono clients referred to her from the Mental Health Association. As a result of her preparation and dedication, Elizabeth won her first pro bono case, a Social Security appeal. She describes her first experience as a positive one: “The judge (who was very understanding as I was nervous) questioned my witness, the treating psychiatrist, and found my client to be disabled. He even issued a bench decision, which should expedite the process of the decision! I think the most rewarding part is knowing that I actually helped someone who was not in the position to help herself! But I am happy the first one is over – hopefully, I won’t be so nervous at the next one!” Congratulations, Elizabeth!

The Legal Clinic: Barometer for Worsening Economic Conditions

Professor Stella L. Smetanka

The Health Law Clinic has experienced an influx of inquiries and cases in the area of overpayments of benefits. The downturn in the economy makes it more difficult for recipients of benefits to repay them. They are difficult cases to win. Nevertheless, we have prevailed on behalf of some overpaid clients and continue to advocate on behalf of others. We seek a waiver of the overpaid amounts by proving the overpayment was not their fault and that they do not have the funds to repay it. These are good cases for our clinic, as there are no future benefits from which a private attorney may be paid. Our clients are already in the red.

How do overpayments happen? When people begin receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) benefits, they receive a notice that instructs them to notify the Social Security Administration (SSA) if there are any changes in their circumstances. In the case of SSI recipients, receipt of income or retention of over \$2000 in a bank account triggers an overpayment. SSDI recipients do not have to worry about savings, winnings or private wealth. But recipients who return to work must report this fact. The work, if it results in wages above a certain amount, triggers a trial work period, and then an extended period of eligibility of 36 months, during which they will receive benefits if their earnings fall below a certain amount. Clients testify during their hearings that they **did** notify their local SSA office when they went back to work, but that they did not notify it in writing, nor do they remember with whom they spoke. This makes it difficult to prove their compliance.

The problem is that even if recipients notify SSA, the wheels of altered benefits payments turn slowly. Our clients explain months and years later when it is too late that once they notified SSA, they assumed that the next check they got reflected the new information and that they were entitled to what they received. This assumption has resulted in overpayment notices of thousands of dollars.

This year we won a remand in a case because the district court agreed with us that the assets which our client was charged with possessing were not liquid assets, which trigger an overpayment. (We had not represented him at the hearing). On remand, we were able to procure a copy of the pension plan of the client which stated that at his age, the retirement plan was inaccessible

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Stella L. Smetanka, Clinical Professor of Law and supervisor of the Health Law Clinic, was named the 2008 “Woman of the Year” by the Pitt Law Women’s Association, the Women’s Bar Association of Western PA, and the Women in the Law Division of the Allegheny County Bar Association.
- The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) at the University of Pittsburgh was recently described by an evaluator from the Internal Revenue Service as an “exceptional” clinic.
- The Second Annual Student Health Law Conference will be held at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law on Friday, October 17, 2008. The first conference was also held here, on October 19, 2007. The American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics is the co-sponsor.
- The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic will soon be working with the Office of International Services (OIS) at the University of Pittsburgh in an effort to provide assistance with international students’ tax issues.

Low-Income Tax Clinic, continued from page 2

allows them to repay the IRS in installments.

Between January 1 and June 30, 2008, the LITC saved its clients a total of \$54,551.73 in tax penalties and interest. In one case involving a college student the clinic was able to reduce the amount of money she owed by \$8,000.

Although the amount of money the Clinic helps its clients save is significant, perhaps the most significant service it provides its clients is stress reduction. For many, dealing with the IRS is scary and stressful. Students in the clinic work to ease their clients’ fears and alleviate their stress. “A couple of years ago if I had had a problem with the IRS I would have been scared and not have known what to do,” explains LITC student Stephanie Eggar, “So it is nice to be able to help people who are in that situation.”

2007 and 2008 CLEA Student Award Winners

Adam Brok

Congratulations to John Riley, the 2008 CLEA Outstanding Clinical Student Award winner, and to Katherine Leech, who was the 2007 recipient of this award.

John, who will graduate this December, participated in the Elder Law and the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics. Over the course of his two semesters John interviewed clients, prepared pleadings and other legal documents, did estate planning, and appeared in Court on behalf low-income elderly clients. Additionally, he served as an advocate on behalf of numerous low-income taxpayers who are in controversy with the Internal Revenue Service. John distinguished himself with his consistently high-quality work, his adherence to the highest ethical standards, and his dedication to public service law. He treated all his clients with sensitivity and respect and demonstrated competence and diligence in his legal work.

John also displayed strong practical judgment and self-initiative. In one particular case, he devoted an extraordinary amount of time and perseverance to resolving a case for a client. The client – an elderly woman – entered into a rent-to-own transaction involving her home in the 1960s. Although she fulfilled all the requirements of the oral contract, the deed was never transferred to her name. When the client came to the clinic last year, she had few documents in support of her claim and all members of the other parties (the attorney and sellers) had died. Due to John’s dogged factual investigation and his evaluation and implementation of various legal options, the clinic expects to have legal title of the home transferred to our client shortly.

Katherine (’07) spent two semesters in the Family Law Clinic and one summer in the Elder Law Clinic. It was her dedication to public service law and her adherence to the highest ethical standards, as well as her detailed and exceptionally well-researched paper on the constitutionality of third party custody standing statues, with particular attention to Pennsylvania Law, that distinguished Katherine from her peers.

In addition to her clinical skills, Katherine demonstrated extraordinary leadership and teaching ability by mentoring incoming clinic students. Perhaps more important than her clinic skills were her exceptional personal dedication to and empathy with the clients. Her investment in their cases was evident by the preparation and passion she brought to her advocacy.

Katherine is currently an associate in the law firm of Raphael, Ramsden, & Behers, P.C. practicing in the area of Family Law.

CED Clinic Encourages Reciprocity between Businesses and their Communities

Adam Brok

The mission of the Community Economic Development (CED) Clinic is to develop community infrastructure and create livelihoods for local homeowners and small businesses, and under the leadership of Professor Daniel Friedson, it has been doing just that.

The clinic's involvement with homeowners centers primarily on helping low-income homeowners who face the prospect of losing their home due to foreclosure or other circumstances secure ownership of their homes.

On the small business side of things the clinic works with a wide variety of businesses from high tech start-ups to traditional Mom and Pop stores, and everything in between. It provides these businesses with the guidance and knowledge necessary to establish and function as a small business.

This past year the CED clinic was comprised of ten students under the supervision of Professor Daniel Friedson. Students worked on several different projects throughout the year including the establishment of Blackberry Studios, a music and entertainment company in Lawrenceville, which helps support and represent local musicians and entertainers.

The CED's major project for the upcoming year is the development of an arts and entertainment business incubator in East Liberty. The clinic, through the efforts of Professor Friedson, was able to secure a vacant former PNC Bank building to house the incubator. Once completed the building will house different art exhibits and provide space for the over 400 artists in the East End to display their work, as well have a stage for performances from various local entertainers. The building is supposed to be ready by October but there is still a lot of work to be done.

If successful, the clinic will look to repeat this process of turning vacant buildings into business incubators, preferably for green businesses, in other areas that are in need of revitalization. The hope is that by creating these business incubators and helping local businesses get off the ground, that eventually they will become self-sustaining and in turn help revitalize the neighborhoods in which they are established.

this very important area of practice paid off handsomely, as students were able to negotiate a record number of settlements before argument that resulted in parties signing consent orders.

Also this year, the clinic converted many of the motions that were heretofore required to be drafted by hand into electronic templates. These motions can now be loaded directly onto the students' personal laptops. The result is a much more efficient method of producing motions and correcting motions after they are reviewed by the professor. Additionally, this technology upgrade allows students to present to the court a very polished, readable motion that looks as though it has been prepared in a law firm.

In April the judges hosted, as they have for the past several years, a reception in the courthouse for the students. The deans of the participating schools attended, as did judges from outside the Family Division. A great time was had by all.

The upcoming academic year promises to present the clinic with various new challenges due to anticipated changes in court procedures and court personnel in addition to some internal changes at the clinic itself. However, there is unprecedented student interest in the Family Law Clinic and high enthusiasm among the students who have been successful in obtaining a spot for the fall term.

Barometer, continued from page 2

to him. In another case, the administrative law judge reduced the overpaid amount, but we have filed an appeal because the client would never be able to repay it even in the reduced amount and he did inform his local office of his employment.

As with all legal offices, as the economy becomes strained, the plight of clients becomes more palpable. Bankruptcies increase. Disabled working people file for benefits when jobs end. People receiving benefits attempt to work to make a little money to help meet obligations, all presenting difficult legal challenges.

On a positive note, 2008 has been a productive year so far. Full time students, Randy Aussenberg, Paul Kaufman, Matthew Hicks, and Adam Vahanian, and extension students, Wayne Cobb, Amber Trischler, Bill Godfrey and Monica Singh, represented 14 clients at hearings before administrative law judges and common pleas court and prevailed in all of them. Summer students who assisted with cases are: Christina Gregg, Natalie Cerino, Laura Remick, and David Green. Congratulations on these excellent results! And thank you to Monique Hamlett, whose former client research was invaluable.

The Law We Do

Law Clinic Alums in Practice

Chrissy Cianflone '03: Legal Advocacy in Non-Profit Management

If someone would have asked me five years ago, would I be where I am today, I am not sure I would have said yes. I knew that practicing law was not the career path I wanted to follow, and after a year and a half, I made the transition into non-profit management. As a graduate of the health law certificate program and a former health law clinic student, I was exposed to many aspects of healthcare and found myself drawn to children's issues. Several years ago I was hired by Safe Kids Worldwide, a global non-profit arm of Children's National Medical Center, in Washington, DC. Our mission is to prevent children from being injured and killed by unintentional injury - the leading killer of children in this country. Safe Kids depends on grassroots volunteer networks to promote changes in attitudes, behaviors, and the environment in order to keep children safe from things like motor vehicle crashes, fires, drowning, falls and poisonings.

As the Director of Program Operations, I am able to oversee a department dedicated to saving children's lives. I work to research, develop and evaluate programmatic public health interventions and disseminate them among a network of over 600 coalitions throughout the US and to 15 countries around the world. In addition, I serve as the national spokesperson for the organization and have a platform to raise awareness about keeping kids safe through TV, radio and print. While I am not practicing law, I am certainly an advocate for those children and families most at risk of injury and death. Helping those less fortunate is a gift - one that I was given through the clinic and one that I continue to receive at work every day.

Rupasri Sikdar Lloyd '00: Law in the Healthcare Industry

As an Associate Director of the University of Florida Health Science Center, Rupa Lloyd serves as a resource, advocate and facilitator for all six colleges and related units of the Health Science Center. She prepares legal documents in contractual compliance with federal and state laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the healthcare industry; provides professional advice concerning legal issues and business decisions; works on HIPAA Privacy and Security matters associated with contracting projects, and addresses other important healthcare contracting and state agency-related considerations. Rupa recently assisted UF's College of Medicine in its contract negotiations with Epic Systems Corporation, in connection with a multi-million dollar project which will assist the college in its Electronic Medical Record Implementation. Earlier this year, she authored an article entitled "Accepting the Inevitable: Trends, Expected Outcomes, and What to Look for as Electronic Health Record Implementation Goes Forward," which was published in the Winter (January 2008) edition of the American Health Lawyers Association's Teaching Hospital/Academic Medical Center publication.

Jonathan Budd '02: Lessons in Client Rapport Transfer from the Clinic to the Courtroom

After working briefly for Reed Smith following graduation, in the labor and employment group, Jonathan Budd has spent the past five years working for KidsVoice. KidsVoice is a legal services organization that provides legal advocacy to almost 5,000 abused, neglected and at-risk children in Allegheny County's juvenile court. The organization employs a multidisciplinary approach to child advocacy, in which each client is represented by both an attorney and a social service professional (child advocacy specialist). Jonathan serves as the Associate Executive Director of KidsVoice and is responsible for all of the organization's program services. In addition to his management responsibilities Jonathan also carries a small caseload, which has him appearing in court each week, and is involved with providing program and software consulting services to the state of Connecticut which is opening two model multidisciplinary children's law offices.

Building a client relationship doesn't just involve providing legal advice or assistance; [it] also involves listening to and acknowledging the client's problems and frustrations.

Jonathan describes his experience in the Elder Law Clinic with Professor Martha Mannix as "very valuable." The clinic allowed him to "interact with clients in a legal capacity and prepare and present a case in front of a judge in Orphan's Court for the first time." He remembers feeling "quite nervous" at his first appearance but realizing afterwards that "the key to being in court is to know that you are as fully prepared as you can be," and adds that "Professor Mannix was very helpful throughout the process." Another lesson Jonathan says he took from the clinic was that "building a client relationship doesn't just involve providing legal advice or assistance; [it] also involves listening to and acknowledging the client's problems and frustrations." Jonathan reports that "these were good lessons to take into the practice of law and lessons that I regularly use with clients and in the courtroom today."

Elder Law Clinic

Professor Martha Mannix

The Elder Law Clinic generally thinks of simple estate planning and guardianship cases as its “bread and butter” caseload. Having a focused subject matter approach allows students to get up to speed in a fairly rapid fashion and then allows them to refine their knowledge by repeated exposure to similar legal issues with different clients. This year, however, students took on several cases that forced them (and their supervisor!) outside of this comfort zone. These are their stories:

In one case, the client called with a seemingly simple request: “I want the deed to my house changed.” Often when such an inquiry is made, several predictable scenarios present themselves: the caller is a widow or widower who erroneously thinks that the deceased spouse’s name needs to come off the deed; a parent wants to put a child’s name on the deed, and thus needs advice about (among other things) such a transfer’s effect on future medical assistance benefits; or the caller is married but for a variety of reasons her name is not on the deed.

None of these scenarios applied here. In this case, the client entered into what appeared to be a “rent to own” transaction in the 1960s. Pursuant to the unwritten agreement, she was to pay off the existing mortgage. The mortgage was never formally assigned to her. The client had some paperwork indicating that she had paid off the mortgage by the early 1980s; however, the deed was never transferred. The original attorney had died, as had the original sellers of the home. Unfortunately, the client had very little in the way of documentation. The student assigned to the case, John Riley, had some sleuthing to do.

Over the course of two semesters, and much foot work, John discovered that the sellers’ estate had been opened several years earlier in Butler County. He was then, after much effort able to track down the heirs, including the co-executors of the estate. The co-executors thought that the property had been conveyed to our client long ago, and agreed to co-operate with our efforts to get the deed in her name.

John researched various legal options to accomplish this objective; he also worked with the real estate transfer department to determine how to report the purchase price of the home for transfer tax purposes and consulted with the state inheritance tax department to make sure there were no inheritance tax implications. John then had to draft an agreement between the parties outlining the terms of the oral purchase agreement and the history of the transaction and drafted a deed. At this writing, it appears that our client will have the deed in her name by this fall. Many thanks to former Clinic student Stacie Wagner Paterson, who

offered some valuable insight on this case from the title insurance perspective.

In another case, the clinic represented a woman who had been declared dead by social security. This was a little surprising, considering that she is still alive. It would seem to be a simple matter to convince the SSA that our client was still alive; in fact, it was not so simple. The student on the case, Kevin Horner, spent a tremendous amount of time trying to navigate the SS bureaucracy trying to ascertain how the mistake was made and how to correct it.

The greatest challenge was identifying a person at Social Security who had the authority to fix the mistake. In addition, once our client’s SS was terminated, her Medicare benefits were terminated as well. This caused great hardship and anxiety for her. Kevin discovered that the mistake originated in a data error; numbers in

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Alaska Journal: A Law Career in Perspective

Sarah M. Pope '07

Sarah M. Pope is working in Anchorage, AK. The following is an excerpt from her journal.

July 8, 2008. Be yourself. A Fellow for Life from the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship emailed that to me today. That’s all it took to get moving again! Amazing! “Be yourself.” So simple yet so important. Here I am now, being myself. This has been quite an awe-inspiring, rigorous, self-reflective year. As I embark upon the next stage, work toward a goal of passing the bar, and think about what it was that pushed me to go to law school, I think about his words. No matter what job I pursue next, I must remain true to myself. The job doesn’t define you – YOU define you. It’s not the hours you put in, but what you put in in those hours. It’s time to be me – to be true – to pursue dreams, learn from defeat, and keep pushing forward. I believe in the spirit of our souls and know that our morals are deeply rooted. I will continue to listen to my soul and will continue to be open about that as well. That’s why you’re receiving this – because this is who I am. Life is good even while studying for the bar exam. It doesn’t make or break me – it’s an exam. It’s great brain training for anyone who needs to build brain power. It also teaches about the laws that provide for our freedoms – freedoms that we should appreciate and acknowledge as allowing for our safety and individuality. Perhaps we lose sight of that sometimes, or we make mistakes, but we are all human. If we continue to communicate and allow the free flow of ideas, accept others and other ways of life, we will continue to make this world a better place and promote happiness and personal growth.

Student Perspectives

Kevin Horner and Adam Vahanian reflect on the Clinic Experience

Kevin Horner (Elder Law Clinic)

Kevin's clinic experience changed his understanding of the role of a lawyer. "I began to see the role of a lawyer as less of a weapon, or hired gun for litigation purposes, and more as a mediator in a dispute. It is better for the lawyer to bring knowledge of the law or a system and use that knowledge to conclude the problem without prolonging it. Our clients seemed to prefer this too as it meant less anxiety on their part."

Similarly, his sense of justice was also altered. "I learned that justice is not easy, no matter how good your cause may be. Even for our clients, who do not have to pay money outside of a few expenses, justice takes time and effort." He recalls making phone calls and sending letters to certain agencies on behalf of his clients that did not even get results, but through a lot of hard work, and continued hard work, he was able to help resolve his clients' problems.

When asked what one memory he would take from his experience, Kevin explains that "I will not take any one particular memory," but that he will "remember the clients who I really developed a good relationship with. They looked to me in desperation. They really looked to me for help and advice for everything. I am very honored that they trusted me, and they showed me what an important role I fill."

Adam Vahanian (Health Law Clinic)

One of my clients this past semester was an elderly gentleman who is a resident in one of the local county-run nursing homes. He and his wife led a very active life until 2002, when he needed open-heart surgery. Something went wrong with his circulation during the procedure, which made it necessary for his legs to be amputated. Soon after that, his wife became ill and died. The Health Law Clinic represented him in his difficulties with financing his nursing home stay.

It soon became evident how difficult life had become for this client, especially in the fact that he had become so dependent on the wheelchair he drove, on the county office that supported him, and on me for help with his legal problem. Traces of his former outgoing, independent self came through several times as he struggled with what life had become for him. He never imagined that he would end up as he had.

I felt honored to represent him at a hearing at which his ineligibility for long-term care was at issue. I was successful in negotiating a settlement that resulted in our client purchasing a new wheelchair with a portion of the excess resources he possessed, as well as paying the nursing home what it was entitled to under the law. But the most rewarding aspect of representing him is the knowledge that he allowed me to assist him in overcoming a serious source of stress in his life.

In working on this case, I was able to apply the critical thinking skills that we all learn in the classroom to the legal problems of real clients with unique needs. The clinic experience thus helped me begin to truly understand what it means to be a lawyer and how different the practice of law can be from what one learns in traditional law school classes.

a deceased recipient's Social Security number was transposed when the death was reported, and our client was erroneously identified as deceased. Once the source of the error was discovered, the student and the client were able to schedule a face-to-face meeting with Social Security and present the appropriate identification. Unfortunately, our client's name was misspelled on an important document, and that had to be corrected as well. After resolving the issue with Social Security and being assured that benefits would resume, Kevin took all the steps necessary to make sure that our client was reimbursed for all her out of pocket medical expenses that Medicare would have covered.

Finally, in another case, Chris Helms represented a client in the Arbitration Division. This case had a long history with the clinic; approximately ten years ago the Clinic represented this elderly woman who had lent money to family members and had not been paid back. That complaint was settled, with a formal written settlement agreement specifying the repayment terms over a period of years. The client contacted us after she had not been paid back under the agreement. Chris initially attempted to negotiate a settlement with the opposing party. When that failed, he drafted the complaint, prepared the case for trial and presented the case to the panel of arbitrators. Ultimately, the arbitrators found in favor of our client, although only against one of the named family members.

In addition to these cases, the 2007/2008 students (Lillian Russell, Cathy Potter, Ryan Stewart, Kevin Horner, John Riley, Chris Helms, Elliott Gelfand, Pilar Kraman, Robert Seibel, Ross Petrini, Carly LaBuff and Stephen Fuegi) represented numerous clients in simple estate planning and guardianship matters. It has been a productive and satisfying academic year.

ALUMNI NEWS

Tahira Bland '07 is finishing her first year as an Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellow at Legal Assistance of Western New York (Ithaca). **Andrea Ciervo-Canizares '03** and her husband, Cesar Canizares, welcomed a baby, Sebastian, on November 24, 2007. **Lotta Crabtree '99** has obtained her RN license as well as her attorney's license in North Carolina. She is starting a boutique firm in Durham, NC, focusing on medical negligence. **Renee Dolney '08** is a certified mediator. She can be reached at reneedolney@yahoo.com or 412-901-1614. **Jessica Ellel '01** has recently graduated from Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc.'s Leadership Development Initiative, XV. **Jeffrey Foster '03** is at the firm of Spilman Thomas and Battle PLLC, in Charleston, West Virginia. His current areas of practice involve labor and employment, environmental litigation, and general litigation. **Grant Hackley '07** is at Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien & Courtner, P.C. He is currently involved in defense litigation work for municipalities, as well as insurance defense for toxic torts cases. **Jennifer Irvin '02** is Assistant Counsel at the Office of Chief Counsel in the Bureau of Workers' Compensation in the Legal Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. She also does pro bono consultations for a community group. **Joshua Knepp '04** recently accepted a position with McCann and Geschke, a boutique medical malpractice defense firm in Philadelphia, PA. **Pilar Kraman '08** has been selected as the winner of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section's William Greenhalgh Law Student Writing Competition for 2008. Her essay is also being considered for publication in Criminal Justice magazine. **Katie Leech '07** is an associate at Raphael, Ramsden & Behers, P.C. She focuses on family law and was recently asked to join the Board of Trustees at Arsenal Family and Children's Center. **Heath Leff '07** is at the Allegheny County Public Defender's Office. **Erica Lesko '04** is employed at Strassburger, McKenna, Gutnik & Gefsky, where she concentrates primarily in civil litigation. **Travis Livengood '04** is the Second Assistant District Attorney in Bedford County. **Rupa Sikdar Lloyd's '00** central focus remains with her family: her husband Will and their three children, Nicholas Kiran, 4, Romir Sohan, 2 ½, and Anjali Rebecca, 6 months. **Grant MacIntyre '08** will be working at the U.S. EPA Office of General Council in Washington, DC. **Mark Martini '03** welcomed baby Winston Michael on July 3, 2008. **Erika Mills '07** is a Judicial Law Clerk for the Court of Common Pleas of McKean County (Smethport), PA. **Jaime Potts '05** is a coordinator for Beth Walker, who is running for the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. She also worked a legislative session for the West Virginia House of Representatives this year. **Joie Rehkamp '07** is at Turner and O'Connell in Harrisburg. **Amie Schaadt '07** works for Reed Smith in Philadelphia, where she represents hospitals in Medicare reimbursement litigation. **Norma Schmidt '07** works with the Elder Law office of Kemp Scales on special needs trusts, estate planning, and related matters. She welcomed baby Eva Grace on September 23, 2007. **Jim Van Horn '04** is an attorney at Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. **Sandy Kozera '07** is an associate with Herndon Morton Herndon & Yeager in Wheeling, WV. Her article on Durable Financial Powers of Attorney was published in the 2007 NAELA Student Journal. **Theresa Schroeder '00** welcomed newest addition to her family, William Matthew Schroeder, on May 9, 2008.

CLINIC FACULTY AND STAFF

Daniel Friedson <i>Community and Economic Development Clinic</i>	Harry Gruener <i>Family Law Clinic</i>
Martha Mannix <i>Elder Law Clinic</i>	Stella Smetanka <i>Health Law Clinic</i>
Emily Collins <i>Environmental Law Clinic</i>	Dixon Rich, Jr. <i>Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic</i>
Nadine Hamlett <i>Clinic Administrator</i>	Jane LeHew <i>Clinic Administrator</i>