**Coastal Clinic Chronicle**

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**One Spark, One Clinic**

One Spark is the world’s largest crowd funding festival and the new Business and Entrepreneurial Law clinic (BEC) has the unique opportunity to be involved with this special event. Majority of the BEC’s clients are “creators” in One Spark, which means that they will have the opportunity to present their ideas to the community and be connected with resources to bring their ideas into existence. The creators work with the BEC in order to help their dreams come true. “We help the entrepreneurs form corporations and we research what type of corporation—S corporation, LLC, or Corporation, is the best fit for their needs,” Kenneth Miranda, 3L, tells the Chronicle. “We cater to the client’s needs, and sometimes, we have to do a lot of interviewing to understand what their needs are,” he says. The clinicians of the BEC 2L, experience as a senior clinician was a visit to the Baker Detention Center in Macclenny, Florida. The One Spark festival runs from April 7-12, 2015 in Downtown Jacksonville. Pictured is the BEC Clinicians who attended the event to check in on their clients.

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**Helping Local Veterans**

Professor Sullivan along with students, Juan Crousett (3L), Szu-Han Lan (2L), and Doug Campbell (2L), meet at the Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic to assist with their legal needs. See pg 2.

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**Stand your Ground**

Criminal Defense Clinic successfully gets case thrown out on a stand your ground motion. See pg 3.

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**A Fight for Immigrant Rights**

The Immigration and Human Rights Clinic has had a successful semester so far. With cases that range from human trafficking to obtaining permanent residency, the students have managed their case loads well. Two clinicians were tasked with an asylum case, and were ultimately successful. Pamela Florian, 3L, has been busy working with issues such as a humanitarian parole and a consular processing.

During the semester, students are also exposed to immigration court, and they have the opportunity to meet immigration judges and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers. One experience that highlighted Corina Covarrubias’, 2L, experience as a senior clinician was a visit to the Baker Detention Center in Macclenny, Florida.

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**Citizenship Day**

April 18, 2015, marks the sixth year Citizenship Day will be held at Florida Coastal School of Law.

**Caribbean Clinic Goes Cayman**

Professor Christopher Roederer along with Bo Ames, Jessica DeLeon, Hilary Dickert, Annie Rodriguez, Glenn Riser, and Cindy Walls traveled to the Cayman Islands on March 11-15, 2015 to work together with law students from the U.S., Bahamas, and Cayman Islands towards solutions to various legal issues relative to the Cayman Islands.

Citizenship Day provides assistance to lawful permanent residents who are eligible for naturalization.

Under the direction and supervision of Professor Kara Roberts, the students of the Citizenship and Naturalization Clinic have been working hard to make Citizenship Day a success. They already have completed two mass intakes and are in the process of training volunteers for the event.

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**Family Law to 1st DCA**

Christine Deis (3L) leads her team, Zachary Carroll (3L) and Jesse Boyce (2L), in writing an appellate brief on alimony, equitable distribution and attorney's fees. See pg 3.

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Immigration & Human Rights

Overall, students from the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic express an exuberant amount of positivity about their experiences. “Since my time at the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, I have been able to learn while I help some of the most disadvantaged people in this country,” says Florian. “This is why I would encourage any student looking for legal experience, to invest the time to get involved in the clinics to help indigent clients and the community as a whole.”

Citizenship Day

Ashley Werdann, 2L, shared that the classroom component of the clinic is also preparing the students for Citizenship Day. “We go over ‘red flags’ in the naturalization process; things students would not think to ask the client. For example, the N-400 asks the client to disclose all of their children. This includes deceased children.”

Every case is unique, but cases have can multiple matters, such as a family or criminal law issues.

The students also go over these aspects in class so they can be adequately prepared to advise their clients.

“The clients have fascinating stories that keep us engaged,” Werdann tells the Chronicle. It is evident that the students and their instructor are passionate about providing superior legal help.

“The passion of Professor Roberts bleeds into the clinical goals,” says Werdan, “I wish there could be another semester of this clinic.”

A Veteran's Voice

Priscilla Justiniano came to that she particularly likes this clinic Florida Coastal School of Law after because a student can make an serving 30 years in the U.S. Navy, immediate impact on a family, Justiniano always knew she wanted especially those with children with to work with Veterans, and is special needs who turn 18.

currently a senior clinician with the Justiniano’s unique perspective Disability and Public Benefits Clinic stems from her current (DPBC) as well as a Teaching involvement with DPBC & VLC Assistant for the Veteran’s Legal and past involvement in many Collaborative (VLC).

Her interest in Disability and opportunities. When discussing Public Benefits was sparked after an her involvement with the VLC, she unexpected encounter in the corridors stated that she knew that there was of Coastal. One fall day, she saw a a need, but was astonished that the fellow Navy man at Florida Coastal need for affordable and accessible seeking assistance in obtaining legal services was so great for guardianship over his now adult veterans.

disabled child. Justiniano was Justiniano’s passion is evident: inspired by the work of the DPBC “I have served my country, I am serving my school, and now I am ready to serve my community.”

Photographed above: Retired Navy Veteran, Priscilla Justiniano (3L), Professor Sarah Sullivan (Director of Disability & Public Benefits Clinic, Veterans Legal Collaborative), Retired Navy Veteran Doug Campbell (2L), Michelle Hawthorne (Staff Attorney). On February 28, 2015, the Veteran's Legal Collaborative was launched as a community outreach to serve the legal needs of veterans here in North Florida.
Family Law to 1st DCA
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Family Law senior clinician Christine Deis, along with first semester clinicians Zachary Carroll, and Jesse Boyce are working hard to finish a client’s appeal before it is due later this month.

The project became so large that two other clinicians began working on the appeal earlier this year. “The record on appeal was 1,500 pages, which surprised me,” stated Deis. The group smartly split up the work having each clinician work on a different issue in the appeal.

With a record so large, the group had many discussions to determine what they were going to argue. “Each clinician brought their individual experiences into the clinic, which proved helpful on this case,” says Deis.

Although the clinicians are well into writing their arguments for the appeal, the case did have several obstacles. “One of the biggest hurdles was getting the trial transcript of the final hearing. It takes 30 to 45 days to compile a transcript so large,” Carroll tells us.

“Working on an appellate brief has been a great learning experience for me. It has been time consuming, but the experience is invaluable,” says Boyce.

Family Law Clinician Wins Her Case

Pictured above is Columbia County, Third Circuit Court, Judge Wesley R. Douglas (Alumnus 2004), Professor Natalie Tuttle (Director Family Law Clinic), and Johnesia Brown (2L).

Brown and Tuttle traveled to Lake City, FL and were successful in getting opposing party’s dissolution of marriage case dismissed for lack of venue and priority on prior filed action.

Disability & Public Benefits Clinic

The students of the Disability and Public Benefits Clinic represent disabled indigent clients and their care givers in several areas of law. Currently students are working on various issues including Guardian Advocacy, Medicaid and Medicare. The focus of the Clinic is on achieving independence in the community for disabled individuals by using civil or administrative advocacy. Clinicians also help clients with temporary assistance and obtaining other government benefits.

Not only are the clinicians busy with their case load, they have also been diligently working on group projects regarding public policy and current events affecting their clients.

Criminal Defense Clinic
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The Criminal Defense Clinic was one of the reasons Frances M. Denizard, 3L, decided to come to Florida Coastal School of Law. Ms. Denizard knew before she came to law school that she wanted to go into criminal law, and that she wanted hands-on experience before she left.

During her time at the clinic, Ms. Denizard had the opportunity to draft a motion on the controversial, and colloquially known, “Stand Your Ground” law for one of the clinic’s clients. Due to the hard work by the clinic, the case was ultimately dismissed by the Judge. In 2005, Florida passed the Stand Your Ground law which provides that people can “stand their ground,” have no duty to retreat, and can meet force with force if they reasonably believe that doing so will prevent great bodily harm or death.

It is unmistakable that Ms. Denizard values the skills she acquired during her clinical experience. Although she had prior research experience through the Moot Court Honor Board and a judicial clerkship, she had not previously conducted legal research on a case she was close to.

“Things change when there is an actual person involved,” she said.

Ms. Denizard also had to learn a balance between wanting to help the clients and not becoming too emotionally involved. “I had to learn how to not take things personally or internalize the clients’ problems,” she informed us.

As an aspiring Public Defender, Ms. Denizard valued the experience of being in front of a judge. Students typically go to court every two weeks, and as they are certified legal interns “CLI,” they are able to speak in open court.

Ms. Denizard speaks very highly of the Criminal Defense Clinic, and its leader, Professor Lois Ragsdale: “Professor Ragsdale is the Criminal Defense Clinic. She is always available to talk about anything, and she truly cares about her clients and clinicians. She ensures she has time for everyone, and even though I am not a current clinician, I know that I can still pick up the phone and call her for anything.”
Caribbean Clinic Goes Cayman
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Cindy Walls, 2L, was one of the students who participated in the Caribbean clinic this semester. Ms. Walls was one of the students who worked on the Witness Anonymity Issue. Ms. Walls told us that prior to the trip to the Cayman Islands, students from the United States and the Caribbean worked collaboratively on their legal memorandum before they journeyed to the Cayman Islands. While in the Cayman Islands, students had the opportunity to present their motion to the attorney general, and to present their oral arguments to the courts. After their oral arguments were presented, the court Justices provided individual feedback, which the students found to be invaluable.

During their trip, students noticed vast differences between US courts and the Cayman Island courts.

“In the Cayman Islands, the Justices are referred to as ‘My Lord’ and ‘My Lady’ instead of ‘Your Honor’. You also have to bow before you come in to court and before you leave court,” explained Walls. According to Walls, “You get the full comparative law experience of collaborating with law students from other countries, researching and writing the Memorandum of Law, and practicing your advocacy skills in the Courtroom in front of the Honorable Justices of the Cayman Islands.”

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Member Spotlight

Kourtney Reed, 2L
The Veterans Benefit Clinic has been such an incredibly rewarding experience. I feel it is part of my duty as an American to give back to those who have defended our country. In the Veterans Benefit Clinic we do just that. I have not only learned about the VA claims process but about the struggle veterans face when they return to a civilian lifestyle. It has sparked a patriotic passion to help those who are most deserving and I am very grateful to have been a part of this experience.

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